

Pastoral Interviews
Report for Week of: 2-4-98
Number of Calls: 10
Number of Conferences: 3

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Eight of ten pastors have heard of the alternatives from the NAD for Ingathering. The two who hadn't are both from the same conference (Nevada/Utah). Six of eight pastors who know of the alternatives say their churches want change and are favorable toward ADRA Appeal. A couple pastors haven't talked to their boards about the alternatives. A couple pastors have given mild exposure of the alternatives to their boards. And a couple pastors have shared more extensively. One pastor said their board wanted to go with ADRA Appeal but the conference voted that it not be an option (Potomac). Another pastor says he just retired and is working as a representative for ADRA. So his church is very familiar with ADRA.
2. Eight of ten pastors hold a mid-week service, though it's a mix in their church district—some have churches that have small groups, or don't do anything at all. Eight mentioned outreach or evangelism as the focus of the service, five mentioned nurture and personal/spiritual growth as the focus. The numbers don't add to ten since in some districts one church will show Ken Cox videos and in another church in the same district a support group might be meeting. The Bible and Spirit of Prophecy are the two most commonly used materials, followed by evangelistic videos (Ken Cox, Doug Batchelor, Net programs, etc.). Other materials mentioned include "In His Steps", Mark Finley's Revelation series, Daniel Seminar, and Keepers of the Flame. The most common format is a "classroom/teaching" type setting (7) while another three mentioned small groups. One pastor said he used tables when conducting Revelation seminars.
3. If a resource existed that would help revolutionize the local church, most pastors would want it to do two things: Involve members in outreach/evangelism and deepen their walk with Christ. Other related comments include: Lay mobilization and usage of spiritual gifts; development of a personal mission/vision statement; part-time paid assistant to help with outreach; conversion of members. One pastor was positively impacted by a seminar for their pastors by Laurie Beth Jones and felt members commitment to the church and their busy schedules were at odds. He thought if members developed their own personal mission statements that it might help them set aside larger chunks of time for service to Christ and the church. Another common thread was the concept of helping members develop a closer walk with Christ by exercising the spiritual disciplines (Bible study, prayer, etc.). I mentioned the small group resource being put out by Center for Creative Ministry.
4. Seven of ten pastors have satellite dishes in at least one church in their districts. Two pastors use A.C.N. for lay training on a somewhat regular basis. Three pastors

indicated they rarely or sometimes have used A.C.N. for training. Two pastors with dishes simply said 'no', they never have used A.C.N. for training members. Of the two pastors who say they use it for training, one records programs for showing later (time zone issue), and the other shows it live as well as recording a tape for a library used by other churches in his district. When pastors were asked "why not" to showing A.C.N. for training, reasons given include: Accessibility problems (no feed when we turned in a couple times, decided not to purchase necessary materials, lack of a clear vision of what it is and how to use it); low quality program (didn't care for the spontaneous approach and informality); haven't gotten the word out; little turn out of members; our dish is set only to receive 3ABN (replacing it this year); members lack of commitment (live at a distance from church and only come for Sabbath school and church). One pastor regularly promotes A.C.N. and often has 1/3 of his members show up for events.

5. Four of ten pastors have called PlusLine. Of these four, one pastor says he thinks one of his members have called. He referred a member to the number to find out about resources on grief recovery. Eight of ten pastors say they have called AdventSource. Of these eight, five say they think members have called. Reasons for calling: grief recovery, logo kit, 1st Wednesday, Net programs, VBS, head elder looking for resources, small group leaders called, Pathfinders. A variable to keep in mind on this question is that some pastors have heard of these places and may have even shared the phone numbers, but have not called. As an experiment, the interviewer invited seven or eight of the pastors to receive enough of the "Questions? Answers!" brochure (listing four #800 numbers) for every bulletin in their church. All pastors were interested and appreciative of the offer.

Pastor: RM
Conference: Oregon
Church(es)/Position: 3 churches

1. Have you heard of the alternatives to Ingathering in the North American Division (ADRA Appeal and Campaign for Community)? The new name for Ingathering is World Service Appeal. What comments do you hear your members make about these?

Doesn't ring a bell. Annual appeal, heard of. Members are generally positive, but don't have a lot of specific information. Our conference is now ADRA Annual Appeal. There are two options, one has to do with churches connected Portland Adventist Community Services.

We have one or two people doing it individually. It's one of my churches.

2. Do you conduct any type of mid-week meeting? Why or why not? What are you using? What is your basic format?

Yes, in both.

One is an evangelistic Bible study approach. The other is a lay led home group, prayer meeting—spiritual nurture is the focus.

Using the In His Steps series, a discussion approach. Other group has done different things, read some SOP books together.

Teaching / classroom approach. The other is small group.

3. If a resource existed that would help revolutionize your church, what would it change/what would it do?

I am thinking mainly in the area of time commitment. Tugging between spiritual things and every day life. Helping members shift their emphasis... It would actually have to help people lay aside large chunks of their present lifestyle. For any type of revolution to take place, we'd have to help them leave part of their present lifestyle behind. Perhaps a whole day out of every week. Perhaps "Spiritual Discipline" would be the category. Maybe a way people could join in a commitment... Here's my list of commitments. It could start with a special week or month. The Fasting from Noise thing that Jose Rojas did moves in the right direction, but letting them write their own...

Laurie Beth Jones spoke at our pastors meetings last month, and she moves in the right direction for helping us visualize what we can be. I like it because it avoids some of the more of the "off-putting" elements of writing your own mission statement.

4. Do you have a satellite dish? Do you use A.C.N. for training lay leaders? If 'yes', how? If 'no', why not?

Both churches.

We have dabbled with training a little bit. Haven't really gotten anything specific going. Looked at some, etc.

Doesn't seem accessible. Difficult to just announce, usher people in and go. Seems more difficult. Couple experiences we had, turned it on, it wasn't coming through. On a couple other programs there were some hoops to jump through that we didn't choose to do. I know there has to be a way to pay for it all. But until we have a better concept of what we're buying into...

5. Have you ever called PlusLine (1-800-SDA-PLUS or 1-800-732-7587) Do you know if your church leaders use Adventist PlusLine? If so, which ones generally use it? (Same questions, but with AdventSource).

Yes. Don't know.

Yes. Don't know.

Pastor: AG

Conference: Potomac

Church(es)/Position: 1 church, 1 company

1. Have you heard of the alternatives to Ingathering in the North American Division (ADRA Appeal and Campaign for Community)? The new name for Ingathering is World Service Appeal. What comments do you hear your members make about these?

Our conference decided not to go with the options but the traditional appeal, so my members haven't had much exposure.

2. Do you conduct any type of mid-week meeting? Why or why not? What are you using? What is your basic format?

Yes, in one church on Tuesday night.

Showing evangelistic videos, Kenneth Cox.

Greet the people, share a few thoughts, have a prayer, watch video, prayer at the end. We sometimes have a song or two. Meet in the sanctuary.

3. If a resource existed that would help revolutionize your church, what would it change/what would it do?

I would like to have all my people use all their gifts.

4. Do you have a satellite dish? Do you use A.C.N. for training lay leaders? If 'yes', how? If 'no', why not?

In one church. Did Net '96 and did Doug Batchelor series.

We have used it a little bit. Seems the quality is not that good. It seems like maybe it doesn't grab you too much. It's too spontaneous, instead of high quality. It's informal.

5. Have you ever called PlusLine (1-800-SDA-PLUS or 1-800-732-7587) Do you know if your church leaders use Adventist PlusLine? If so, which ones generally use it? (Same questions, but with AdventSource).

Yes, one time. I have know idea, haven't promoted the number.

Yes. I don't know that.

This pastor told me his story of a dream he's had. He wanted to start something in a community between two churches. Never realized that dream. Was moved. Wanted a "resource center" approach for reaching the community. Just moved to Windsor. My small company in Franklin, 5 miles from Windsor, out in the country.

Since I've moved to my present location, and I've signed a contract on a professional building, been empty for a couple years, and I want to fix this up into a "resource service center" for this area. I'd like to sell something things to make it self-supporting – but primarily a ministry that meets needs. And use this is an evangelistic area for five communities in this area.

Would like to provide good Christian materials in a lending library, videos, books, etc. Eventually I'd like to have a place where we find people in the community to volunteer in some area where they have expertise. For instance, my head elder is a mechanic and might volunteer to help people in the community, cooperating with nonAdventists... We become a matching place for needs and services.

I'm getting some opposition since my members are highly focused on building a church, but I think we need to have a balance and reaching out... I'm so excited about what could happen. I'd like to call it something like the Oasis Christian Resource Center.

I'm looking for information to help me develop this. Send me anything you have that might help me out.

Pastor: BP

Conference: Potomac

Church(es)/Position: 3 churches

1. Have you heard of the alternatives to Ingathering in the North American Division (ADRA Appeal and Campaign for Community)? The new name for Ingathering is World Service Appeal. What comments do you hear your members make about these?

I've heard of them both. So, they have heard of but not thoroughly of the options.

2. Do you conduct any type of mid-week meeting? Why or why not? What are you using? What is your basic format?

Yes.

We started with outreach, but shifted to nurture.

Doing the Mark Finley Revelation series, been in it more than a year, going slow.

Meet sanctuary, small group, 10-15.

What I would like to do is shift away from what we're doing. I would like to shift to home groups, small groups. It's the early church model that provides dynamics you can't have any other way.

3. If a resource existed that would help revolutionize your church, what would it change/what would it do?

What comes to mind first is to help our members to continue to grow in a deeper relationship with Christ ... Bible study, prayer, sharing, witnessing, outreach.

Foundational.

Pastor Steve Vail, Michigan Conference. Is a resident evangelist. Why not get his input on some of these. Very creative type on these things.

4. Do you have a satellite dish? Do you use A.C.N. for training lay leaders? If 'yes', how? If 'no', why not?

Yes. We have a little bit, haven't begun. We'll tape this weekend the Discover Bible School. I haven't really talked to my elders about the programs on Cross-Training. Probably the only factor in making full use is simply cutting out the time to get there and do it. I think some of my members are taping and using it.

5. Have you ever called PlusLine (1-800-SDA-PLUS or 1-800-732-7587) Do you know if your church leaders use Adventist PlusLine? If so, which ones generally use it? (Same questions, but with AdventSource).

Yes. I don't think so.

No. Don't think so.

Pastor: DS

Conference: Potomac

Church(es)/Position: 2 churches

1. Have you heard of the alternatives to Ingathering in the North American Division (ADRA Appeal and Campaign for Community)? The new name for Ingathering is World Service Appeal. What comments do you hear your members make about these?

Yes, they have. Most of my members are interested in an alternate form of Ingathering. Most would rather just donate the money.

2. Do you conduct any type of mid-week meeting? Why or why not? What are you using? What is your basic format?

Yes.

Outreach and nurture.

In one I use video tapes, Batchelor series. The other, SOP and Bible.

Meet in sanctuary, classroom setting.

3. If a resource existed that would help revolutionize your church, what would it change/what would it do?

A resource that would teach people commitment to outreach.

4. Do you have a satellite dish? Do you use A.C.N. for training lay leaders? If 'yes', how? If 'no', why not?

No. Some of my members do. Haven't used those, haven't had ready access.

5. Have you ever called PlusLine (1-800-SDA-PLUS or 1-800-732-7587) Do you know if your church leaders use Adventist PlusLine? If so, which ones generally use it? (Same questions, but with AdventSource).

I haven't used it. Don't know of members.

I might have, wasn't aware of the "AdventSource" name. Don't know.

Pastor: SS

Conference: Potomac

Church(es)/Position: 1 church

1. Have you heard of the alternatives to Ingathering in the North American Division (ADRA Appeal and Campaign for Community)? The new name for Ingathering is World Service Appeal. What comments do you hear your members make about these?

We have discussed the options on the church board. Conference is going only with Ingathering (World Service Appeal). We actually voted on the ADRA Appeal, but the conference took a polling and we are still with the regular Ingathering this year.

2. Do you conduct any type of mid-week meeting? Why or why not? What are you using? What is your basic format?

No.

3. If a resource existed that would help revolutionize your church, what would it change/what would it do?

It would change the involvement of the laity, particularly in the area of outreach.

4. Do you have a satellite dish? Do you use A.C.N. for training lay leaders? If 'yes', how? If 'no', why not?

Yes.

No. Not since I've been here. Been here for a year. Had little turn out.

5. Have you ever called PlusLine (1-800-SDA-PLUS or 1-800-732-7587) Do you know if your church leaders use Adventist PlusLine? If so, which ones generally use it? (Same questions, but with AdventSource).

No. I just recommended it. A lady wanted resources for a grief seminar.

Yes. No, but I referred for grief resources.

Pastor: GR

Conference: Oregon

Church(es)/Position: 3 churches

1. Have you heard of the alternatives to Ingathering in the North American Division (ADRA Appeal and Campaign for Community)? The new name for Ingathering is World Service Appeal. What comments do you hear your members make about these?

We've discussed the options. In the last few years we've done little or nothing, mostly donations. Several of our members are going to a meeting in Eugene called "How to Write an ADRA Proposal."

2. Do you conduct any type of mid-week meeting? Why or why not? What are you using? What is your basic format?

In all three.

We've done Net '96. We're building a church in one area. And one electrician offered to hook up a dish and sound equipment. We've also downlinked Ken Cox, and Doug Batchelor.

We've studied books of the Bible, lessons, etc. Also small groups in one church, some major nurturing groups.

3. If a resource existed that would help revolutionize your church, what would it change/what would it do?

God's in the process of doing that ... one church has many old members and I used to think that some would need to be laid to rest for it to go forward... I just recently had three funerals! So, we've opened a school back up and it certainly reaches out.

We find that when our hearts are right, money is not a problem.

I think in a three church district what would help the most is a stipend for a part-time assistant for helping with outreach. We also have a Bible worker helping out. We pay her mileage out of our own funds. She's a retired schoolteacher.

4. Do you have a satellite dish? Do you use A.C.N. for training lay leaders? If 'yes', how? If 'no', why not?

One dish, but share with the other two churches. Yes. We'll have about 1/3 of our members their to watch. We record a master and have a loaner and we also show it live.

5. Have you ever called PlusLine (1-800-SDA-PLUS or 1-800-732-7587) Do you know if your church leaders use Adventist PlusLine? If so, which ones generally use it? (Same questions, but with AdventSource).

I haven't, but I have recommended it regarding satellite questions.

Yes. My head elder in Veneta is getting involved and has called about the logo kit.

Pastor: EG

Conference: Oregon

Church(es)/Position: 1 church

1. Have you heard of the alternatives to Ingathering in the North American Division (ADRA Appeal and Campaign for Community)? The new name for Ingathering is World Service Appeal. What comments do you hear your members make about these?

We've heard but haven't done anything about it. Its been talked about. I think they are favorable. We have an active Community Services in Gresham. We have about 90 people come through every week. We're thinking of expanding the facilities.

2. Do you conduct any type of mid-week meeting? Why or why not? What are you using? What is your basic format?

It's not a prayer meeting. I follow up Net '97 with a Daniel Seminar. We do have some small groups meeting as well.

3. If a resource existed that would help revolutionize your church, what would it change/what would it do?

Having more people involved in sharing the good news. That's a key issue. Only as they share will they get enthused and it will help them to know what they believe.

4. Do you have a satellite dish? Do you use A.C.N. for training lay leaders? If 'yes', how? If 'no', why not?

We had a home made system, didn't work that well. So, we're now planning to go digital. So, we didn't have a good satellite.

5. Have you ever called PlusLine (1-800-SDA-PLUS or 1-800-732-7587) Do you know if your church leaders use Adventist PlusLine? If so, which ones generally use it? (Same questions, but with AdventSource).

No. Not really familiar.

Yes. Probably have, because they have some tapes, First Wednesday.

Pastor: WS

Conference: Oregon

Church(es)/Position: Just retired

1. Have you heard of the alternatives to Ingathering in the North American Division (ADRA Appeal and Campaign for Community)? The new name for Ingathering is World Service Appeal. What comments do you hear your members make about these?

Our church is definitely aware of ADRA Appeal. We haven't been involved in Ingathering at all. So, the church wasn't geared up for it, but have been very supportive of some projects – ASM, children's orphanage, short mission trips. Not sure what they're doing right now with it. I'm actually working for ADRA as a representative. I'm going to schools and conduct a "Kick the Cycle of Poverty" helping kids fast and give money for overseas project, especially going well in our Jr. Academies. Just attended an ADRA get together in Daytona Beach. Its also having a Global Village in Washington, D.C. targeting the 6th public school students. I'll be going back to help them, guiding people through.

2. Do you conduct any type of mid-week meeting? Why or why not? What are you using? What is your basic format?

Yes.

Didn't have one when I came here. I didn't start until the need arose. I listened a lot then when a "need" was expressed, we started.

Bible focused. Nurture and Bible education.

Small group.

3. If a resource existed that would help revolutionize your church, what would it change/what would it do?

One of the burdens I've had in my church is a deeper desire for evangelism. There is more a sense now. Especially with Net '96 success. The members have worked hard to build up a respect and presence in the community. They didn't want to tear that down by "attacking the Catholic Church" for example.

So, I would want a resource that would really put my people on fire for evangelism and helping them see a need to share their faith.

4. Do you have a satellite dish? Do you use A.C.N. for training lay leaders? If 'yes', how? If 'no', why not?

Yes.

Yes. Recorded and show it later. Sabbath afternoon showed it.

5. Have you ever called PlusLine (1-800-SDA-PLUS or 1-800-732-7587) Do you know if your church leaders use Adventist PlusLine? If so, which ones generally use it? (Same questions, but with AdventSource).

No, not familiar with it.

Yes. Yes, some for the Net programs, VBS, head elder, small group leaders.

Pastor: KM

Conference: Nevada/Utah

Church(es)/Position: 2 churches and a branch Sabbath school

1. Have you heard of the alternatives to Ingathering in the North American Division (ADRA Appeal and Campaign for Community)? The new name for Ingathering is World Service Appeal. What comments do you hear your members make about these?

No, because I hadn't been aware of them. I've been pressed for time, so I toss some of my junk mail.

2. Do you conduct any type of mid-week meeting? Why or why not? What are you using? What is your basic format?

Yes, in one.

Because the church members want it, but I'm focusing on an evangelistic approach.

Using Net '96, Ken Cox, Doug Batchelor series next, Keepers of the Flame.

We meet in sanctuary but we sometimes use tables like during Revelation Seminar.

3. If a resource existed that would help revolutionize your church, what would it change/what would it do?

Our churches are dead. No church life, no social life, we kind of play church on Sabbath morning. You can't culture-ize people into coming into a situation like that. We have a Sunday group renting our church. They started with nothing and now have 60 people coming. They're charismatic/Pentecostal, etc. And we understand their doctrines are more "popular" but, they have lay involvement that we don't have. Our people sit and watch their clocks.

I think many of our people are not even converted, they don't have a vision or mission or the degree of spiritual life they need. If you don't take it in, you don't have

anything to give. We have the truth but are short on spiritual experience. Little bit like the Pharisees.

I think that a lot of these independent ministries have been very effective in reaching the grass roots of our people. They have sent messages to them that would be helpful. Fear over changing our worship services is a big deal. Resistance is high. It's very frustrating to me. Our people are so sensitive about becoming Celebration churches. It's tragic. It needs to come partially from the top, but from local leadership.

I sense a lot of our people feel our leadership is off in their own world, not communicating or connected with the local church.

4. Do you have a satellite dish? Do you use A.C.N. for training lay leaders? If 'yes', how? If 'no', why not?

Yes. Rarely used lay training material. Going digital so I don't know how it will work out. Many of my members live far away, so I put a lot of mileage on my car.

5. Have you ever called PlusLine (1-800-SDA-PLUS or 1-800-732-7587) Do you know if your church leaders use Adventist PlusLine? If so, which ones generally use it? (Same questions, but with AdventSource).

Yes. Don't know.

I have about Pathfinders, yes, pathfinders.

Pastor: AD

Conference: Nevada/Utah

Church(es)/Position: 1 church

1. Have you heard of the alternatives to Ingathering in the North American Division (ADRA Appeal and Campaign for Community)? The new name for Ingathering is World Service Appeal. What comments do you hear your members make about these?

Never heard of them.

2. Do you conduct any type of mid-week meeting? Why or why not? What are you using? What is your basic format?

Haven't for the last three years. We've been in the process of building a new church, so we didn't have a church to meet in, so we met in some homes.

Both evangelistic and spiritual nurture.

Used my own material, Bible and SOP.

Talked from the front.

3. If a resource existed that would help revolutionize your church, what would it change/what would it do?

A program that would bring the people nearer to Christ and a deeper relationship with him. The rest won't amount to anything without this.

4. Do you have a satellite dish? Do you use A.C.N. for training lay leaders? If 'yes', how? If 'no', why not?

Had one, but couldn't put it up. Haven't had access to A.C.N.

5. Have you ever called PlusLine (1-800-SDA-PLUS or 1-800-732-7587) Do you know if your church leaders use Adventist PlusLine? If so, which ones generally use it? (Same questions, but with AdventSource).

No. Don't know.

No. Not that know of.