

Pastoral Interviews

Report for Week of: July 1, 1997

Number of Calls: 10

Number of Conferences: 4

My name is Curtis Rittenour and I'm calling on behalf of the Office of Information and Research for the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists. I'm working on a project and have been asked to briefly interview pastors on a few items. Do you have 5-7 minutes to quickly go through them?

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. In this first series of questions, of 10 pastors interviewed, 9 indicated their churches were involved in Ingathering in some sort of way. Most approached it in a "modified" way, meaning one of two ways: the local church members raises the goal out of their own pockets (6), or members go door to door and give out bread/cookies and a pamphlet (2). Since the 10 pastors represented more than 10 churches, the number of churches NOT involved was about 3. One church has a "United Church Funds" program that takes in money for a variety of local community projects including seminars. Suggestions for improving Ingathering focused on issues of "name recognition of the church throughout the year" and "clarify our goal--raise money? or raise awareness of our church?". One pastor said, "If our goal is to raise money (which he didn't believe should be the primary goal) then we should learn from organizations like the United Way." Only one pastor mentioned ADRA and said he'd heard something about a modified approach. He was positive about this since he feels ADRA has a good name and reputation. Another pastor explained a modified Ingathering Revision process that gave more potential funds to the local church for outreach projects. A few pastors suggested better training of lay members for going door to door. One pastor suggested groups are not as effective as going out in 1s and 2s. Another said we need to place a few people in strategic places to collect business donations throughout the year. He said, "Christian Record has this figured out." And finally, one pastor felt door to door solicitation is not an effective strategy in today's culture.

2. What works well in the area of outreach and evangelism? The responses were split between "direct" and "indirect" forms of outreach. In the area of "direct" evangelism, a couple of pastors referred back to Net '96 as being a great experience (though another pastor said "it didn't work for our church). Other examples mentioned include: Ken Cox video Bible studies, plans for Doug Batchelor series this fall, door to door surveys, live evangelists coming in, etc. In the "indirect" area of outreach, a couple other pastors spoke of VBS programs they are involved in. And two are involved in "HeartBeat" seminars. One church has a successful "feeding in the park" program with follow-up. Another has a "Homework Center" between 3:30 and 4:30 for local students to come and receive tutoring. And another is leaning toward Home Bible Studies for outreach. One church plans to open a "seminar center" in town and turn it into a branch Sabbath school. And another church is in a "visioning" process to assess what outreach to do.

3. When asked if local churches could use practical ideas on witnessing, all 10 pastors responded affirmatively. When asked about “Adventist Witness” magazine, four pastors knew nothing about it. Of the other six, four have actually seen it (and had positive comments), and the other two saw mailers but haven’t seen the magazine itself. One pastor said, “I’m not sure if I’m going to just be getting it, or if I need to subscribe, or what...” Another suggested the magazine should emphasize witnessing as a way of life, something we do naturally. Still another said, “My members are asking me how they can naturally turn conversations at work toward spiritual things.”

4. The “sense” I had when asking pastors about specific resources they could use was a “blurry” response. Besides a new pastor (transferring from publishing work) asking about help with sermon preparation and counseling, most were broad in their comments. Ideas ranged from motivating members to new Bible studies for youth (or Jews or on the gospels), etc. Pastors didn’t always distinguish what they would like and what they think their lay leaders would like. One pastor said, “Money is a problem in small churches, so I haven’t thought much about buying resources.” Another mentioned EGW suggestion of having “teams” of people travel and provide training. Several mentioned the video format for lay leader training works well. A couple pastors referred to Rick Warren’s recent book (The Purpose Driven Church) as having excellent ideas (along with John Maxwell’s “Injoy” materials). Two pastors wish we had a specific list of resources tied to spiritual gifts and/or church offices. Requests for help for lay leaders focused on motivation, witnessing training, Sabbath school teaching, home visitation, etc.

5. How many pastors have called PlusLine? Three of ten (four have heard about PlusLine). Of lay leaders, two pastors guesstimate that lay leaders have called PlusLine. How many pastors have called AdventSource? Five of ten (six have heard about AdventSource). Of lay leaders, five pastors guesstimate that lay leaders have called AdventSource. Types of calls placed by pastors/leaders to AdventSource: Pathfinders, Connections, Community Services, Cross-Training, Reclaiming, and Youth Ministry.

Pastor: EH
Conference: Central States
Church(es), Position: 1 church, Sr. Pastor

1. Does your church do “Ingathering” (or an alternative)? If so, do you have any suggestions for improving it?

Right now we do both. Our church is on a program that we call “United Church Funds.” Includes Message magazine, Ingathering, Liberty Magazine. At the same time our young people do Ingathering. My suggestion would be higher recognition of our church name when it comes to disasters so it would be more recognized when we go out.

2. What has worked well in your church in the last year in terms of outreach and evangelism?

Right now, what we are doing ... we have a "feeding program" in the park of the city. We've been doing this for about 4-5 years. We do it on Sundays. This last Sunday we fed between 65-70 people. We divide the church into four groups, I would say we may have about 10 in each group. We go back to the park on Sabbath on evenings to do the "religious" part of it to sing and give Bible studies.

3. Is there a need in your church for sharing/witnessing ideas that are practical? (Follow-up: Have you ever received "Adventist Witness" magazine? If yes, what is your reaction? Positive/negative? Why?)

Yes. Always room for improvement. Magazine? No.

4. What kinds of resources are you as a pastor looking for (or need most) in doing ministry in your church? (E.g. video seminars, printed material, on-line computer service, computer disks or CD-ROMs, fact sheets, live training seminars). What are your lay leaders asking for help in?

Maybe that Witness magazine would be good. No ideas for lay leaders.

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

No. I doubt my leaders have. Never heard of it. I know of the resource place at Andrews. P.S. I'm ready to retire. The one sentence I would share with young pastors: "Never neglect house to house visitation."

Pastor: SB

Conference: Oklahoma

Church(es), Position: 3 churches

1. Does your church do "Ingathering" (or an alternative)? If so, do you have any suggestions for improving it?

We raise our money every year, but we don't go out and meet the community. I think our energies could be used better in other ways other than Ingathering. If we would spend the same two months (or whatever) and hunted for Bible studies, it would be better time spent. I took youth with me to do a simple survey in our community and 1/2 hour and found 7 interests for Kenneth Cox video Bible studies. I currently have 3 video Bible studies using this, and its going really well.

2. What has worked well in your church in the last year in terms of outreach and evangelism?

Kenneth Cox video Bible studies. We have two sets. Its been over a year. No baptisms directly related yet, but we are planning on some. We are going to do the satellite program with Kenneth Cox this fall.

Using a community survey to find interests has worked well.

3. Is there a need in your church for sharing/witnessing ideas that are practical? (Follow-up: Have you ever received "Adventist Witness" magazine? If yes, what is your reaction? Positive/negative? Why?)

Yes, I think so. I think I have a copy of the magazine but haven't had a chance to look at it.

4. What kinds of resources are you as a pastor looking for (or need most) in doing ministry in your church? (E.g. video seminars, printed material, on-line computer service, computer disks or CD-ROMs, fact sheets, live training seminars). What are your lay leaders asking for help in?

I really don't know how to answer that one. I've never had a good set of resources in any of the churches I've been in, because I've always been in small churches so I've been limited.

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

No I haven't. Leaders? Not that I'm aware of.

Pastor: JS

Conference: Oklahoma

Church(es), Position: 2 churches

1. Does your church do "Ingathering" (or an alternative)? If so, do you have any suggestions for improving it?

Both churches basically do Ingathering. They raise their own money. One does do some outreach ministry--caroling.

I would tend to think the best approach would be to have community service projects throughout the year, so that when we go back ... there is familiarity. We did do "Heartbeat" this year.

2. What has worked well in your church in the last year in terms of outreach and evangelism?

We were successful in both churches with Net '96 -- 7 baptisms. We're in the middle of VBS in one church and its going well, equal number of Adventist and non-Adventist. Parents have been asking for follow-up programs. We also utilized 3 college students to help us with VBS. They did some follow-up surveys going door to door

asking for Bible studies. Also "Heartbeat." We'll also have the Doug Batchelor series this fall.

I'm also planning to do a "visioning time" with our leaders and the Union ministerial director--Dem Robles.

3. Is there a need in your church for sharing/witnessing ideas that are practical? (Follow-up: Have you ever received "Adventist Witness" magazine? If yes, what is your reaction? Positive/negative? Why?)

Yes. Definitely. People are asking all the time, "How can I turn every day conversation toward spiritual things?" One of my churches is getting it. I think its positive. No details. But what I did read I found was helpful in giving me ideas. I think portraying to our people that witnessing is a part of "every persons" life as a Christian, not just the professionals.

4. What kinds of resources are you as a pastor looking for (or need most) in doing ministry in your church? (E.g. video seminars, printed material, on-line computer service, computer disks or CD-ROMs, fact sheets, live training seminars). What are your lay leaders asking for help in?

Mark Finley's training programs (videos) people have liked. I've used seminar type material before. They all have their place. One of the things I need is lay people sharing their testimony about serving the church. I think that would be motivating, more than the "professional". EGW says, "Conferences should have teams of people who should travel around and do training." I really think we could go for it. One time meetings are easy to forget about. The hands on approach I think would be good.

Lay leaders. One elder who teaches a SS class ... he said, "I don't see any fruit in my ministry. I don't know how to take what I'm doing and improve it." So, I've tried to sit down and show him. Teaching, discipleship, mentoring, these things would help.

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

PlusLine? Yes. Mostly about materials and resources. Also called about reclaiming. AdventSource. Yes. I look at all their materials and catalogs.

I've heard of a few leaders that have, maybe two to five. Youth ministries. Ideas for personal ministries. Not sure, I think a few of my leaders have. I referred a few to them.

One thing I think would help the church more is to encourage pastors to share with their people where to find resources.

Pastor: RM

Conference: Ohio

Church(es), Position: 1 church, Bi-voc pastor

1. Does your church do "Ingathering" (or an alternative)? If so, do you have any suggestions for improving it?

Poorly. We go out once out of the year, around Christmas-time. I believe the way we "Ingather" is outdated. The purpose of Ingathering is to collect funds. I think it should be to communicate and connect people with the church. This should be spelled out more clearly. It seems if we are trying to collect money, then let's learn from the United Way and focus on methods that work.

2. What has worked well in your church in the last year in terms of outreach and evangelism?

We have gone to ... attempted to determine the needs of the community. We've also assessed our own gifts. We have a large number of professional people. So we are offering a "homework" center and having a youth ministry. We have kids come in between 3:30 and 4:30 with their homework -- tutoring -- we're only a couple blocks from one of the local public schools. We did an "evaluation" and it was clear that what we had to offer and what the community needed pointed right to this.

3. Is there a need in your church for sharing/witnessing ideas that are practical? (Follow-up: Have you ever received "Adventist Witness" magazine? If yes, what is your reaction? Positive/negative? Why?)

Yes. Always. Never heard of it.

4. What kinds of resources are you as a pastor looking for (or need most) in doing ministry in your church? (E.g. video seminars, printed material, on-line computer service, computer disks or CD-ROMs, fact sheets, live training seminars). What are your lay leaders asking for help in?

Ways of church growing. Reaching people with the good news. Mostly video training I could utilize. Lay leaders -- mostly in the area of Sabbath school (all areas).

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

No. Yes. No. Yes. Mostly in the area of Community Services and Cross Training.

Pastor: SC

Conference: Ohio

Church(es), Position: 1 church, Sr. pastor

1. Does your church do "Ingathering" (or an alternative)? If so, do you have any suggestions for improving it?

We get business donations, but generally the members raise money. Don't go out door to door. I think the idea that came out recently involving ADRA (has really good reputation) is great. More credible for appealing to community.

2. What has worked well in your church in the last year in terms of outreach and evangelism?

We participated in Net '96 and found it to be a positive experience for the church. We continue to have good interests from it. That was the major outreach effort. Everything went with it (training classes, cooking schools, Daniel seminars, etc.). It was a lot of work, but people were involved. It cost twice what we thought, but when the bills are paid, they were all covered.

3. Is there a need in your church for sharing/witnessing ideas that are practical? (Follow-up: Have you ever received "Adventist Witness" magazine? If yes, what is your reaction? Positive/negative? Why?)

Yes. Every church could use new ideas. Yes, I've seen the magazine. Well put together. I shared it with some of my key people in outreach.

4. What kinds of resources are you as a pastor looking for (or need most) in doing ministry in your church? (E.g. video seminars, printed material, on-line computer service, computer disks or CD-ROMs, fact sheets, live training seminars). What are your lay leaders asking for help in?

I'm glad to see the training for various ministry positions, made available for churches via satellite or video cassettes. We use the Connections course. So, we are taking the congregation through it. We need follow-up training for each church office so people can grow in their talents and gifts.

Rick Warren in his book suggested people need to "try out" ministries before they know for sure that's their "niche." So, that's why we take an "experimentation" approach to nominating committee, etc.

On another issue, I've received the Injoy (Maxwell) tape of the month and it was interesting to hear him talk about different leadership styles. Hybels is choleric and takes a "strategy" approach, whereas Warren is sanguine and hands over more into the hands of the leaders. Both styles of leadership can be helpful at different stages of a church's history and life.

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

Yes. I've referred people to it as a resource. AdventSource. Yes. We called to purchase Connections.

Pastor: RN

Conference: Ohio

Church(es), Position: 2 churches

1. Does your church do "Ingathering" (or an alternative)? If so, do you have any suggestions for improving it?

One solicits. The other simply turn in contributions. I'm not sure how many Unions are doing it, but my conference's "Ingathering reversion" is not an automatic thing. The conference gets a reversion based upon a "plan" so the amount is unlimited, not based on how much they collect, but upon what a committee deems feasible to help them. I would recommend this system. It helps give incentive to churches. But also, it gives them more money if they have a vision.

2. What has worked well in your church in the last year in terms of outreach and evangelism?

Net '96 did not work for us. Can't give you a reason. I'm not sure. Our opening night attendance (sent out 14,000 brochures) and had 6-9 guests. What has? Haven't done anything else. We're in the process of going through a "visioning process." I'm asking leaders, "If we were five years down the road, what would you like to look back and see." One of my churches will plan to do "HeartBeat '97" as a part of a bigger plan.

I personally have a concern(?) of the traditional bring in the conference evangelist approach. The people were so focused on "him" that as soon as he left, they were gone. That, I know for a fact, is a cop out. When I visited the people, there wasn't that same rapport. I tried to work with a couple who had serious doctrinal questions. I tried to answer them, but sensed that because "I wasn't the pro" I didn't cut it. I also notice that the conference evangelists seemed to be more "pressured" that the local pastor becomes a "nobody." One evangelist told me to "Keep my mouth shut." No bridging.

I'm fully behind Russell Burrill's book, Revolution in the Church.

3. Is there a need in your church for sharing/witnessing ideas that are practical? (Follow-up: Have you ever received "Adventist Witness" magazine? If yes, what is your reaction? Positive/negative? Why?)

Yes. Magazine? No.

4. What kinds of resources are you as a pastor looking for (or need most) in doing ministry in your church? (E.g. video seminars, printed material, on-line computer service, computer disks or CD-ROMs, fact sheets, live training seminars). What are your lay leaders asking for help in?

The main thing I'm struggling with in a small church district is to get people involved. When I preach, I'm lucky if 10% of my people have their Bibles open. Seminars? Yes. ACN and its seminars have pumped me up more than Net '96. Anything available. Software, yes. I'm looking at Worship Software. One I could really use ... motivating the members for service.

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

PlusLine. No. Leaders? No. AdventSource? Maybe once or twice. Leaders? Doubt it.

Pastor: BQ
Conference: Michigan
Church(es), Position: 2 churches, district superintendent

1. Does your church do “Ingathering” (or an alternative)? If so, do you have any suggestions for improving it?

Yes. One of them. The other has more “older” people, so they give more donations. I believe in Ingathering. I don’t like going door, but I do it.

I really think there is more of a trend now to go out in groups, which is good, but it really doesn’t get much done. I still think its better to send them out in 1s and 2s. You can cover territory quicker and make more contacts. I realize groups are better for socialization, but to accomplish things. Singing is more PR, but the other is more evangelism. I’m also disturbed with the idea that Ingathering is “begging”, we need to change this image. Its about the only time the church gets to meet the community.

2. What has worked well in your church in the last year in terms of outreach and evangelism?

Home Bible studies work the best. Secondly, we had Dan Collins. He goes over well here. Its been very productive. I believe in “live” evangelists. I’m also trying to use a variety of seminars to reach the community. We are even open a “seminar center” to turn into a branch Sabbath school. We’ll begin August 1.

3. Is there a need in your church for sharing/witnessing ideas that are practical? (Follow-up: Have you ever received “Adventist Witness” magazine? If yes, what is your reaction? Positive/negative? Why?)

Absolutely. I have only seen one copy of that. I know nothing of it.

4. What kinds of resources are you as a pastor looking for (or need most) in doing ministry in your church? (E.g. video seminars, printed material, on-line computer service, computer disks or CD-ROMs, fact sheets, live training seminars). What are your lay leaders asking for help in?

First thing, I need the help of the laity, getting them out of the pews. One thing I really use a lot ... but are out of print ... Larry Yeagley Grief Recovery Seminars. Instructor talking directly to the audience ... the format Roger Morton was following ... I still give these a lot. I’ve always found them very successful. The type of things that meet community needs ... real life needs ... those kind of video tapes we need.

I’d like to see a really good one on Home Finance. Mel Rees is OK. But something we can invite the community to and then show them a hands on practical application. The more we make friends with the community, the better.

I’d also like to see them develop youth Bible studies ... some really good ones are hard to find.

Can you develop some Bible studies that are based on other books of the Bible like the gospels, etc. other than Daniel or Revelation. Some who come into our churches as guests say we emphasize prophecy but not the gospels.

Would you also relate to Monte that the Jewish Bible Studies ... like the New York conference had something ... I'd like to see those re-inacted. There's a definite need everywhere to reach Jews. Robert Ottam started.

Training. Witnessing. How to give Bible studies. How to get involved. And how the church organization operates. A lot of our people really don't know. Especially going from theory to practice. That's where it falls down.

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

I have not called PlusLine. I get material from AdventSource, but haven't used it much. Haven't had much need to. But, some of our folks ordered, and felt it was a bit expensive. My pathfinder leaders call.

Pastor: CD

Conference: Michigan

Church(es), Position: 2 churches

1. Does your church do "Ingathering" (or an alternative)? If so, do you have any suggestions for improving it?

One of the two has a few people that go Ingathering. I just arrived here in September of last year. Its my first pastorate, so everything was on my mind at once. I did try to ... I've been in publishing all these years ... I believe in Ingathering ... I tried ... but it didn't work. A few people paid their goal... We didn't get it off the ground.

I think, from my perspective, because of my time in publishing, there is fear in the minds of people knocking on strangers doors. I believe that training ... one-on-one, is important. That's lacking. The laity needs more confidence when they go out. I speak from years in publishing. There is no training at all. I realize as a pastor you have so many things going, you don't have all you need to accomplish all you need.

2. What has worked well in your church in the last year in terms of outreach and evangelism?

We just completed a VBS. We are in the middle of another. That's been good. We had an evangelistic series, but I wouldn't call it successful. People weren't not ready, friends weren't invited.

3. Is there a need in your church for sharing/witnessing ideas that are practical? (Follow-up: Have you ever received "Adventist Witness" magazine? If yes, what is your reaction? Positive/negative? Why?)

Sure. No.

4. What kinds of resources are you as a pastor looking for (or need most) in doing ministry in your church? (E.g. video seminars, printed material, on-line computer service,

computer disks or CD-ROMs, fact sheets, live training seminars). What are your lay leaders asking for help in?

The biggest right now is sermon preparation. I don't have the academic background. I finished High School, went into literature ministry ... most is in the leadership area. Then, I moved into pastoring. Also, counseling. Resources to help in those.

Yes, I have a couple that have asked me to do visitation with them. They want to tag along and see "how to do it." I have an elder who's going with me next Sabbath to visit former and missing members. As a publisher, I have more confidence to do visitation.

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

No, neither of them. I've heard of PlusLine when I was in California, but I don't understand what it is. How much information has been sent out to inform/encourage the use of these? I have heard about it from a distance, but didn't get to know it.

Pastor: LD

Conference: Michigan

Church(es), Position: 1 church, senior pastor

1. Does your church do "Ingathering" (or an alternative)? If so, do you have any suggestions for improving it?

Both. We do regular Ingathering. But for those who prefer, they go door to door with cookies or bread and make friendly visits, not asking for funds but leaving a brochure.

I think the one thing that would have the greatest effect on Ingathering, would be to authorize a few people in strategic places to do Ingathering year round. Christian Record has it figured out and a few other key players.

2. What has worked well in your church in the last year in terms of outreach and evangelism?

We haven't had anything outstanding. I would go back to Net '96 and say that was very beneficial. We worked the system. The most difficult part was not having enough information in advance. We were going by the seat of our pants. That was the most disconcerting part.

3. Is there a need in your church for sharing/witnessing ideas that are practical? (Follow-up: Have you ever received "Adventist Witness" magazine? If yes, what is your reaction? Positive/negative? Why?)

I think so, on a weekly basis. No, haven't seen it yet. I've been looking for it. Not sure we've even subscribed. What I don't understand is do I need to order it, or will I simply get it.

4. What kinds of resources are you as a pastor looking for (or need most) in doing ministry in your church? (E.g. video seminars, printed material, on-line computer service, computer disks or CD-ROMs, fact sheets, live training seminars). What are your lay leaders asking for help in?

The thing we are in the middle of right now, is Connections. Our church is in the thick of it. It is very thorough. We couldn't ask for anything more complete. AdventSource has wonderful things. First Wednesday is things I can use.

My lay leaders are more and more asking about resources, mostly guidelines, printed materials for their particular ministry. They need to revise and apply more to the local church.

I just received the catalog for pastors, the newspaper one. That's very helpful. I was glad to see that. If you put it more in a catalog form, I might file it.

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

PlusLine? Know about it. I may have called them once. AdventSource, yes. Leadership? No, I don't for PlusLine. And AdventSource, I don't think they have.

Pastor: DY

Conference: Michigan

Church(es), Position: 2 churches

1. Does your church do "Ingathering" (or an alternative)? If so, do you have any suggestions for improving it?

We do not have any formerly organized Ingathering. I think Ingathering ... we need to take into account ... a drawback ... is the culture of today. Door to door is not looked on very highly. We need to somehow work around that.

2. What has worked well in your church in the last year in terms of outreach and evangelism?

One of the best things we've started this past year is small groups. We have already seen a few families baptized from this. The main purpose of these is evangelistic though they do nurture members.

One of the groups is studying the book of Romans. They aren't using a specific resource. Another is using the seminar on Daniel. A third group is focusing on mothers with small children.

3. Is there a need in your church for sharing/witnessing ideas that are practical? (Follow-up: Have you ever received "Adventist Witness" magazine? If yes, what is your reaction? Positive/negative? Why?)

Yes, I would say there are. We need to find ways ... we're looking at matching people's gifts with service. The more ideas for people, the better chance we'll find the right match. Practical is the word.

I got a mailing on the magazine a few weeks ago. I haven't "seen it" yet, but my reaction is positive.

4. What kinds of resources are you as a pastor looking for (or need most) in doing ministry in your church? (E.g. video seminars, printed material, on-line computer service, computer disks or CD-ROMs, fact sheets, live training seminars). What are your lay leaders asking for help in?

Printed material. Most of my ideas come from books. The books don't always give you the "tools." For example, "The Purpose Driven Church."

Lay leaders? I would say for them, handing them a book would not be the best. I've used videos in the past and they've responded well to them.

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

No. Yes.

Church leaders? No. Yes.