

Pastoral Interviews

Report for Week of: July 21, 1997

Number of Calls: 10

Number of Conferences: 4

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Five of ten pastors indicated their churches “do” Ingathering. The responses of how they do it is mixed. Some churches go door to door, approaches businesses, or simply raise money through personal donations. The most commonly referred to suggestion for improving Ingathering is getting rid of it. “Eliminate it.” “End it.” etc. One church is doing Campaign for Community. Another pastor has heard of the ADRA approach and thinks that is the way to go. Two specific suggestions: Regular awareness is needed throughout the whole year on Ingathering and perhaps the NAD could help us in this area; Why not have stationary spots throughout town to collect money, much like the Salvation Army does at Christmas time?

2. Net '96 was mentioned by five of ten pastors as part of their evangelistic success in the last year or so. A couple pastors did mention Net '96, but it was to indicate how it “didn’t work for” for them. The next most commonly referred to outreach/evangelism efforts were “tent crusades” and “Revelation Seminars”. These were mentioned mostly by pastors in the South Atlantic Conference. The rest of the comments were across a variety of approaches: Servant evangelism awareness (car wash, painting homes, drive through Nativity scene), book distribution (Happiness Digest and a Russell Burrill book), a Bible Reading marathon, a Net '96 follow-up program, teaching greeters to be more sensitive in the foyer to nonAdventists coming to church, and a door to door survey which attempts to turn people’s answers into an interest for Bible studies.

3. Four of ten pastors have seen Adventist Witness magazine. Two of them didn’t look at it closely and had no comment. The other two were positive. One said, “Looked like there were some thought provoking articles.” And two said they had/would pass it on to the Personal Ministries Leader or Bible Worker.

4. Pastors most frequently requested video resources (9) to help them in their ministry. The next two were print (8) and fact sheets (8), followed by on-line services (6), software (6), and live training seminars (6).

+Comments on video: “Videos need to be ‘live’, not talking heads or people reading manuscripts”; “I especially want videos of church leaders who are successfully ‘doing it’”; “I didn’t care for Hyveth Williams or the Pathfinder ACN events. Anything that goes on and on ad nauseum. I invited people from the community and was disappointed I showed this stuff live. I learned my lesson. I tape everything and preview first. I’d like to see more roll in’s. We need to do this professionally. If we can’t do it right, lets learn from the Gentiles. Why don’t we have people like Dick Duerksen or Mike Poist

involved?"; "I need videos on practical topics like Stop Smoking and financial management, not doctrinal videos";

+Comments on software: "Its hard to compete with the good stuff that is already out there"; "I wish the NAD would update their software program for local church treasurer's to Windows, and also throw in something for a church database that would also automatically print out a church directory"; "I'd like a church membership program"; "I'm looking for something on management and scheduling, finances, and I'd also like the EGW CD-ROM."

+Comments on fact sheets: "It would be nice to download drama scripts for worship services"

+Comments on live training: "I think we are weak among professional speakers in Adventism in the areas of leadership and spirituality. I get live presenters outside of Adventism. Right now I'm pursuing Richard Foster on spirituality"; "I appreciated Greg Nelson's presentation on preaching. It was excellent"; "We had Dan Knapp come in and do Learning to Care for us. It was excellent because it was interactive, practical, and he went out with us so we could practice 'hands on' in real life situations"

+Comments on print material: "I'd like a new set of Bible studies created with a focus on science and archaeology. I think it would meet the needs of people in my community. I also think someone would do well to capture John Carter's approach to evangelism and put it into a series of Bible studies"

+Other miscellaneous comments: "I think we need more resources on domestic violence, I've recently went through training at Drew University and received excellent resources"; "I need more help in the area of keeping newly baptized members in the church"

5. Two of ten pastors say they have called PlusLine. Another pastor said he "posted" a note about it on the bulletin board at the church, but has not called it and is not aware of any leaders calling it. None of the ten pastors know of any church members who have called PlusLine. Six of ten pastors say they have called AdventSource and five of ten pastors say they believe some of their leaders have called. The areas mentioned were Pathfinders, Sabbath school, youth ministry, and regarding the Connections resource.

Pastor: DL
Conference: Washington
Church(es)/Position: 1 church

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

We do a Nativity drive through. It reaches about 2,000 people. We have taken donations some years and given it to community services or some charity in the area. We did some caroling, but didn't collect.

End it. I think that Ingathering might serve a purpose in some regions. For instance, I have friends who pastor in small conferences, and those Ingathering funds make a large impact for them in their area.

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

Not the Net programs. In the metropolitan area it didn't seem to be that effective. Baptisms that resulted from them were on track to work with them anyway.

We do "Servant Evangelism": wash cars and give out free pop, paint homes, etc. has done well to bring about awareness. We also have "attraction" events. Marriage enrichment, divorce-care, concerts, special guest speakers. Our most effective thing is the Nativity drive-through is probably by far the most effective "awareness" event. But, it doesn't lead directly to baptisms.

3. Have you ever received "Adventist Witness" magazine? If yes, what is your reaction? Positive/negative? Why?

No.

4. What kinds of resources are you as a pastor looking for (or need most) in doing ministry in your church? (Yes/No)

Video seminars - Yes, as long as they are ones "done live". Lyman Coleman put together something, but it wasn't "live" ... it was not nearly as animated or as good, needs to be fairly animated to keep people's attention

Printed material - Yes

On-line computer service - Yes

Computer software - Yeh, but it would have to be pretty good software, but its hard to produce and match the "for profit"

Fact sheets - Yes, resources for Worship Drama would be high on my list

Live training seminars - Yes, I haven't used a lot of Adventist folks, because I like to bring people in for leadership, communication, marriage, spiritual growth stuff... there are so many resources out there... I'm particularly interested in leadership and spirituality and it seems like its an area where we as Adventists are not really strong. I've heard and read some stuff from Adventists that "claim" to be experts but don't pan out.

Other: Have you ever heard of "idea bank"? Its for building thematic worship services. You might create a hot link from CCM web page to this...

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 can almost guarantee none of mine have

Yes. Leaders? I suspect not.

Pastor: RP

Conference: Washington

Church(es)/Position: 1 church

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

No. Not really. I think its a program that's run its course.

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

I've had celebrities come in ... that helps ... as far as community awareness. I've done my own evangelistic series.

3. Have you ever received "Adventist Witness" magazine? If yes, what is your reaction? Positive/negative? Why?

I've seen it. Haven't read it thoroughly. Hard to remember.

4. What kinds of resources are you as a pastor looking for (or need most) in doing ministry in your church? (Yes/No)

Video seminars - Yes, depending on who does them ... I'm more interested in someone who is "doing it and making it work"

Printed material - Yes, I like Leadership magazine...

On-line computer service - Yes, except I usually don't have time to log on and load it up

Computer software - Maybe, there is so much already out there

Fact sheets - Yes

Live training seminars - Haven't brought people in but I've done it myself

Other:

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. Not that I know of.

No. No, I don't think so.

Pastor: BK

Conference: Washington

Church(es)/Position: 1 church

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

Yes. Caroling, door to door. One thing we are doing this fall is getting involved in "Campaign for Community". We believe directly affecting the local community is the way to go.

Since this is the first time we are going to go at it, have no way to evaluate it yet.

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

We did Net '96, which worked well for us. We also did a distribution program of Russell Burrill's book on last days. We also inserted a list of felt needs programs the church offered. We have a door to door program with Happiness Digest. We have Russian and Hispanic that are doing individual work out of our church. I hesitate to call it door to door, its more person to person.

3. Have you ever received "Adventist Witness" magazine? If yes, what is your reaction? Positive/negative? Why?

Yes, received a sample copy. It looked like (scanned it) ... some very thought - provoking thing. Definitely feel like there is a need for it. I would suggest it as a resource for my personal ministry leaders and Bible workers.

4. What kinds of resources are you as a pastor looking for (or need most) in doing ministry in your church? (Yes/No)

Video seminars - Yes, very helpful. We use Mark Finley's stuff and anything along those lines.

Printed material - Yes. I would say, maybe a new set of Bible studies based on archaeology and science, especially for the neighborhoods around my church. Ancient discoveries. I've been intrigued by John Carter's presentations. If he, or someone familiar with his approach would write some studies, that would be great.

On-line computer service - Yes. I don't download much. But I do find it very helpful for picking up current information. I like to look over and pick and choose.

Computer software - I know that our church treasurer has a terrible time with the NAD treasury software. An update on that, Windows compatible, more user-friendly, and provided information helpful for the church, church membership information would be helpful... And something for more use of video tapes, software for tracking video tapes, etc. Let's say you have three or four sets out ... need some tracking software.

Fact sheets - Yes.

Live training seminars - We downlink quite a few. The one Greg Nelson did on preaching was excellent.

Other:

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. No, don't know.

Yes. I think the Pathfinder directors have.

Pastor: SC

Conference: Southern New England

Church(es)/Position: 2 churches

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

No. Eliminate it.

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

Net '96. Keep it going. But don't schedule one on top of another ... like Ken Cox and Doug Batchelor. We're only doing one.

3. Have you ever received "Adventist Witness" magazine? If yes, what is your reaction? Positive/negative? Why?

I've not even heard of it.

4. What kinds of resources are you as a pastor looking for (or need most) in doing ministry in your church? (Yes/No)

Video seminars - Yes. We've used Mark Finley's seminars ... there are some other seminars that we might use if they were available. The seminars we don't like ... are those that go on "ad nauseum" and not say anything. For instance, Hyveth Williams on Second Coming ... it went on ... the other was the Pathfinder one where two hours were spent of someone reading out of a manual. I would value video clips ... let's make the most of it. If we can't do it right, let's learn from the Gentiles. Some people know how to do this like Dick Duerksen and Mike Poist (independent guy used to work at the GC). He does videos almost full-time.

Printed material - Some of its good, some of its gets filed. All depends.

On-line computer service - Yes, I use the Adventist Forum. I think all pastors should be on. We ought to somehow make it possible for all of our denominational workers to be on this. I get on the Internet once in awhile. I realize many of our pastors don't have computers or modems.

Computer software - I wish they would come up with a software program that had a membership program, a desktop publishing program, a bulletin program, and I'm sure there is something out there available... it works for me. Some of this stuff designed for Adventist churches. Must be some programs out there, put out by Adventists, for Adventists.

Fact sheets - I like those. Our conference sends out the Monday Fax and Folkenberg's weekly thing.

Live training seminars - No. Unless I do them myself.

Other:

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?

Never heard of it. No.

Yes. It's possible, at least for Pathfinder supplies.

Pastor: RD

Conference: Southern New England

Church(es)/Position: 1 church, senior

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

No. I think the best approach is the one that seems to be in the works -- ADRA. I think this could be supported. Even if it does, I don't really see my members greatly renewed in their enjoyment of asking for money. I don't think there is a great future for that. One of the elders would like to revive it.

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

We've developed a very large and strong personal ministries department. They are developing a menu of things. It was mainly one person, who has developed a committee of 30. His view of Personal Ministries is broader than usual.

Prayer and fasting is one program he has led out in. About four a year. He also sees reading the Bible as a personal ministries thing. He's started a Bible Marathon ... certificates are given out. Its an annual event. The goal is to have everyone read the Bible through annually. They've developed a strong basis of workers for satellite work. He has a target group of 200 families that attended Net '96 that he wants to follow up. Forty teams are being developed. He wants them to visit three families each... I mean three times, a personal visit, a phone call, encouraging them to come to satellite '97.

3. Have you ever received "Adventist Witness" magazine? If yes, what is your reaction? Positive/negative? Why?

Yes. I think its very good. I passed it on to the Personal Ministries director. Not sure if he's subscribing or not.

4. What kinds of resources are you as a pastor looking for (or need most) in doing ministry in your church? (Yes/No)

Video seminars - Yes. We have a video department (and audio). We're trying to blend those together. We also have a tape duplicating ministry. We want to somehow merge all this into one unit. And then in addition, we need to get a stronger staff that will include acquisition of videos. We also want to have at least four different seminars available at any one time. Oregon had a curriculum type of guide, but in the local church to help all church officers see all the options for training. We are also working on our

second satellite projector, so we are getting close to where we can do that. As far as the resources, we have quite a supply of catalogs. We don't seem to be too limited with what's being produced from AdventSource, etc. If we tap into what's available as well as Priority One.

Printed material - No special needs. Most of what we need is created. The simplest form ... "The Quick Look" is done quite nicely. Those type of things are helpful. Simple and inexpensive for distributing.

On-line computer service - We have a computer and modem. We have a computer committee ... we are working toward a website. Not there.

Computer software - Not really. I have some incredible people in that area on a committee who are working on choosing a database ... they will serve us probably better than the "packaged programs" that are out there.

Fact sheets -

Live training seminars -

Other:

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 think I called once. I doubt they have.

Yes. Yes, my youth pastor, my Sabbath school division people have.

Pastor: TR

Conference: New Jersey

Church(es)/Position: 3 churches

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

I would have to say in the traditional sense, no. Most of the members give personal donations. No suggestions. Seems like it works for some churches, but not for others.

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

Net '96. We've tried to make the church more user-friendly. When people come, we try to be sensitive to visitors ... whether they are Adventist or not ... and try to avoid using too many Adventist terms.

3. Have you ever received "Adventist Witness" magazine? If yes, what is your reaction? Positive/negative? Why?

Yes I have. No reaction. Haven't looked at it.

4. What kinds of resources are you as a pastor looking for (or need most) in doing ministry in your church? (Yes/No)

Video seminars - Yes

Printed material - I prefer video over written, time saver

On-line computer service - No

Computer software - No, don't own a computer

Fact sheets - Yes

Live training seminars - Yes

Other: One I've seen very little of, even though I know we have it, is the issue of domestic violence. I just finished taking a course on domestic violence and I'm working at a shelter for women. We don't have as much ... I just ordered a book about it. Went to Drew University. I have one by Ron and Karen Flowers. But when I consider what other denominations have, it seems like we are lacking in that area. We don't talk to much about this in our churches. Its actually done through the Clergy Partnership for Domestic Violence. What's nice is connecting with people from other denominations.

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, but I had a someone ask me for that number (an Adventist friend).

Yes! I get their newspaper. I have a "direct line" to them (laughter). Leaders? Only one of my churches does any ordering. Otherwise I order. I probably call AdventSource once a month.

Pastor: MD

Conference: New Jersey

Church(es)/Position: 2 churches

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

Yes, one doesn't really have a program where they go out ... raise it within the church. The other does caroling.

That's a hard one. Its getting harder and harder to do it in neighborhoods. We have a town that's very restrictive. We probably would do better to contact businesses, or individuals contact people they do business with.

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

Net '96 most effective thing we did. One church didn't have the dish, but we showed videos. We did our own taping and had more baptisms than the "live" one.

3. Have you ever received "Adventist Witness" magazine? If yes, what is your reaction? Positive/negative? Why?

No.

4. What kinds of resources are you as a pastor looking for (or need most) in doing ministry in your church? (Yes/No)

Video seminars - Yes, definitely

Printed material - Yes

On-line computer service - Yes, into that some (Forum)

Computer software - Yes

Fact sheets - No

Live training seminars - Yes, we had one that was quite effective. Learning to Care seminar with Dan Knapp. We saw results from it. Lots of small group. On the job training, etc. I only had four go out. Would like to see more. Hands on experience is crucial.

Other:

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. No.

Yes (for Connections). Church leaders? At least one elder (probably regarding Connections and worship).

Pastor: SD

Conference: South Atlantic

Church(es)/Position: 2 churches

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

Yes, one does door to door, the other one makes contributions.

It needs to be a consistent advertisement for the members, instead of the time the money is due. It needs to be put before the members throughout the year. We do it on the local level, but if more and regular information from the NAD might help.

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

Daniel and Revelation seminars along with tent crusade.

3. Have you ever received "Adventist Witness" magazine? If yes, what is your reaction? Positive/negative? Why?

No.

4. What kinds of resources are you as a pastor looking for (or need most) in doing ministry in your church? (Yes/No)

Video seminars - No, don't use them much, I guess what can help me on videos is videos on How to Stop Smoking, or dealing with finances. But doctrinal won't help me too much.

Printed material - Yes. Before I do a tent effort or church revival, I usually try to have lessons from Amazing Facts or the Real Truth series. Those are the two studies I usually push from this end.

On-line computer service - Not a modem.

Computer software - Yes. Interested in EGW on CD-ROM. Also, information on managing time or scheduling in your district and also finances.

Fact sheets - Yes, but we don't have a fax machine.

Live training seminars - Yes. We've trained in the area of Sabbath school, and in evangelistic preparation

Other: What would benefit me personally, is once members come in, keeping them there.

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 haven't used it, and I don't any of my leaders have. I have received information on it. Its on the bulletin board at the church.

No. Not that I know of.

Pastor: NG

Conference: South Atlantic

Church(es)/Position: 2 churches

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

They do Ingathering. I can't think of anything at this point.

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

Either a church meeting or Revelation Seminar.

3. Have you ever received "Adventist Witness" magazine? If yes, what is your reaction? Positive/negative? Why?

No.

4. What kinds of resources are you as a pastor looking for (or need most) in doing ministry in your church? (Yes/No)

Video seminars - No.

Printed material - Yes.

On-line computer service - Not involved here.

Computer software - No.
Fact sheets - Yes.
Live training seminars - Not often. Have used it in the past.
Other:

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. Don't believe so.

No. No.

Pastor: HA
Conference: South Atlantic
Church(es)/Position: 3 churches

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

Yes. I think Ingathering may need to be done ... like the Salvation Army does at Christmastime ... perhaps a stationary spot all around town. Door to door is good and we should continue, but we should try some other ideas.

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

We are basically traditional. Tent crusades. The ground we do is ... create warm contacts. We also do cold contacts. Door to door with a team. We use a survey to see how acquainted they are with God, etc. Then, we have them sign the survey ... we also ask, "Do you believe in the Bible and studying the Bible?" If yes, we invite them to sign up to study the Bible."

3. Have you ever received "Adventist Witness" magazine? If yes, what is your reaction? Positive/negative? Why?

No.

4. What kinds of resources are you as a pastor looking for (or need most) in doing ministry in your church? (Yes/No)

Video seminars - I'm getting ready to use any and all good seminars. Just recently awakened myself (the Lord has awakened me) to keep the church busy and learning.

Printed material - Yes.

On-line computer service - Not yet. In one of our churches (in our church school) we have something ... our treasurers use

Computer software - Yes

Fact sheets - Yes

Live training seminars - Yes

Other:

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. No.

No. No.