

Pastoral Interviews  
Report for Week of: 3-26-98  
Number of Calls: 10  
Number of Conferences: 4

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Eight of ten pastors say their churches have some form of community service program to reach the community. Two pastors referred to food and clothing distribution centers in their churches. Three pastors have churches involved in feeding the homeless. Of these three, one referred to a once a month "Lunch is On Us" program that is done in cooperation with three other churches (not Adventist). Another has a Loaves and Fishes program of feeding the homeless and use a church van to work from. Three pastors mentioned that they network with their communities (One coordinates a city-wide food drive; another touches based regularly with the community agencies to determine needs their church might fulfill; and another is working with the conference and provincial government to created Personal Comfort Kits (?). I think its Frank McMiller in BC whose made some good contacts there. On the more unique side, one church conducts computer classes in the evening for people who have a difficult time paying for classes (young, single mom's, etc.). The church has 9 computers and is looking to provide child care in the future.
2. How to mobilize members to witness? Three categories of responses came from these pastors: (1) Spiritual, (2) Strategy, (3) Resources. A couple pastors stressed that members cannot share what they do not have. A vibrant relationship with Jesus is key. Several strategies were mentioned as well. One pastor said, "We don't give them permission to really do what God created them to do in their own unique way. That's why were excited about the Connections resource. When people discover their gifts, personality, and passions, they are more motivated to witness." Another spoke of the one-on-one approach to teaching—apprenticeship he called it. Another does training during prayer meeting. And another pastor sees "friendship networking" as the key. He feels like spending money on brochures for meetings is "almost" a waste. Resources mentioned by pastors include: Tony Cirigliano's material, Russell Burrill's books, Seeds conferences, Dr. Patrick's material on S.W.A.T. (Soul Winning Action Teams) (he's from Orlando, Florida). And one pastor has members pass around Quiet Hour tapes to their friends. He also is running a Discover Bible School.
3. Only one of ten pastors called have an associate/assistant pastor. Interestingly, the one who I spoke with "is" the assistant. Four of ten pastors said if they had an associate, it would be someone to help them out with administrative details—office minutia, paper work, etc. One pastor says, "It bogs me down." The next general category has to do with personal evangelism, interest coordination, and lay training in witnessing. Two pastors specifically used the title "Bible worker", but four others spoke of "knocking on doors, coordinating Bible studies, training members to give Bible studies, etc." Two pastors described the work of a General Associate (does the same thing the

Senior Pastor does, but in the “other church” in the district). And one pastor would desire a Youth Minister. Of interest was one Hispanic pastor who specifically said, “I would want an equipping/training pastor.”

4. Four pastors ranked the “secretary” of the conference as the most supportive to their local ministry. Three pastors indicated the “ministerial secretary” was the most supportive. Two pastors said, “They all are supportive.” And one pastor said, “The treasurer.” The most frequently mentioned way administrators are supportive is related to issues like “Listens to me” and “Accessible” and “In touch with my neck of the woods” and “Easy to talk to.” One pastor said, “I really appreciated the honesty and openness of my secretary. He told me I’d be going into a difficult church district and that he would do anything he could to help me out. I’ve really appreciated his efforts to listen and not judge me when I need to dump.” Other frequently mentioned comments had to do with “resources” and “experience/advice” and “helping me with my programs/conducting workshops/preaching.” The pastor who appreciates his treasurer does so because the treasurer seems honestly interested in helping funding his evangelistic endeavors. Interestingly, the one female pastor in this set of calls, appreciated her conference secretary because “there is no gender-issue with him.” She adds, “I don’t have a bone to pick over women’s ordination ... I only want to be treated kindly.”

-----

Pastor: MA

Conference: British Columbia

Church(es)/Position: 1 church, associate pastor (female)

1. Does your church sponsor (or co-sponsor) any "viable" Adventist community service program(s) such as a soup kitchen, remedial reading program, etc. (Viable meaning eligible to join United Way.)

We have hired a community facilitator, and he goes out and networks with organizations, and determines what the felt needs are. We are currently running a computer lab for people like single mom’s who can’t afford to pay for classes. Evening class. Nine computers. Down the line we will offer baby sitting.

2. What do you believe is the key factor in helping mobilize members toward sharing their faith in Jesus with others?

I don’t think we give them the permission to do it... We are doing the Connections program and believe when people discover their gifts, they are far more motivated to share their faith and do ministry.

3. Do you have an associate/assistant pastor? If you could have a paid, full-time assistant, what would be that person's primary job?



Yes. Some have a vision for doing a full time administrator. Or a community services facilitator.

4. Who at the conference level (no names, just title/position) is most supportive of your local ministry work? What are key factors that make them supportive?

Secretary. Doesn't have a gender issue. I don't have a bone to pick on the issue of women's ordination ... I only want to be treated kindly.

-----

Pastor: SB

Conference: Southern New England

Church(es)/Position: 2 churches

1. Does your church sponsor (or co-sponsor) any "viable" Adventist community service program(s) such as a soup kitchen, remedial reading program, etc. (Viable meaning eligible to join United Way.)

One of the churches has a fairly active clothing and some food distribution. A building is owned. Other church has a minimal involvement with a homeless program in the community (1 or 2 people in the church).

2. What do you believe is the key factor in helping mobilize members toward sharing their faith in Jesus with others?

If people don't have a vibrant walk with the Lord, you're not going to get them involved, no matter what you do. You've got to get people committed to their own spiritual life. I have tried to go through the traditional "goal setting" process... It seems to work better to have some one connect with me and someone else and then "hand it over." I'm really into Tony Cirigliano approach. Slow. One or two at a time. Lead them over into taking it over. Command it from on high doesn't work. If someone comes to me with a good idea, I need to give them the power to do it. An apprenticeship. Takes time.

3. Do you have an associate/assistant pastor? If you could have a paid, full-time assistant, what would be that person's primary job?

No. What I feel I could use ... my church district is big enough, I could use another pastor in the other church. Or an administrative pastor. Or a follow-up (interest coordinator, Bible worker) coordinator. Right now I'm tied up in administration, its hard for me to do people work.

4. Who at the conference level (no names, just title/position) is most supportive of your local ministry work? What are key factors that make them supportive?

Ministerial secretary. President as well. Ministerial guy said, "You're going into a hot spot, do what you need to do and we'll support you." I didn't feel that in my previous conference. They are willing to talk openly about problems and admit that we live in a real world. To wrestle with me and be a resource. Bottom line, willing to listen and talk and not hold against you professionally.

-----

Pastor: MF  
Conference: Southern New England  
Church(es)/Position: 3 churches

1. Does your church sponsor (or co-sponsor) any "viable" Adventist community service program(s) such as a soup kitchen, remedial reading program, etc. (Viable meaning eligible to join United Way.)

One of my churches is redesigning the whole structure of the community service program ... and are in the process of implementing a soup kitchen ... so will expand beyond clothing distribution. Should be starting this summer.

2. What do you believe is the key factor in helping mobilize members toward sharing their faith in Jesus with others?

You know, in the Hispanic culture we don't have that problem. I "challenge" the congregation that they have a responsibility to Jesus to share with nonChristians, what God has shared with us.

3. Do you have an associate/assistant pastor? If you could have a paid, full-time assistant, what would be that person's primary job?

No. I would let him concentrate on equipping and training my lay people to do ministry. I attended Seeds and it was a real blessing.

4. Who at the conference level (no names, just title/position) is most supportive of your local ministry work? What are key factors that make them supportive?

My conference treasurer. Our conference treasurer has been sensitive to channeling evangelism funds for certain projects.

-----

Pastor: LA  
Conference: Indiana  
Church(es)/Position: 3 churches



1. Does your church sponsor (or co-sponsor) any "viable" Adventist community service program(s) such as a soup kitchen, remedial reading program, etc. (Viable meaning eligible to join United Way.)

Not really. We have a budget for community services, but no active center or implemented program on an ongoing basis.

2. What do you believe is the key factor in helping mobilize members toward sharing their faith in Jesus with others?

Nothing particularly innovative.

3. Do you have an associate/assistant pastor? If you could have a paid, full-time assistant, what would be that person's primary job?

No. Probably two-fold... area of witnessing. Doing my Bible studies, and training members to do that.

4. Who at the conference level (no names, just title/position) is most supportive of your local ministry work? What are key factors that make them supportive?

Ministerial director. Resources. Personal interest. Council. Hands on.

-----

Pastor: GB

Conference: Indiana

Church(es)/Position: 3 churches (Hispanic)

1. Does your church sponsor (or co-sponsor) any "viable" Adventist community service program(s) such as a soup kitchen, remedial reading program, etc. (Viable meaning eligible to join United Way.)

No.

2. What do you believe is the key factor in helping mobilize members toward sharing their faith in Jesus with others?

I've been reading a few books by Russell Burrill. Good resources. They have helped me. We train members. Our conference also provides a lay training program. I do training in groups. I usually do this on Tuesday night. I have a church that's about 50 years old outside of Chicago (Hispanic). They have not been sharing their faith at all. But, I've helped get it going again. I think the training I provided helped them. Also, picking a night (every Tuesday) to encourage them. I do training for prayer meeting.

For many Sabbaths I saw no visitors, so I began talking to the members about having visitors. I stressed the mission of the church. My other churches are self motivated. But, I still think we need to do more in the United States. In Latin America they have a strong emphasis on lay training. They do Division-wide programs, lay celebration programs... It really energizes the members down their. Seeds is doing a lot. Members need motivation.

3. Do you have an associate/assistant pastor? If you could have a paid, full-time assistant, what would be that person's primary job?

No. Bible worker. Give Bible studies.

4. Who at the conference level (no names, just title/position) is most supportive of your local ministry work? What are key factors that make them supportive?

Ministerial. Encouragement.

-----

Pastor: GJ

Conference: Allegheny West

Church(es)/Position: 2 churches

1. Does your church sponsor (or co-sponsor) any "viable" Adventist community service program(s) such as a soup kitchen, remedial reading program, etc. (Viable meaning eligible to join United Way.)

Yes at one of our churches. They pass out clothing and food once a month. We have it in our church.

2. What do you believe is the key factor in helping mobilize members toward sharing their faith in Jesus with others?

We try to get them to do it without a connection on the Lord. So, I focus on developing in my members a personal relationship through daily surrender, and when they have that, it comes natural.

3. Do you have an associate/assistant pastor? If you could have a paid, full-time assistant, what would be that person's primary job?

No. I would have them do the similar things I'm doing when I'm at the other church. Cover the bases when I'm at the other church.

4. Who at the conference level (no names, just title/position) is most supportive of your local ministry work? What are key factors that make them supportive?



All of them are very supportive, but in their own areas.

-----

Pastor: SV

Conference: Allegheny West

Church(es)/Position: 2 churches

1. Does your church sponsor (or co-sponsor) any "viable" Adventist community service program(s) such as a soup kitchen, remedial reading program, etc. (Viable meaning eligible to join United Way.)

Both do. One church just got approved by the community food bank program to be networked in the community. The other church, we basically are beginning it again. Last November, we were going to join the other area churches... a program called "Lunch is On Us." Any Sunday afternoon churches rotate to provide lunch at the church itself. We have the lot, just need to raise the funds to build.

2. What do you believe is the key factor in helping mobilize members toward sharing their faith in Jesus with others?

Let them know it should be something natural. Be interested in other people. One thing leads to another. Don't feel you need to give them the 2300 days study. Let it flow. I've conducted Bible worker's training class, and I use information on the SWAT team (soul winning action team). Comes from Dr. Patrick (Mt. Sinai church in Orlando, Florida).

3. Do you have an associate/assistant pastor? If you could have a paid, full-time assistant, what would be that person's primary job?

No. I would like them to help out with more administrative stuff. That bogs me down. Correspondence, keeping in touch with all the community connecting avenues in my city. It takes a lot of work. Quite honestly, if I had an associate, it would almost be like having a secretary.

4. Who at the conference level (no names, just title/position) is most supportive of your local ministry work? What are key factors that make them supportive?

I would have to say the secretary of the conference. All three are supportive. They go beyond the call of duty. They return phone calls. They respond. The secretary says, "I want to be the pastor's pastor, I want to listen, if there is anything you need."

-----

Pastor: DW

Conference: Allegheny West  
Church(es)/Position: 2 churches

1. Does your church sponsor (or co-sponsor) any "viable" Adventist community service program(s) such as a soup kitchen, remedial reading program, etc. (Viable meaning eligible to join United Way.)

Both churches have a feeding Loaves and Fishes program. Cooking food and taking it downtown and feeding the homeless from a van. Soup and sandwiches. Sometimes we use a building to go into.

2. What do you believe is the key factor in helping mobilize members toward sharing their faith in Jesus with others?

I think that's always been a challenge. Small groups (experienced at the seminary) that I'm trying to put into place. I think it can encourage the members and nudge them to share their faith. Delegating responsibility is another approach. Also, model for them by taking them with you, especially youth. Whether visiting church members or not.

3. Do you have an associate/assistant pastor? If you could have a paid, full-time assistant, what would be that person's primary job?

No. I would say a youth pastor. I would give him responsibility in helping with worship service and prayer meetings. Give him exposure in a board setting, then let him conduct some. Teaching Sabbath school. And working with other departments (prison ministry, etc.).

4. Who at the conference level (no names, just title/position) is most supportive of your local ministry work? What are key factors that make them supportive?

I would say, generally they are all pretty supportive, but I appreciate the secretary. Often times programs are handed down to the ministers to promote. I appreciate officers who follow up by scheduling a visit to the church to help me out. Also, communicating to the members by offering to preach and doing an afternoon workshop.

-----

Pastor: LA  
Conference: British Columbia  
Church(es)/Position: 2 churches

1. Does your church sponsor (or co-sponsor) any "viable" Adventist community service program(s) such as a soup kitchen, remedial reading program, etc. (Viable meaning eligible to join United Way.)



Yes, both do to some extent. One (larger church) have funds available and materials ... getting into the BC Provincial program ... using the SDA Church in making personal comfort care kits. Both churches are involved. We have funds for local situations if people have needs. We also have a clothing collection and packing for ADRA. Storage facilities is the biggest problem.

2. What do you believe is the key factor in helping mobilize members toward sharing their faith in Jesus with others?

Well, interestingly they will get behind something like Net '96. Though its backwards. They should first be motivated and then we hold a program. But whatever. A major issue is establishing and utilizing friendship networks for those outside the church. We need to build bridges. We really good at being exclusive. Net '96 brought some baptisms. At one point we had 40 nonAdventists attending. But I think I would have done far better if we emphasized developing friendships.

One church is heavy into retirement. It happens to be a place people are moving in. We may or may not have a children's division on any given Sabbath. Not motivated to reach young families. Most are sitting back and wanting to be served.

3. Do you have an associate/assistant pastor? If you could have a paid, full-time assistant, what would be that person's primary job?

No. Probably a Bible worker. Maybe a secretarial and management stuff.

4. Who at the conference level (no names, just title/position) is most supportive of your local ministry work? What are key factors that make them supportive?

Our whole conference structure is very supportive. Maybe a three-way tie among the president, secretary, and ministerial. It starts with them putting forth the effort to be in touch with what's happening in my corner of the woods. Being accessible. Sometimes you need to dump and listened to.

-----

Pastor: DB  
Conference: British Columbia  
Church(es)/Position: 1 church

1. Does your church sponsor (or co-sponsor) any "viable" Adventist community service program(s) such as a soup kitchen, remedial reading program, etc. (Viable meaning eligible to join United Way.)

Yes. We sponsor a Breathe Free program. I'm the coordinator for city-wide food drive. Once a year we gather money and food. We donate it to the Salvation Army food bank in

town. We also conduct a health risk analysis program at the county fair once a year. We collect names and then conduct seminars on a variety of topics like cooking.

2. What do you believe is the key factor in helping mobilize members toward sharing their faith in Jesus with others?

We encourage members to share tapes that we have. Ask them to give them to friends. Ones we use are from the Quiet Hour (video). Basically I encourage members to bring their friends. We have a dinner once a month on Sabbath after church. We are also running the Discover Bible school class.

3. Do you have an associate/assistant pastor? If you could have a paid, full-time assistant, what would be that person's primary job?

No. Knocking on doors. Interest coordinator.

4. Who at the conference level (no names, just title/position) is most supportive of your local ministry work? What are key factors that make them supportive?

Secretary. He's easy to talk to. Has experience. Very supportive.