

MISSION



We believe that the South Central Conference Office exists to strengthen and support the mission and ministry of the churches in the South Central Conference. Therefore, the South Central Conference Church Ministries & Mission Development Department exists to assist pastors and their church leaders in leading their churches to become more Spirit-led and Mission-driven. We do this by providing pastors and their church leaders with ministry coaching and support in five fundamental areas of Church Development: 1) **Prayer**, 2) **Mission**, 3) **Spiritual Gifts**, 4) **Small Groups**, and 5) **Ministries**. When engaged sequentially, these become one fivefold strategy for leading churches to become more Spirit-led and Mission-driven.

10 STEP

SPIRIT-LED, MISSION-DRIVEN PROCESS

STEPS #9 & 10

Our SCC Vision for the next five years is focused on four major emphases: #1 Transformational Evangelism; #2 Christian Education; #3 Community Engagement; and #4 Youth & Young Adult Empowerment. The Church Ministries & Mission Development Department has been tasked with assisting pastors and their church leaders in moving their churches forward with #1 Transformational Evangelism and #3 Community Engagement. To do so, we recommend churches follow our 10-Step Spirit-Led, Mission-Driven Process. In previous editions we have presented the following steps: 1) Discover the Mission; 2) Describe the Vision; 3) Depend on God's Promise; 4) Draw a Fresh Slate; 5) Design Mission Strategy; 6) Develop Minis-



tries; 7) Detail Ministry Descriptions; and 8) Deploy Members. This month we conclude our 10-Step Spirit-Led, Mission-Driven Process **with Step #9 and Step #10: Document Plans and Do Evaluation.**

Christians frequently find them-

selves navigating between ideas that seem to be in opposition. Should Christian teaching emphasize law or grace? Is real Christianity about being or doing? Is God to be portrayed

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THE SCC CHURCH MINISTRIES &



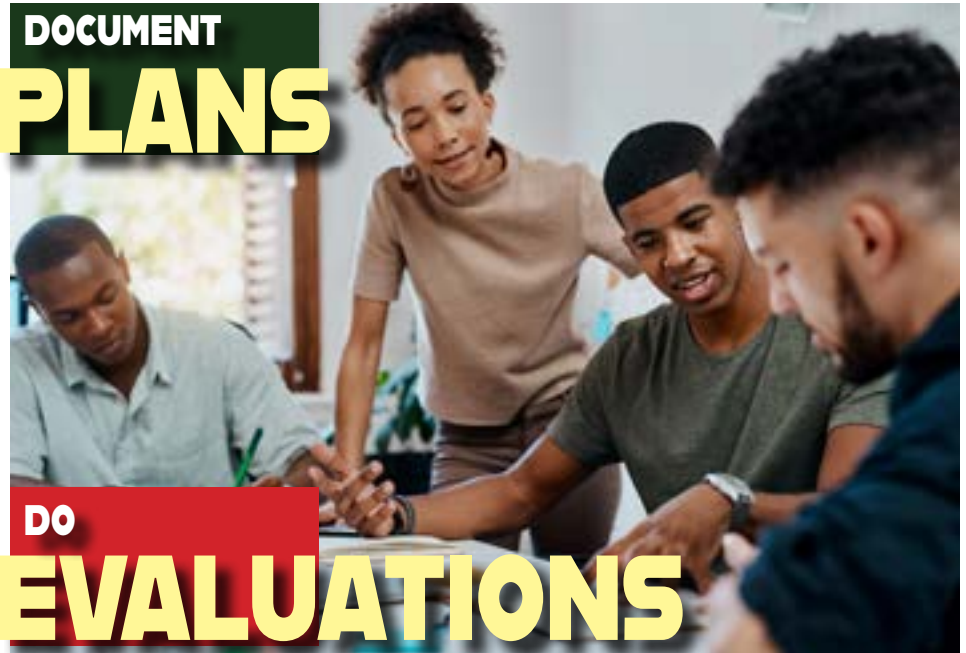
10-STEP SPIRIT-LED, MISSION-DRIVEN PROCESS, *Continued from page 1*

as transcendent or immanent? Are Christians to be working to change this world or working to prepare people for the world to come? Paradoxes such as these are so prevalent in the Christian faith that their study has been given a name—dialectical theology.

As we come to the final steps in our process, we encounter one such paradox, namely, whether the church is supposed to operate as a spiritual body or as a professional business? In other words, is the church to be solely concerned with the biblical mandate to engage in evangelism, or is the church also to be concerned with the business principle of evaluating to increase efficiency and maximize effectiveness?

In dialectical theology answers are not either or, instead, they are both and. For example, should Christian teaching emphasize law or grace? No, Christian teaching should emphasize both law and grace. Is real Christianity about being or doing? No, real Christianity is about both being and doing. Is God to be portrayed as transcendent or immanent? No, God is to be portrayed as both transcendent and immanent. Are Christians to be working to change this world or working to prepare people for the world to come? No, Christians are to be both working to change this world and working to prepare people for the world to come. Instead of discarding one aspect in favor of the other, dialectical theology challenges Christians to walk balancing the tension inherent in both.

**DOCUMENT
PLANS**



**DO
EVALUATIONS**

The simple practice of putting ministry plans on paper helps ministries move from vision to action

But when it comes to the operations of the church, we find this balancing act to be quite difficult. We have a habit of categorizing things as sacred or secular, spiritual or

worldly, and we unconsciously tend to associate principles of business with the secular/worldly categories. However, the same Bible that speaks of ministering to those in need (Matthew 25:31–46), seeking the lost (Luke 19:10), preaching the gospel (Mark 16:15), and making disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19–20), also speaks of proper planning (Luke 14:28), working smarter and not harder (Ecclesiastes 10:10), principles of delegation (Exodus 18), marketing to your target demographic (1 Corinthians 9:19–22), and managing resources well (Matthew 25:14–30). This suggests that the church should not operate as a spiritual body or as a professional business, but as both a spiritual body and a professional business.

The final two steps of our 10-step



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MISSION DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

process—**Step #9: Document Plans**, and **Step #10: Do Evaluations**, are basic business principles used by effective organizations. The simple practice of putting ministry plans on paper helps ministries move from vision to action by clarifying objectives and focuses team members. Each ministry team is to write a ministry plan consisting of three to five SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, time-bound) goals which they will work to accomplish during the ministry term. Each SMART goal can be further detailed by documenting “what” is to be done, “when” it is to be done, “who” is responsible for doing it, and “how much” it will cost. Having documented ministry plans also facilitates effective evaluation. During the ministry term, and at the end of the ministry term, the progress of each ministry can be objectively evaluated based upon the documented plan. When this is done properly, churches will be able to better determine which ministries to reaffirm, which ministries to realign, and when necessary, which ministries to retire.

Although we cannot point to a specific text in the book of Acts that explicitly shows the early church using Steps 9 and 10, like we can with Steps 1-8, we should consider a principle of biblical interpretation that was advanced by our Adventist pioneers when they worked through the subject of church organization. First, fearing to become a part of the fallen, persecuting church prophesied in the book of Revelation, many

originally sided with George Storrs that “no church can be organized by man’s invention but what it becomes Babylon the moment it is organized.”¹ Others, like J. B. Frisbie and R. F. Cottrell, after recognizing that biblical Babylon is used to symbolize both a persecuting power and a system of confusion, argued that churches could be organized, but only as long as every aspect of organization was explicitly spelled out in the Bible.² It was James White, however, noting that the Bible did not explicitly teach that Christians should write a weekly paper, operate a printing press, or publish books,³ who argued in response that “we should not be afraid of that system which is not opposed to the Bible, and is approved by sound sense.”⁴

Ultimately, the Sabbatarian Adventists adopted James White’s interpretive principle, moving from the idea that relative to church organization they were restricted to only doing that which the Bible explicitly permitted, to the idea that they were free to do, and should do, whatever the Bible did not explicitly forbid, as long as it was approved by common sense. It should be noted that this interpretive philosophy is what enabled the Sabbatarian Adventists, which eventually became the Seventh-day Adventist Church, to justify organizing conferences, unions and a General Conference organizational structure—all of which are not explicitly spelled out in Scripture. It should also be noted that of the six Adventist denominations which

emerged from the Millerite movement, only the Seventh-day Adventists developed an organizational structure beyond the congregational level, and only the Seventh-day Adventists grew to become a worldwide denomination.

Referring to this change in Adventist biblical interpretation (hermeneutics), George Knight says “it is impossible to overestimate the impact of that transformation. Without it Adventism would have been a minor footnote to the history of New England and the American Midwest. But through it White provided the means by which he and his wife could guide the young movement into a mission to the entire world.”

The amazing growth of the Seventh-day Adventist Church confirms the validity of James White’s interpretive principle. “We should not be afraid of that system which is not opposed to the Bible, and is approved by sound sense,” and Steps #9 and #10: Document Plans, and Do Evaluations, are both “not opposed to the Bible,” and “approved by sound sense.”

If you believe your church would benefit from journeying through this 10-Step Spirit-Led, Mission-Driven process, please contact me at ffordham@scc-sda.org / 615. 416.1263 so that we might begin guiding your congregation through the 10-Step process.



Pastor
Furman Fordham, II,
Director
SCC Church Ministries &
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Department

¹ George Storrs, “Come Out of Her My People,” *The Midnight Cry*, February 15, 1844, p. 238.

² George R. Knight, *Adventist Authority Wars, Ordination, and the Roman Catholic Temptation* (Westlake Village, CA: Oak & Acorn, 2017), Chapter 6.

³ James White, “Making Us a Name,” *Review & Herald*, Apr. 26, 1860, pp.180–182.

⁴ James White, “Yearly Meetings,” *Review & Herald*, July 21, 1859, p. 68.

HIDING THE WORD OF GOD IN OUR HEARTS

SCRIPTURE'S POWERFUL BENEFITS

One day I had the privilege of having a conversation with **Barbara L. Newton**, a singing evangelist, author, and founder of **3M In Him Ministries**. We were discussing the importance of the Word of God in relationship to our Spirit led Mission driven process. She asked me to read an article that she had previously submitted to *Adventist World Magazine*. The article was edited by *Adventist World Magazine*. With her permission she has allowed us to share an excerpt from the article with *Compass*.

"Your Word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You" (Ps. 119:11).

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

No one is a spiritual island. When I look at my own life, I can see how my home, church, and school played a great part in preparing me for the kingdom of God and for service through memorization, retention, and application. When I was 5, my parents gathered our family of 15 around our floor-based heater to sing, quote Bible memory verses, and learn Bible stories. Once we finished, we scattered to do our chores. Dad randomly selected one or two of us, and while we worked together, we talked with him about what we had learned through the Scriptures.

This physical, mental, and spiritual approach helped to broaden our understanding and strengthen our memorization efforts, all the while planting the Bible verses deeper into our memory. They were ready to be used whenever needed, much like Jesus' method when He taught

parables using familiar objects. This solidified the messages within His listeners so that long after He was gone, they remembered them and their positive impact.

As time moved on and I became a youth, I was blessed to be mentored and tutored by young adults who loved God, His Word, and youth. They created Bible verse memory games, skits, crafts, and in reach and outreach activities to help us memorize, retain, apply, and share Bible verses and stories. Those young people had great, loving Christian leaders who gave their time and resources to help children, youth, and even adults on this journey.

God continued to provide ways, even into my adult years, for me not only to memorize, retain, apply, and share Bible scriptures but to help other families through my education at Oakwood University and Andrews University. I had a wonderful instructor in the late T. Marshal Kelly, a pastor God used to inspire me to start a scripture memorization ministry.

POWERFUL BENEFITS

As we face problems today and into the future, nothing can bring more comfort and peace, while shielding us from the enemy and providing successful weapons with which to fight him, than the Word of God. With such sacred, immediate, and powerful benefits available to us, let us take time to memorize, apply, and share the Word.

The Holy Spirit will bring verses back to us when we need them, as He promised in John 14: 26: "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."

Barbara L. Newton, MA

Singing Evangelist, Author, and Founder of 3M IN HIM Ministries

Article submitted by:



**Pastor
Jeffery L. Watson**
*Associate Director,
SCC Church Ministries
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Jesus says in Luke 18:1, “that men ought always to pray, and not to faint” and that also applies to His followers today. Prayer is having an intimate relationship with God where we commune with Him about the affairs of life. It’s about a “love” relationship with Him. It is crucial for us to understand that the relationship of love that God established with mankind is not separate from the purpose God has for mankind.

That intimate relationship with Christ helps us to get to know Him and His will for our lives! It is a means whereby God’s will can be done on earth as it is in heaven. Prayer is nothing more than communion with God where you surrender your all to Him. It’s revealing your innermost thoughts and feelings to the Creator of the universe. Prayer is something that every Christian should do and ought to do! Prayer should be given our highest priority! It’s something that is commanded by God.

We must understand that prayer is vital to our spiritual growth! It is just as important as breathing is to our existence! If we refuse or stop breathing, life would cease to exist. It is the same way with prayer. If we refuse or stop, our spiritual life will cease to exist! It is just that simple! Prayer is life! The servant of the Lord writes “Prayer is the life of the soul, the foundation of spiritual growth.”

Furthermore, Jesus gave us an example when it comes to prayer. You would find Him praying for Himself, His disciples and for believers. Prayer was His life! Prayer was the secret of His power, the law of His life, the inspiration of His toil and the source of His wealth, His joy, His communion and His strength.

Prayer is something that a person can do anywhere, any place and any time, because there are no restraints with it. There’s no limit to



the amount of praying that a person can do!

Prayer is an invitation that Christ gives to each of us to come into His presence. We do not need an earthly priest to approach the King of the universe. The writer of Hebrews says it this way: “Let us therefore come [boldly] unto the throne of grace” Hebrews 4:16. We do not have to be afraid, ashamed, fearful, anxious, troubled or embarrassed to come before our Lord.

We come to Him just as we are with all of our cares, concerns and burdens, and can place them at His feet. Christ says in Matthew 11:28-30,

“Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Prayer lets us know that we have Someone who listens to our supplications and answers them according to His will! Prayer is “personal and in-

tentional.” The more we truly realize God’s love for us, the more intimate our relationship will be with Him. The more intimate our relationship is with Him, the more meaningful our prayer lives will be.

Prayer allows us to feel the love that Jesus has for us. It draws us into His presence where we can find peace, joy and contentment. We have a nearness to Him and can hold sweet communion with Him. We obtain distinct views of His tenderness and compassion and our hearts are broken and melted with contemplation of the love that is given to us. The reward of prayer is knowing that I can come into His presence with all my faults, failures and short-comings and He’ll accept me just as I am! Praise God!



Pastor
Curtis Hall
Prayer Ministries
Leader

What Can We Do For You?



Jesus Christ's three-fold ministry is highlighted in Matthew 5:23 which says, "Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and disease among the people."

The following is an overview of what Health Evangelism Ministries can provide for your church and community in a Q&A format.

Health Conferences

1. **What are these Health Conferences?** Biblically and scientifically sound education teaching principles on lifestyle medicine and its tremendous impact on three main health concerns: 1) Healthy Heart; 2) Defeating Diabetes; and 3) Controlling Cancer. In addition, a zoom presentation is also designed for women entitled: "Cool answers to a Hot Topic."

2. **Where will these Health Conferences take place?** Either at hotel ballrooms, convention/civic centers



or auditoriums.

3. **What about publicity and registration?** Based on availability, television interviews are scheduled on a local TV station to be shown the Friday before, and/or radio interviews are pre-taped and aired that week. Flyers are downloaded to local contact person to share with members and promote through their social media platforms. Registration is conducted thru AdventSource. Also, a 6ft floor banner is sent approx. one month ahead to a pre-designated location.

4. **What is the local church's participation?** Church members will serve as "guest services," welcoming

community members to the conference, distributing conference folders, follow-up phone calls within 48 hours and follow up on the Amazing Facts study guides.

5. **Can these details be adjusted for different sites?** Yes.

Spotlight on Health (YouTube videos)

1. **What is the content of these videos?** We've recently completed seven (7) video presentations on lifestyle principles using the acronym H.E.A.L.E.R.S. These impactful videos are approximately twelve minutes in duration covering over two dozen health conditions!

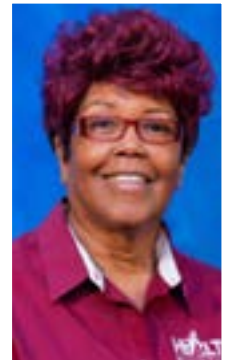
2. **Can these videos be used for evangelism?** Absolutely! We will provide the link to download the videos from YouTube and they can be used to accent/complement your evangelistic efforts!

Please Note: For our Latino congregations, we can provide resources in Spanish.

"The health message gives opportunity for carrying forward successful evangelistic work."

—EV 516

To schedule a Health Conference, receive Spotlight on Health videos, or for more information, please contact Curtis & Paula Eakins at ceakins@scc-sda.org / 256-683-5198.



Curtis and Paula Eakins
Health Evangelism Ministry
Leaders



Sharing the Vision of Holistic Prison Ministry

On a recent trip to the Memphis area, I had the opportunity to share the vision of Holistic Prison Ministry. On the second Sabbath in October, Pastor Cory Jackson allowed me to utilize the New Covenant Church for a training session. There were individuals that were in attendance from five of the surrounding Adventist churches. We had a wonderful discussion and explored a variety of topics that included: recruiting younger members into prison ministry, working with other organizations, Adventist involvement in prisons, becoming a “community hub” connected to resources for inmates and their families, and what a pathway of support, during and after incarceration, might look like for this community of Adventist churches.

We looked at the current pillars of Adventist prison ministries and identified that our ministry typically includes three main staples: Bible studies, health related ministries that point individuals to healthier eat-



ing habits, and abbreviated church services. Outside of prison, we identified that in the Memphis area we currently have one functional halfway house that needed funding for impactful reintegration of inmates exiting the system on parole. We continued our discussion with ideas on how to become involved with other organizations that already have a hand in prison outreach. We also discussed how these organizations already have a wheel that is working and how to integrate into an existing program without trying to take control of the direction or purpose of that outreach. We also explored the bigger picture of incorporating multiple ministry arms into one communi-

ty hub and partnering with community groups in an effort to become a community hub of resources.

I feel confident that seeds were planted in fertile soil. I got the distinct impression that our vision of Adventist churches becoming a “community hub” was a vision that these individuals were able to see. This hub would be the place where individuals exiting the penal system would want to come to find the resources necessary for reintegration. I left with a positive feeling that this is a vision that is being embraced by those that were in attendance. I plan to return in February to follow up and nurture the vision as we assist in this transformation of holistic prison ministries outreach.



Ricky Wade
*Prison Ministry
Leader*