

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.

Leading Change: Phase #2

In the last edition of the *Compass*, we presented the first principle—or phase—in leading congregational change: Leadership needs to *SEE IT*. This included assessing where the congregation currently is, and looking to God to reveal His vision for where He wants it to be. Once leadership is clear on exactly where God is calling the congregation to go, it's time to commence the second phase in the Leading Change process: *SELL IT*.

Sell It

There once was a time (or so I'm told) when pastors would simply tell their congregations where the Lord was leading them to take the church, and everyone would happily follow. I'm not exactly sure of when that time was, but what is most important is that we recognize that that time



is not now. Whether due to abuses of power, rising parishioner educational levels, the advancement of the principle of democracy, or the sheer abundance of alternative consumer options, people expect to have buy-in—and they should.

Now please don't misunderstand me. I am not advocating congrega-

tional coups where biblically exercised pastoral leadership is sidelined, bypassed or disregarded. There's a reason why the Apostle Paul included "pastors and teachers" in the "equipping" core of the church and acknowledged the presence of a spiritual gift of leadership (see

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THE SCC CHURCH MINISTRIES & MISSION DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT



Leading Change: Phase #2, Continued from page 1

Ephesians 4:11–12, Romans 12:6–8 and 1 Corinthians 12:28). However, even God, rather than ignoring our freedom of choice and forcing us into compliance, says: “Come now, and let us reason together” (Isaiah 1:18). Therefore, to effectively lead congregational change, leaders who have seen the vision need to take the time to sell the vision.

Taking the time to ‘sell it’ is not an abdication of spiritual leadership. It does not imply that God has not spoken to you or that God is not leading you. Instead, it’s respecting and appreciating the concept of the ‘priesthood of all believers’ (see 1 Peter 2:9) and giving an opportunity for the people to have God speak to them too. Furthermore, taking the time to ‘sell it’ minimizes the inertia of trying to lead the reluctant—or worse yet, the frustration of thinking you are leading, only to look around and find out no one is following. To effectively lead change, leadership must ‘see it’—the goal being clarity; then leadership must ‘sell it’—the goal being commitment.

Build the Biblical Basis

The first step in selling the vision is to educate the congregation on the biblical basis for the vision. For example, if the vision is concerning evangelism, educate the congregation on what Paul said about becoming “all things to all men, that [he] might by all means save some” (1 Corinthians 9:19–23); and if the vision is concerning worship, educate the congregation on what Jesus



meant when He said we should worship in “spirit and in truth” (John 4:20–24). All too frequently our debates and eventual disagreements concerning the church’s direction are based upon nothing more than people’s personal preferences or opinions. This means it is the responsibility of leadership to reframe the discussion so that we are considering God’s preference and God’s opinion based upon God’s Word.

It might be helpful to find a book that lays a good biblical foundation for the vision God has given you, and to make it available (free of charge) to the members of your congregation. Have the elder’s reading and discussing it at elder’s meeting, the board reading and discussing it at board meeting, and the people praying over its concepts at prayer

meeting, while you’re preaching the principles from the pulpit on Sabbath. By and large, Adventists are still ‘people of the Book,’ so if you build a biblical base for what should be, and what could be, and what must be, people will be more prone to buy-in.

(If the resource you want to use is from a non-Adventist author and you have leaders who are resistant to reading it—which unfortunately is frequently the case—begin the education process by teaching them from God’s Word that all truth is God’s truth regardless of its apparent source, e.g., Moses was taught principles of organizational management from his father-in-law Jethro who was not one of the children of Israel; and the wise men from the East who informed Jerusalem of the birth of Jesus were definitely not Jews.)

Have Smaller Groups Recommend to Larger Groups

When God called Moses and sent him to Pharaoh to deliver the children of Israel out of Egyptian bondage, He instructed him to go to the elders of Israel first. This suggests that another principle to be used in ‘selling it’ is to have smaller groups recommend to larger groups. In other words, don’t take your vision straight to the church in business meeting. Instead, begin by prayerfully sharing the vision with the church elders. Their feedback not only allows you to hear most of the concerns (real or imagined) that will be felt by the congregation at large, but it also gives you an opportunity to further flesh out your ideas as well as your responses taking those concerns into consideration.

The ideal scenario is for the elders—even if it’s after some revisions—to prayerfully buy-in to the vision, and then to recommend it to the church board as a recommendation from the elders. The same process would then be followed with the church board. They would prayerfully consider and revise as needed, and then recommend the vision to the

church in business meeting. At each stage, the process should function in such a way that the participants can genuinely say of their recommendation, “it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us” (Acts 15:28).

Cast the Vision for Decision

Although there is a night and day difference between the operations and motivations of a Spirit-led church and a democratic state, both entities determine their decisions via vote (unless the Spirit chooses to communicate His will in an alternative, overwhelmingly objective manner). While voting may be non-biblical (meaning it is neither biblical nor unbiblical), it is the current method we have for making decisions within the church, and we ask God to use it to reveal His will. This means that eventually, after you have biblically educated the congregation, and after you have gotten wisdom from many counselors using smaller groups to recommend to larger groups, it will be time to vote on the vision.

Sometimes it may be helpful to recommend that an item be considered for vote as a “trial balloon.” This gives the congregation an opportunity

to try a decision out, assess its effectiveness for an agreed upon time, and then come back together again to make a more permanent decision. But what is not helpful is to continually delay voting out of fear that the outcome might not be what you think is best. At the end of the day, as Elder Dana Edmond, past South Central Conference President used to say, “the church has a right to be wrong.”

Ultimately, the success of leadership is not determined by what the people decide. If that were the case, then God Himself is a poor leader since many of His subjects will decide not to be saved. Instead, the success of leadership is determined by how faithfully the leader shares the vision and extends the opportunity to follow.

God has gifted you to ‘see it.’ Now may He gift you to ‘sell it.’



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



Compass is a monthly publication of the South Central Conference Church Ministries & Mission Development Department

HEALTH EVANGELISM MINISTRIES



Health Spotlight

Aid for Allergies

WATCH NOW!



Everything Men's Ministries

participants, contributors, and even leaders in Men's Ministry. They are men who realize the need for the type of fellowship that only one man can bring to another. You know, the relationship in which brothers can be 100% vulnerable and hold each other accountable. Imagine having an enthusiast who is yet an instructor, a supporter and a director, a competitor but always a teammate. A brother like him who wants to follow God and is willing to take the walk because he knows the struggle is real and does not dare to leave his brother behind. Men's Ministry is the platform that allows brothers to know they can have the aforementioned and more.

Greetings, my name is DaRon Barfield, leader of Men's Ministry at the Orchard Park Church in Chattanooga, TN. Here, at Orchard Park we have developed ways to invite men to participate in ministry through on-line events, in-person fellowship, and even Sabbath study. Our mission is:

"To keep God's priestly plan in our homes, churches, communities, and marketplace; fostering relationships and extending knowledge to the generations to come until Christ's return."

A small group it may be, but it is tightly woven through relationships, communication, activity, and most importantly prayer. We try to concentrate on the things that matter in the daily life of men, such as religion, family, finance, protection, and provision. We have found that the most intriguing and inclusive way to break down walls is through testimony. Through this vehicle men realize

how many of our lives are either the same or have been the same at some point or another, thus realizing we have been on many of the same journeys. The lives of others now become relative. We are seeking to touch the lives of men, not just for a season but for a lifetime. Doing so allows us to create memories and, more importantly, to disciple one another in love and strength to be prepared for Christ's soon return. It is our goal to break the stereotype that men only get together for food, fun, and games. Although that is part of our platform here at OPC, we see the need for spiritual uplifting and support as well, not just to hold on to, but to share and pass along to our young adult men and teenage men as well.

Men's Ministries requires heart, commitment, time, relationship, and especially prayer. We know not every man will see the value of this ministry, but we are extremely optimistic that the Holy Spirit will guide men to another male figure in their life, one who is serious about God and his soul salvation as a friend or mentor. It is our goal that no man must feel the pain of dying alone – without Jesus. We have determined to be about our Father's business. Not just doing Men's Ministry but being everything Men's Ministry!

"Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." (Psalm 133)

DaRon Barfield
Men's Ministry Leader
Orchard Park Church
Chattanooga, TN

Isn't it interesting what God does in your life when you think you are at a disadvantage? Many men have had comparable stories of fatherless homes or fathers in homes who did not seem to be engaged in the lives of their children. Statistics show that because of this, many result in living very risky, incomplete, and unsatisfied lives. Yes, many take a vow to not be that same kind of dad and thus have influence. The truth is, even as men, we desire to have someone to look up to; that is, at least once ego is removed. I do believe however, that these life experiences help men to be the best



**SOUTH CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
MEN'S MINISTRY PRESENTS**

**BEDROOM, BELLY & BEYOND:
ENHANCE YOUR BEDROOM EXPERIENCE,
REDUCE BELLY FAT AND LOWER
PROSTATE CANCER
RISK!**



CURTIS EAKINS
Health Ministries
Co-Leader
and
PRESENTER



Pastor R.E. Robinson
Men's Ministry Leader
and Co-Host



DaRon
Co-Men's Ministry and
Co-Host

**30 JUNE, 2024
10:30 AM- 12 PM CST**

**ZOOM VIRTUAL
EVENT**

**ID: 378 252 8673
PASSCODE: MEN**

**"It is written,
My House Shall
be called the
House of Prayer"**

Matthew 21:13

What Jesus was saying is that a praying church is a place of power. It's where anyone can come and be accepted no matter what you look like, no matter what your situation in life. A church doesn't get to this place unless our hearts are changed. That's one thing that happens when we pray.

A church that's a "house of prayer" gives prayer high priority in everything that it does! The very presence of God will be dwelling among the people in a loving relationship through prayer! Prayer and worship are all about focusing upon the Lord! When we open ourselves up to God, He will clean us up, fill us up with His nature, and send us out to change the world. Having a praying church is not just a good idea, it is the foundation from which everything else flows.

A "house of prayer" is where prayer saturates every aspect of the individual and corporate life of the church. The church becomes consumed with a passion for intimacy with Christ that spills over into the entire community. Lani C. Hinkle writes, "A powerful house of prayer is a church that understands that prayer acts as an oil upon it. Prayer will maximize all of its ministries;

it will maintain a smooth-running operation. Prayer acts as a shield against the enemy's attacks on ministries and relationships."

Once we realize that the church should be a "house of prayer," worship will have more meaning and more power! If the church is to be a "house of prayer," God expects prayer to be its predominate ongoing practice. The question must be asked: Are our churches "houses of prayer?" If the answer is no, then there must be a change in the way we do church! Prayer must be given more of a priority in our services, and our meetings! Let us place God first in all that we do and say. We must allow God to shine forth from our lives so people can say that "we have been with Jesus." Ellen G. White writes, "If there were more praying among us, more exercise of a living faith, and less dependence upon someone else to have an experience for us, we would be far in advance of where we are today in spiritual intelligence. What we need is a deep, individual heart soul experience. Then we shall be able to tell what God is doing and how He is working," *Prayer*, p. 20.

This can only happen when God is given His rightful place in our lives and when we seek Him in prayer!

Prayer is the key to unlock heaven's storehouse of blessings. Plus, prayer is the life of the soul, the foundation of spiritual growth. So let our churches become houses of prayer where God is supreme and worshipped with all of our hearts! Cheryl Sacks declares, "Interestingly enough, when a church begins to pray more fervently, one of the first things that happens is that hidden sin is revealed. When we ask the Lord to take us deeper and further with Him, He shows us the things that are standing in the way – things such as pride, prayerlessness, tradition, ambition, and busyness. This is the Lord's invitation to deal with the sin so that we can draw closer to Him," *The Prayer Saturated Church*, p. 97.

This is what we want to rid ourselves of - the sins that prevent the Holy Spirit from working in our lives! So let us come together and pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit to fill our lives so that we can do the work that God has assigned us!



Curtis Hall
SCC Prayer Ministry
Leader

Empowering Communities:

A Recap of the New Covenant Seventh-day Adventist Church Job & Resource Fair

In a bid to bridge the gap between job seekers and opportunities, while also addressing various community needs, the New Covenant Seventh-day Adventist Church recently hosted a remarkable event: a Job and Resource Fair. Held on April 11th, 2024, the fair consisted of 22 vendors, and from that, 350 individuals were served with either an employment resource or an on-the-spot employment opportunity! This gathering wasn't just about employment but was a testament to the Church's commitment to serving its community in multifaceted ways.

Uniting for a Purpose

From the moment attendees stepped foot into the church's Agape Fellowship Hall, the atmosphere was one of hope and anticipation. Visitors The event brought together individuals from diverse backgrounds, including job seekers eager to kickstart their careers, local businesses looking to recruit talent, and representatives from community organizations offering vital resources and support services.

Opportunities Abound

Employers from various sectors set up booths, showcasing job openings and engaging with potential candidates. From entry-level positions to skilled professions, there was something for everyone. The fair didn't just focus on traditional employment; it also highlighted opportunities for internships, apprenticeships, and vocational training programs, catering to individuals at different stages of their career journey.

Building Bridges: A Testament to Community Spirit

One of the most remarkable aspects of the event was its ability to foster con-



nections. Job seekers had the chance to interact directly with employers, gaining valuable insights and networking contacts. Local businesses, in turn, had the opportunity to tap into a pool of diverse talent, enriching their teams and contributing to the community's growth. The success of New Covenant's Job and Resource Fair is a shining example of what can be achieved when communities come together with a shared vision of empowerment and support. By addressing both immediate employment needs and broader societal challenges, the event demonstrated the transformative power of collective action.

Looking Ahead

As the echoes of the Job and Resource Fair fade, its impact continues to reverberate throughout the community. Many attendees left with newfound opportuni-

ties and connections, while the spirit of collaboration ignited at the event serves as a beacon of hope for the future. With initiatives like this, New Covenant SDA Church is not just a place of worship but a cornerstone of empowerment and positive change in the community.

In a world often characterized by division and disparity, events like the Job and Resource Fair remind us of the strength and resilience that can be found in unity. As we look to the future, let us draw inspiration from this gathering and continue to work together to build a brighter, more inclusive tomorrow for all.

Cory Jackson Pastor

SCC Co-Leader for Community Engagement

Let's Celebrate Healthy Living in Anniston Alabama

"The Mount Olive Church held a successful Community Health Fair in Anniston Alabama. On this day of celebration, singing, and family activities, Mount Olive shared well over 2000 gospel tracks on diet, diabetes, Sabbath rest and the love of Christ at Zinn Park. Additionally, free health

services such as glucose check, blood pressure, height and weight were done. To encourage healthy eating, snack bags along with either water or orange juice was given away. A table was also set up with articles, pamphlets, recipes, and magazines on the vegan and vegetarian diet.

Many individuals walked away encouraged about how to live a healthier lifestyle.

Shondolyn Richardson,
*SCC Women's Ministries
Central Alabama State Director*



MEN

SPEAKING ^{to} FRANK

SPEAKING FRANKLY ABOUT ISSUES THAT CONCERN MEN

WITH HOSTS
**DARON
BARFIELD+**
**REGINALD
ROBINSON**



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