

GNYC Personal Ministries and Sabbath School Report 2014-2015

Greater New York Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

7 Shelter Rock Road

Manhasset, NY 11030

516-627-9350

Fax: 516-627-9272

www.gnyc.org

By Dr. Manuel Rosario, PM & SS Director

2014 Highlights

June 1, 2014

Ministry began with formulating strategic plans, advisories and committees for Personal Ministries and Sabbath School.

November 8, 2014

1st Meeting of Disciples and Church Planters

Meetings held: Thesselonian Baptist Church, 951 Reverend James A. Polite Avenue, Bronx, NY 10459.

Ministry Objectives: “Every Disciple Making a Disciple and Every Church Planting a Church.” As a part of the strategy to “Light NY with the Loud Cry!”

Mission Statement:

“To inspire, equip, and mobilize our members to make disciples using Christ’s successful method, improving their ability to mingle with all people, minister to their needs, win their confidence; and finally, invite them to follow Jesus.”

Under this umbrella the task was to promote evangelism and discipleship using the ‘blueprint’ of Christ’s evangelistic method through the strategies of: medical missionary evangelism, creating centers of influence, public evangelism, personal evangelism and small groups.

Church planting is grounded on the prophetic word “Upon all who believe, God has placed a burden of raising up churches.” (Medical Ministry, 315). Planting churches can only be accomplished by promoting the care and development of existing churches to grow or plant healthy new ones.

Sabbath School Vision Statement: “Each Sabbath School will develop into a center of Christian Discipleship that emphasizes the study of the Bible, Fellowship, Community Outreach and the Global Mission of the Church.”

Aiming to enhance and improve members’ perception and involvement in Sabbath School, emphasis will be placed on Daily Study and Devotion, Fellowship, Community Outreach, and Missions as outlined by the world church.

Technology in Missions & Mass Media Production: Technology incorporation was modeled in the creation of Twitter accounts @SabbathSchGNyc (English), @EscSabGNyc (Spanish) and Facebook pages Sabbath School GNYC (English), Escuela Sabatica GNYC (Spanish), and a twitter handle #Disciples2016.

Specialized Ministries were introduced to the audience to create awareness among members of the importance of ministries such as Ingathering, Prison Ministries and Special Needs Ministries (Disabilities Ministries), which focuses on meeting the spiritual needs of persons living with disabilities. The Disabilities Ministries was launched at the November 8th Meeting.

Highlights: Presentations by national and international leaders on evangelism and church development in a day long presentation from 9:00am to 5:00pm, with breakfast and lunch provided.

The vision of becoming disciples who make disciples was delivered to over 500 participants and were charged in a welcoming statement from the Personal Ministries and Sabbath School Director, Pastor Manuel Rosario in the day's printed program to "...shine like never before [in] this great State with light emanating from the fourth angel of Revelation 18:1." This message was echoed by Conference President Dr. G. Earl Knight in his written statement, "I feel thrilled that you have accepted the call to be disciples of God to spread the good news of salvation so that others might come to know our Savior as their Savior too...Let us be reminded that the coming of the Lord is at hand, even at the door. It is our responsibility as disciples to spread the good news of salvation..."

The day's activities were presented under the **values** of love, empathy, unity, commitment, integrity, respect, courage, perseverance, innovation and excellence.

Featured speakers included:

Janice Da Silva, GNYC Planned Giving and Development Associate Director, is a liaison for local churches and schools, and coordinates conference-wide development initiatives.

G. Earl Knight, GNYC Conference President, is the author of two books, Church Growth Made Easier and the Power of the Holy Spirit. He also produced a bible study guide entitled 'The Seven Steps to Eternal Life Bible Study Series.'

Steve Leddy a church planter successful in planting churches in Washington, Nebraska and Kansas.

Sean Robinson, NAD ACS Disaster Response Director, Crisis Care and YES, who served for more than 18 years in gospel and administrative ministry, social services, humanitarian relief and development management, strategic planning, policy/ procedure development, account management, and marketing analysis with the Adventist Church.

Gerson Santos, GC Urban Ministry Director, impressed participants with the presentations of some successful urban mission models and stories. He emphasized that our churches should be "Church for the City" that commits itself to seeking the Shalom, the flourishing, of the city, and loves the city and proclaims the truth of Scripture with passion, clarity, and boldness.

Kevin Sears, Director of AFCOE School in Ukraine, is an international speaker and teacher from Boston, Massachusetts. A 2002 graduate of the one -year AFCOE program, he has been training pastors, church leaders, and lay members in North America, Central America, and all across Europe for the past ten years, specializing in personal evangelism.

2015 Highlights

Advisory Team

Meetings with the Sabbath School and Personal Ministries advisory Team comprising of Cheryl C. Silvera; Felix Backer; Oriel Thomas; Paola Franchini; Samuel Peguero; Shane Vidal; and 신재환 Jae Hwan Shin was held to determine the goals progress and evaluation of the scheduled programs in January 8, 6:30 p.m, March 5, 6:30 p.m., May 21, 6:30 p.m., July 16, 6:30 p.m., August 27, 6:30 p.m., November 5, 6:30 p.m.

Personal Ministries & Sabbath School Training of new officers

The objective: To create awareness, equip and mobilize leaders in working with Sabbath School and Personal Ministries and Disabilities Ministries in implementing programs in the local churches within the four regions of the conference at the start of the year covering Upstate, Bronx/Manhattan, Queens/Brooklyn/Staten Island and Long Island. The rallies were conducted in both English and Spanish. 220 persons total in attendance for the four regional meetings.

- January 10, 2015 *Upstate:* Spanish Newburgh SDA, 120 South St. Newburgh NY, 12550. 3:00pm.
- January 17, 2015 *Bronx/Manhattan:* Spanish Mott Haven SDA, 600 Westchester Avenue, Bronx NY, 10455. 3:00 pm.
- January 24, 2015 *Brooklyn/Queens/Staten Island:* New York Luso Brazilian SDA Church, 96-11 24th Avenue Corona, NY 11368. 3:00 pm.
- February 24, 2015 *Long Island:* Ephraim French SDA Church, 85 Coolidge Avenue, Amityville NY 11701. 3:00 p.m.

February 1 Meeting of Lay Preachers & Leaders of evangelistic ministries with an aim to train persons how to develop new ministries. *Meeting held at:* Prospect SDA 1038 Prospect Ave, Bronx, NY 10459. Approximately 50 persons attended the training session. Presenters included: Secretariat Pastor Henry Beras of the executive leadership team; Pastor Yeury Ferreira, expert on preaching and author, of Spanish Forth Washington SDA church on How to preach; and Pastor Manuel Rosario on How to develop new ministries. Training on integrating Technology in mission was presented by Anthony Salcedo.

February 7, 2015

Conference-wide Disabilities Workshop

Objective: To provide comprehensive training to ministry leaders in further equipping them for ministry.

Approximately 50 participants were instructed by Dr. Charlotte Thoms of the Atlantic Union Disabilities Committee and NAD representative, on proven best practices in working with the disability community as she recounted her personal story in accepting the call to ministry. A mission report of “The Marginalized, The Missing and Our Message” with presenter Cheryl C. Silvera recapped work in the disabilities community to a group that the church has largely missed since our start as a movement in the 1840’s, and emphasized the need to gather that group in readiness for the appearance of the Lord. This was strategically designed to follow up on the launch of the ministry during the rallies and was held on February 7, 2015 at the Adventist Communication Center, 41-26 58th Street Woodside, NY 11377. The program ran from 8:00 to 4:00 p.m. Participants were encouraged to “Let the Lower Lights be Burning” by implementing the program in their respective churches. *Effects on target group:* Leads for further training were honored. The workshop was conducted in both English and Spanish.

March 1

Permanent Institute on Missional Training.

Begging of classes in the Hispanic Lay institute. Four extensions in the four regions of the conference; Upstate, Brooklyn, Queens & Staten Island, Bronx/Manhattan and Long Island met once per month from 9am – 3pm with 125 students in attendance. Curriculum: Training of 60 credits in theology, mission, church leadership, prophecy, church planting, and small groups.

March 13 -15

Planting Teams Assessment

Meeting held at: Camp Berkshire, 680 Berkshire Rd, Wingdale, NY 12594, with 50 leaders in attendance.

Representation from all the ethnic directors, church planters, and pastors were present. Leadership assessment and training were conducted by:

Pastor Dennis Muro, Coordinator of the Brazilian Community in NAD Missioninsight on ‘How to assess the community;’ Gerson Santos, GC Urban Ministry Director; Anthony WagennerSmith, church planter in the Florida conference; and Gasper Colon, Office of Urban Mission, ‘How to assess the community.’

Participants were assessed in their spiritual life with a questionnaire tool created by Anthony WagennerSmith. The test, APEST, is based on Ephesians 4, **A**postle, **P**astor, **E**vangelist, **S**hepherd, and **T**eacher as the aim of spiritual gifts in leading the church in order to duplicate or multiply in their congregations. Disc profile assessment GNYC conference president, Dr. G. Earl Knight, also address the group.

April 18

Personal Ministries Team Training

Meeting held at: Prospect SDA church, 1038 Prospect Ave, Bronx, NY 10459 from 9am to 3pm.

Presenter: Carlos Manzanillo author on growing small groups also gifted 20 of his books to participants.

Further inspiration was provided by Ruth E. Sandoval an international singer.

May 3 -4 Church Planting (Coaching Seminar)

June 24 - 25 Church Planting (Coaching Seminar)

November 9-10 Church Planting (Coaching Seminar)

Spiritual Leadership Development Coaching

Objective: To develop a team to support the church planters.

Reaching your full potential as you equip others.

Attending were 40 ministry directors, pastors, and church planters. Training was conducted using specialized movies and literature review. ‘The Four Discipline of Execution,’ and ‘The path – Missional Journey’ by Gregg Schaller, Ph.D in Leadership, were among the topics of the day. Bonnie Schaller, expert on personal profile, conducted a workshop in ‘Personality Style framework.’ Other presenters include Conference President Erio Braun from Brazil and Gerson P. Santos on ‘Leading Change.’ These assessments were conducted to create a culture of multiplication by first making the attendees aware of their style/profile in order to harness their full potential as leaders. Then an assessment to evaluate the community and planters. Through assessment of the leaders’ spiritual life, gifts and profile the attendees were charged to go and multiply using the methods taught. One who is coached is in turn expected to coach others.

May 16, 2015

Sabbath School Boot Camping

Meeting held at: Thesselonian Baptist Church, 951 Reverend James A. Polite Avenue, Bronx, NY 10459. 200 persons were in attendance. Seven different seminars were conducted by Henry Beras, Hermas Taveras,

and Pastor Milton Gregorgy of the Victory SDA church. Developed by Pastor Gregory was a plan to revitalize Sabbath School with the Imperatives that:

“The church must realize its obligation to carry the gospel of present truth to every creature.”
—*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 111.

“The greatest help that can be given our people is to teach them to work for God, and to depend on him, not on ministers.” —*Testimonies*, vol.7, p. 19.

“The Sabbath School should be one of the greatest instrumentalities and the most effectual in bringing souls to Christ.” —*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 10.

“The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort is a plan that has been presented before me by one who cannot err. If there is a large number in the church, let the members be formed into small companies, to work not only for the church members but for unbelievers also” —*Evangelism*, p. 115.

And for the potential of the Sabbath School to further transform into:

Potential of Sabbath School Unit

1. Turns spectators into participants.
2. Provides an excellent training school.
3. Prepares members for effective outreach.
4. Enables members to win and retain non-attenders.
5. Assists members in reaching their own goals.
6. Provides assistance for church project and activities.

June 7, 2015

Disabilities Ministries Expo

Objective: To secure community and SDA resources and expand awareness for families, community and church leaders, and congregation members and persons living with a disability within the communities of New York City.

The event opened with a letter of welcome by Mayor Bill DeBlasio and presided over by Conference President, Dr. Knight. Over 70 vendors, including City and State agencies, participated in this first-of-its-kind event. An art exhibit was manned and curated by AHRC of New York, a children’s activity room staffed by DeMore’s gifted and talented School, a ‘*quiet room*’ was provided for those who needed a respite from the bustle of the day’s sounds and activities and a break-out lecture hall featured presentations, including a presentation by Dr. Charlotte Thoms of the Atlantic Union on Disabilities Ministries and from New York City DayOne program on Sex trafficking and its effects. Police representatives from two precinct shared a program *Are You OK* (R U.OK) of contacting subscribed resident with a daily call. Vegan and vegetarian food tastings as well as Medical Missionaries rounded out the offering of the day. Approximately 500 persons passed through the six room event. *Effects on target group:* Contacts were secured by community leaders for Adventist services and church members and neighbors received valuable leads to service their needs.

July 31 to November

Personal Ministries Evangelism Campaigns

Mass evangelism conference-wide.

September 26 to October 4 Bible Institute Retreat

Meeting held at: Camp Berkshire, 680 Berkshire Rd, Wingdale, NY 12594

Featured Presenter: Carlos Martin of Southern University, author and writer for the Sabbath School Quarterly. Seven different classes were conducted including awareness and training in ministering to persons living with disabilities, church planting, hermeneutics, homiletics, church planting process, and more. The meeting was conducted in partnership with the Hispanic Ministries.

October 10 to 24

Total Evangelism Exchange

Exchange of pulpits of preachers between ministries.

Objective: To improve cultural awareness among the cultural groups in the Greater New York Conference and to celebrating culture together.

Fifteen pastors participated in the special exchange programs, mainly in the English to Hispanic, and Hispanic to English with a few multi ethnic participation.

November 7

1st Festival of Small Groups

Meeting held at: Corona Queens SDA Church. 150 in attendance to celebrate the formation of small groups within the conference. 60 leaders were recognized and received books and a lawn signs to celebrate their small groups. The aim is to emphasize that groups are to be formed and maintained in order to be vibrant as an active forum from which churches are planted. This is also an emphasis of Missional pairing, two-by-two, to encourage church growth. One nurturing the other.