

Pastor's Corner – 9-9-2017

What's Coming

For this week's Pastor's Corner I want to share with you a few ministry ideas that are on the horizon. I've been hearing a bit of feedback lately along the lines of, "we don't do anything around here," so I thought it might be a good idea to update everyone on what I hope we will be doing in the near future.

- Wednesday Nights – Starting on Sept. 13 we will begin a study focused on discovering our Adventist past. This will be a six or seven week series where we'll discuss the origins of the Adventist church, how some of our doctrines were developed, some of the early struggles and theological controversies, and maybe even touch on where we are headed today. We'll meet in the large SS classroom at 7pm.
- Small Groups – Yeah, I know, I've been talking about this one for a while now. But I assure you that they are still coming! It turns out that summer in North Dakota is a challenging time to start a new ministry so we've had to delay things a bit. Look for our first semester of groups to begin after the first of the year.
- Bible School – One of my ministry philosophies is that God is always at work trying to bring people into his kingdom. Our job is to try and find those folks who are already listening to God and look for ways to encourage them to take the next step. One way we can do this is by mailing out Bible study request cards and then following up with the requests that come in. I hope to be sending out our first mailing in another month or two. We'll need quite a few volunteers to follow up with these requests as they come in. But don't worry, it's a pretty easy process.
- Public Evangelism – Next spring we will be having a 2 week evangelistic series presented by our Conference Evangelist, Donovan Kack. The focus of these meetings will be to present the major teachings of the Adventist church and to make appeals for people to give their life to Christ and join the church. I'm praying

this will be a successful reaping meeting.

- Missional Pathway and Community Services – Sometime after the evangelistic series we are planning to work with a consultant who specializes in helping churches discover their God given calling to service in the community. I'm a firm believer in the philosophy that we can accomplish more if we're all moving in the same direction than if we're all chasing a hundred different ideas. The Missional Pathway will help us focus our efforts for maximum impact. The activities I've mentioned above (Bible school, small groups, evangelism and missional pathway) are all part of an overall plan to establish a cycle of evangelism here at the Bismarck church. The missional pathway is a way for us to interact with the community and be of service, think of it as seed sowing. The Bible school is a way for us to help nurture those who are seeking a deeper relationship with God, we could call it growing the seed. The evangelistic meetings are our opportunity to reap a harvest. The small groups will help us keep that harvest and nurture new believers towards maturity. Sow, Grow, Reap, Keep. That's the idea. And then...repeat. Yes, it takes a little while to get everything up and running and we probably could have moved a bit faster on some of these things. I'm a planner and I like to have all my ducks in a row and sometimes that slows things down. But I wanted to put this out there so that everyone knows that there is a plan and it is moving forward (albeit slowly). Finally, I would encourage you to be praying for our church and for these things that are on the horizon. We can plan all we want but without God's blessing we won't be getting very far. Let's start asking for God's blessings as we work together for his kingdom. Happy Sabbath! Pastor Tyler