

The church is a community of people sharing a common purpose and fellowship. We are continually growing in faith and in the knowledge of Jesus, the Son of God.

The lay evangelist dates to the time when Jesus sent out the seventy to minister in areas that He and the disciples would be unable to reach during His brief ministry (Luke 10:1-17). Just as these lay evangelists went out preaching the gospel of Jesus at His first coming, you are called to go and preach the gospel of His second coming. In the modern setting, the lay evangelist reaches areas where the pastor or conference evangelist may never have the opportunity or budget to set foot. As a volunteer, you can establish a work there.

Jesus, in His last words before ascending to heaven, gave the commission to "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations..." (Matthew 28:19). For the lay evangelist, the target audience is the world, beginning at the doorstep of his or her home.

Planning

The *church pastor* is an important resource for planning outreach. He or she can give you information regarding advertising, sermons and suitable locations for your meetings.

The *support of others* in a project of this nature is important. Find other interested men and women in the church who have felt a call to become more active in their witnessing. These volunteers will make up the nucleus of your team.

The *planning group* should be in place and operating at least six months before the meetings are held. This provides time to determine the potential interest, the needs of your target group and an opportunity to find the best location and materials to attract attendees.

A *budget* should be submitted to the Church Board to gain approval for any expenses you will need help with.



THE MINISTRY OF THE **Lay Evangelist**

Have you been asked to serve your local church as a lay evangelist? Or perhaps you serve on the Church Board and wonder what a lay evangelist is expected to do. This guide has been designed to help you understand this role within your local church.

For resources and information on training, log into the members site at **sspm.adventistconnect.org** or contact your local conference personal ministries director.



sspm.adventistconnect.org

The Role of the Lay Evangelist

The lay evangelist develops opportunities to conduct public evangelistic meetings. You may feel called to hold a series of meetings in a town where no Adventist church exists or perhaps you will be more comfortable evangelizing closer to home by inviting a group of interested individuals to your home and taking them through the gospel teachings. Whatever method you choose to employ, your role is to be a messenger for the Lord.

The lay evangelist can be effective by:

- assisting the pastor in preaching and holding mid-week services
- holding public evangelistic meetings with a team of committed volunteers
- conducting a Revelation or Daniel seminar
- organising small group evangelism
- following up contacts made by a literature evangelist
- contacting individuals who have been helped by the church in the past
- sourcing contacts through church members
- asking the pastor if he needs help to follow-up interests
- visiting former or absent members
- conducting a survey to find the direction that evangelistic outreach should take
- helping to create a three phase outreach strategy to share Christ with others:

1. Awareness Activities:

Activities that make the public aware of the existence of the Adventist Church. (radio, television programs or spots, show exhibits, displays, health outreach programs and community concerts)

2. Entry Events:

Events that directly involve the participant in a program of the church. (stop-smoking seminars, cooking and nutrition classes, stress seminars, family life workshops and support groups)

3. Pathways:

Ongoing contact with those who attend entry events. They may be religious or social in their nature but they can lead to baptism and church membership. (For example, Revelation Seminar or a picnic)

Responsible to

The pastor or personal ministries leader

Time Commitment

- A series of meetings may last three, six or even ten weeks with meetings one or two nights a week.
- A lot of time will be spent preparing your presentations and visiting the interested individuals you are working with.



Skills and Spiritual Gifts

Many different spiritual gifts may be evident in the lay evangelist. The following gifts are valuable when members consider the role of lay evangelist.

- **Evangelism:** This gift enables a person to present the gospel in a convincing manner which convicts those hearing the message and leads them to make a decision to be part of the kingdom of God.
- **Discernment:** Experience and the leading of the Holy Spirit will enable the lay evangelist to sense and recognize a seeker.
- **Knowledge:** This gift will bring understanding of Bible truths and a knowledge of the principles needed for effective evangelism.
- **Teaching:** It is the capacity to communicate the love of Jesus in a practical, meaningful way. To show kindness and patience to those who are learning.

