



Greater Sydney SDA Conference

Thinking About Gift Oriented Ministry

Mobilizing The Body of Christ

Gifts and The Body

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms – 1 Peter 4:10"

Romans 12:6-8,
1 Corinthians 12:1-10,
1 Peter 4:10-11,
Ephesians 4:11-16)

Priesthood Of All Believers

When most people hear the word 'ministry' they think of pastors, clergy or elders. Yet, God says that every member of His family is a minister. We call it the priesthood of all believers. Every Christian is called to service (Ephesians 4:4-14).

'Adventists have always believed in the doctrine of the priesthood of all believers yet often we have failed to see the full significance in accepting this doctrine. We see it in theory but fail to put it into practice.' (Russell Burrill) When we really understand that everyone is a minister we will view each other, our pastors and especially ourselves differently. Ministry is not something we pay a professional to do – it is what God designed us for. The New Testament and Ellen White make it very clear that the role of the pastor is to train and equip the body for ministry – not to do it alone. This means that ministry belongs to all of us.

'The greatest help that can be given our people is to teach them to work for God and to depend on Him, not on the minister ... So long as the church members make no effort to give others the help given them, great spiritual feebleness must result' (*Testimonies*, vol VII, p.19). 'God's work is retarded by criminal unbelief in His power to use the common people to carry forward His work successfully.' In fact Ellen

White intimates that any pastor who is performing ministry at the expense of the members being involved should be fired! (*Gospel Workers*, pp.197-198). Ministry belongs to us all.

Helping Others Confirm Their Ministry

Ministry leaders and small group leaders have a vital role in mobilizing people according to their gifts, passion and calling. Rather than attempting to fill positions to 'get the job done,' you must first see people and their giftedness and then help them use their gifts to build God's kingdom.

-Organize your placement system

-Teach about giftedness

-Develop networks of leaders to help guide people into an appropriate ministry.

Passion the _____ question

Gifts the _____ question

Style the _____ question

-Develop 'first-serve' opportunities

-Develop a mentorship process

-Help people transition to new ministries as they mature spiritually and their gifts develop

-Structure times of assessment and evaluation

Ideas for Ministry Placement:

- **Ministry Awareness Groups/Classes.**
Network,/Connections, SHAPE or develop our own course that could be facilitated in Sabbath School groups, small groups or as a workshop.
- **New Members Class** that includes ministry involvement. New member pacs include links into serving.
- **Ministry Profiles**
Profile a ministry, what it does, who it needs etc in FYI or as a separate insert that lets people know where they are needed or how they can be involved.
- **Website**
Get Involved link on the website that alerts people to serving opportunities around the church and wider community and lets people know how they can get involved.
- **Ministry Displays**
Displays in the church foyer etc that highlights serving opportunities and help people get linked.
- **Sermons**
Sermon Series with matching resources that help people link into serving opportunities.
- **Ministry Fair**
Ministries are displayed in creative/interactive ways and people express interest in serving opportunities.
- **First-Serve**
New people to the church are encouraged to link with and try a variety of serving opportunities before choosing where they'll serve long term.
- **Kids serving opportunities.**
Link children with adults for serving experiences and have them report back in the Sabbath School groups. Create serving opportunities for children.
- **One-on-one conversations.**
Is probably the most effective tool we have and is enhanced by the above. Conversations are even more essential as the ministry responsibility increases.

- **Leadership Training**

Training for leaders on how they can lead their team in a fulfilling way and develop new leaders (might include DVD, articles, workshop).

- **Get Involved Videos**

Clips that can be shown before a service or are on the net that highlight serving opportunities and how people can link with them.

- Link with spiritual formation process. Serving in a ministry is a major aspect of growing spiritually and so is only really effective long-term in a climate of overall spiritual growth.