

A BOLD VISION 2009
HELPING LOCAL CHURCHES MAKE END--TIME--READY DISCIPLES
Idaho Conference of Seventh--day Adventists

BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS

“... All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.” —Jesus

These words from Matthew 28:18–20 form the basis for the mission of the Seventh--day Adventist Church. These words of Jesus cannot be taken lightly.

- Jesus has the authority to give the commission.
- Jesus tells us to go--and does not make going optional.
- He commands us to:
 - Make disciples.
 - Baptize them.
 - Teach them His commands.
- He promises to be with us as we follow His command.

The commission found in Matthew 28 is the basic Christian mandate to which the entire Protestant world subscribes. Through the years the Christian world has strayed from some of Jesus' teachings. Seventh--day Adventists have been called to share the neglected truths of scripture with the world in addition to sharing the basics taught by all Christians.

Revelation 14:6–12 gives Seventh--day Adventists a further commission--a “last days” mandate. We refer to this mandate as the Three Angels' Messages.

First Angel in Revelation 14

- Calls people to understand the eternal gospel.
- Warns the world of impending judgment.
- Calls people to worship the creator.

Second Angel in Revelation 14

- Warns against false worship.
- Warns against the wine of false religious systems.
- Calls people out of Babylon (see Revelation 18).

Third Angel of Revelation 14

- Pronounces judgement on false worship.
- Provides the consequences of involvement in false worship.

Verse 12 gives a summary.

- A call to obey God's commandments as a response to the gospel.
- A call to remain faithful to Jesus and reflect the same kind of faith that He had.

The world needs this message today.

- No one else is preaching it.
- It challenges post-modernism.
- The second coming is near—we need to work while there is time.

IDAHO CONFERENCE PLAN

1. *Every congregation will develop a growth plan for the next year and the next five years.*
 - a. Review ten year statistics.
 - b. Identify what has worked and what has not worked.
 - c. The growth plan should include items such as: _____ community activities, _____ dollars for outreach/evangelism, etc.
 - d. Include ways to make the church a compassionate, accepting, inclusive community.
 - e. Conference administration will meet with pastors and/or churches to help develop the plans.
 - f. Conduct at least one evangelistic series per church per year.
 - g. Develop a membership retention goal.
 - h. Maintain an active interest list and worship attendance list.

“Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me.’” {MH 143.3}

Suggested areas to include in the growth plan include the following:

- Churches should make a deliberate decision to win souls to Christ and make whatever changes are necessary to win souls.
- Church leadership at all levels should be involved in some form of group Bible study on a weekly basis.
- Pastors and Conference should provide lay leadership training.
- Strategy should include systematic outreach/friendship events without hooks; no agenda other than service—our gift to the community.
- Planned, wide-spread literature distribution throughout the church territory.

2. *Conference Evangelism Goals*

- a. Summer Magabook plan, 2009 and beyond.
 - Blanket the Treasure Valley with literature and gain Bible study interests.
 - Provide major preparation for a field school of evangelism (2009).
- b. Conduct a Treasure Valley Field School of Evangelism in September/October 2009.
 - Dr. Ron Clouzet will be the speaker/director.
 - Churches throughout the valley and the conference will participate through on-line streaming video.
- c. Conference baptismal goal of at least 700 baptisms per year for the next five years.
- d. Develop a plan for planting new churches throughout the conference.
 - Identify places to plant new churches based on potential growth.
 - Identify church planters.
 - Plan for church plants that will attract young adults.
- e. Develop a prayer ministry

3. *Use of Resources*

- a. Resources will be used on the basis of potential.
- b. District sizes may be determined in part by the strength of the church's growth plan.

4. *Evangelism Committee*

- a. Conference develop an evangelism committee.
- b. Evangelism Committee will determine how to proactively use evangelism funds with the goal of using limited resources in the most productive way.
- c. Plan for major evangelistic initiatives throughout the conference.

5. *Develop a "Post-Modern" think tank*

- a. To develop strategies for reaching people who have a post modern philosophy.
- b. To develop strategies for reaching people who are turned off by traditional, institutional Christianity.
- c. To develop strategies for teaching our members how to relate with a post-modern generation.

6. *Develop a Christian Education think tank*

- a. To determine the proper application of the Seventh-day Adventist message to the education system.
- b. To determine the proper marketing and recruiting for Christian education in the Idaho Conference.

- c. To determine why people do/don't send their children to Adventist schools.
- d. To determine the expectations that churches, pastors, and parents have of Adventist schools.
- e. Identify ways that schools can interface with this growth plan.

7. *Stewardship*

- a. Sermons
- b. Seminars
- c. Planned Giving & Trust Services

IMPLEMENTATION

- 1. Possibly launch the plan at camp meeting 2009 (Build camp meeting around this growth plan).
- 2. Process and refine with pastors on a regular basis.
- 3. Report progress to churches on a regular basis.
- 4. Review and update with members and the Conference Executive Committee.

The best days for the Idaho Conference are just around the corner!—Stephen McPherson