



General Conference  
Sabbath School and  
Personal Ministries

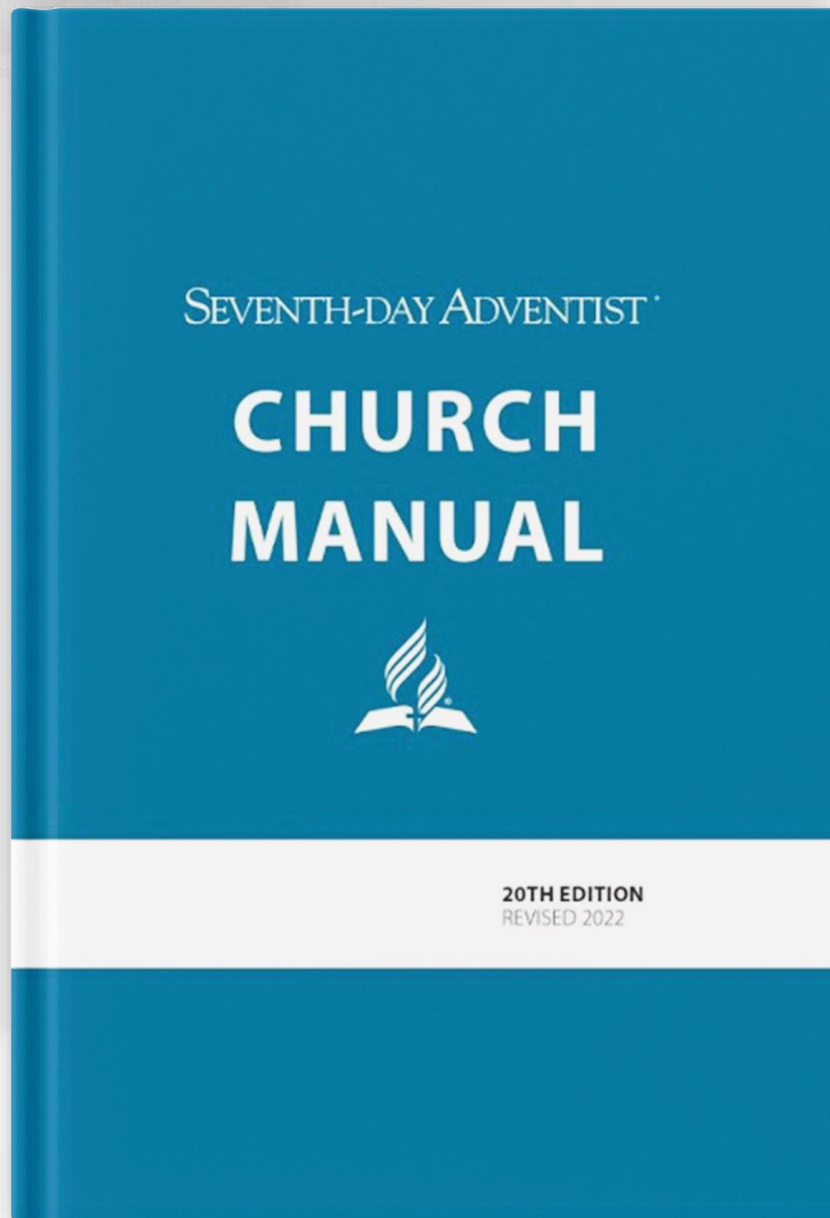
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# **THE IMPORTANCE OF PERSONAL MINISTRIES**

**A Biblical Approach to  
Gospel Commission**



“Personal ministries provides **resources** and **trains** members to **unite their efforts** with those of the **pastor and officers in soul-winning service.**”  
(p. 106).

# The Mission of the Personal Ministries

To provide **resources and train** the church members.

To **enlist** every member in **active soul winning** service for God.

*Personal Ministries Handbook, p. 3*

# The Mission of the Personal Ministries

In addition, the **higher organizations** are responsible for **providing strategies**.



# GLOBAL

Total Member Involvement

**A Biblical Strategy for Disciple-  
Making Evangelism**

# Twofold Importance

- The **Personal Ministries** in the **local church**
- The **Personal Ministry** in the **member's life**



# **THE LOCAL CHURCH**



# Jesus' Command to the Church

- To make disciples
- To raise laborers for the great harvest
- To nurture the spiritual gifts (talents)



**To Make  
Disciples**

# MATTHEW 28:19-20

**"Go** therefore and **make disciples** of **all...**"

**Where is our **emphasis** in the  
gospel commission?**

- Everyone must be **reached**

**OR**

- Everyone must **go**

- **Everyone** in this world must be **reached**
- **OR**
- **Every disciple** must **make disciples**

# Reach Everyone

- **Accomplished** by pastors, elders and evangelists
- **Unsustainable** long term
- Members become **spiritually weak** and **inactive**
- **Retention** becomes a huge challenge
- **Public meetings** will not always be possible or effective due to political and cultural climate

# Everyone Goes

- **High retention** rate.
- Members **spiritually grow** strong.
- Members are **not idle**, so fewer conflicts.
- The **value of a soul** is fully realised only by those who have given birth. (Galatians 4:19)
- **One to one mentoring** becomes a natural in the church life





**“Every true disciple** is born into the kingdom of God as a **missionary.**”

*The Desire of Ages, p. 195*

# Disciple Making Evangelism

- Developing **Worshippers?**

**OR**

- Developing Self-denying **Workers?**

# Disciple making Involves

- Teaching
- Baptizing
- Training



“In large cities there are **certain classes that cannot be reached by public meetings**.... Diligent, personal effort must be put forth in their behalf. **When personal work is neglected, many precious opportunities are lost...**

*Testimonies for the Church Vol.9, p.111*



“The one soul whom He sought to help became a means of reaching others and bringing them to the Saviour. **This is ever the way that the work of God has made progress on the earth.**”

*Gospel Workers, p. 195*



“When He sent forth the twelve and afterward the seventy, to proclaim the kingdom of God, **He was teaching them their duty to impart to others** what He had made known to them.”

*The Acts of the Apostles, p.32*



“In all His work, He was **training them for individual labor**, to be extended as their **numbers increased**, and eventually to **reach** to the **uttermost parts** of the earth.”

*The Acts of the Apostles, p.32*



**Raise  
Laborers for  
the Great  
Harvest**



## Matthew 9:37-38

Then He said to His disciples, “The **harvest truly is plentiful**, but the **laborers are few**. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”.”

# What to Pray?

- For the plentiful **harvest**?
- OR
- For more **laborers**?

## Luke 10:1

“After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go.”



“The **real character of the church is measured**, not by the high profession she makes, not by the **names enrolled upon the church book**, but by what she is actually doing for the Master, by the number of her persevering, **faithful workers.**”

*The Review and Herald, September 6, 1881*



# **Nurture the Spiritual Gifts**



“Talents **used** talent **multiplied.**”

*Christ's Object Lesson, p. 353*



“He who begins with **a little knowledge**, in a humble way, and tells what he knows, while seeking diligently for further knowledge, will find the whole **heavenly treasure awaiting** his demand. .”

*The Christ's Object Lesson, p. 354*



# Member's Life



# Member's Life

- Develops Christ like character
- Clarifies Doubts
- Develops humility
- Overcome selfishness and self-centeredness
- Recognize higher calling



# Character Development



“Christian character can be **symmetrically** and **completely** formed only when the human agents regard it is a **privilege to work in proclamation of the truth** and to sustain the cause of God with means.”

*Testimonies for the Church, vol. 9, p.127*



“God could have reached His object in saving sinners without our aid; but in order for us to **develop a character like Christ’s, we must share in His work.** In order to enter into His joy, —the joy of seeing souls redeemed by His sacrifice.”

*The Desire of Ages, p. 142*



**Clarifies  
Doubts**

# Matthew 28:17

“When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; **but some doubted.**”



“The more he seeks to impart light, the more light he will receive. The more one tries to explain the word of God to others, with a love for souls, **the plainer it becomes to himself.**”

*Christ Object Lessons, p.354*



**Develop  
Humility &  
Dependence**



## John 15:5

“I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for **without Me you can do nothing.**”



**“Not in their own power did the apostles accomplish their mission,** but in the power of the living God. Their work was not easy. The opening labors of the Christian church were attended by hardship and bitter grief.”

*The Acts of Apostles, p.595*



"...**unlearned men** to proclaim the truths that were to move the world. These men He purposed to **train** and **educate** as the leaders of His church. They **in turn were to educate others** and send them out with the gospel message."

*The Acts of Apostles, p.17*



“For the carrying on of His work, **Christ did not choose the learning of eloquence** of the Jewish Sanhedrin or the power of Rome. Passing by the self-righteous Jewish teachers, **the Master Worker chose humble...**”

*The Acts of Apostles, p.17*



**Overcome  
Selfishness**



“The **sin** which is indulged to the greatest extent, and which **separates us from God** and produces so many **spiritual disorders, is selfishness.**”

*Counsels for the Church, p. 80*



“God could have reached His object in saving sinners without the aid of man; but He knew that man could not be happy without acting a part in the great work in which he would **cultivating self denial and benevolence.**”

*Testimonies for the Church, vol. 3 p. 382*



“Let none suppose that they can live a life of selfishness, and then, having served their own interests, enter into the joy of their Lord. In the **joy of unselfish love**, they could not participate. They would not be fitted for the heavenly courts.”

*Gospel Workers p. 365*





# **Recognizing the Higher Calling**

# 1 Peter 2:9

“But you are a **chosen generation**, a **royal priesthood**, a **holy nation**, His own **special people**, that you may **proclaim** the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”



“To the ancient Egyptian nation God made Joseph a fountain of life. Through Daniel God saved the life of all the wise men of Babylon. **Everyone** in whose **heart Christ abides**, everyone who will show forth His love to the world, is a **worker** together with God for the **blessing of humanity**.”

*The Acts of Apostles, p.13*



“By **feeble agencies**, through His word and Spirit, He designs to place **salvation** within the **reach of all.**”

*The Acts of Apostles, p.18*



**Any  
Questions?**



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What is the **structure** of  
local church Personal Ministries  
Department?

## **Personal Ministries Team**

- Leader (and any assistants for literature ministry, new member discipleship, outreach training, small group ministry, etc.)
- Secretary
- Interest coordinator
- Bible school coordinator
- Adventist Community Services leader



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## **Personal Ministries Council**

- Personal Ministries Team
- Pastor
- Elder
- Treasurer
- Other department leaders



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## **Personal Ministries Council**

The Personal Ministries Council guides the outreach efforts of the church under the direction of the church board. It meets monthly (or less if meeting regularly with the Personal Ministries Team or subcommittee).



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What is **the role** of Conference,  
Union, and Division Sabbath School  
and Personal Ministries Directors?



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## **Key Functions of SSPM Leaders** *(at every level)*

- Strategy
- Resources
- Training
- Communication

All Personal Ministries strategies  
must be based on **Christ's method**  
of making disciples.

“Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. . . . There is need of coming close to the people by **personal effort.**”

*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 143.

“The Lord desires that His word of grace shall be brought home to every soul. To a great degree this must be accomplished by **personal labor. This was Christ's method.**”

*Christ's Object Lessons, p. 229*



Christ's method  
is **personal**.



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