

# KINGDOM BUILDERS

*To Win – To Hold – To Train*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S PEN:

*Happy New Year! Peace, Grace be multiplied to you from God the Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit. It has been a learning experience as we took on the role of leading the Sabbath School Department of the Great South Central Conference. My deepest gratitude to God for giving me the privilege to serve for the reminding of the term. It's an awesome responsibility but the One who called will also enable us to do exceedingly, abundantly above all we can think or ask. Moving Members from Membership to Discipleship is a worthy goal in answer to the Great Commission given to us by Jesus Himself.*

*Our prayer is that as we embark on the New Year, we will embrace the opportunities and challenges that are indicative of moving Sabbath School to the next level and becoming Acts2:42-47 personified. May God grant you out of the richest of His glory to be strengthened and reinforced in your innermost personality as you study, fellowship, reach out to others and support world mission.*



*At Jesus' feet,  
Shirley Scott*

### BLAZING A TRAIL...

During the last half of 2014, the Sabbath School Department was on the road conducting leadership training, taking visual assessments of the happenings and talking to pastors and leaders. It was a very interesting and stimulating learning experience for everyone involved.

We were privileged to train 128 leaders from 21 churches. These were churches in four of the eleven South Central Conference territories: North Alabama, South Alabama, Central Mississippi, and a portion of the Gulf Coast (Gulfport and Mobile Areas). These training sessions resulted in very positive feedback and gave deeper commitment to the members, leaders and pastors. A special thanks to Pastor Rupert Bushner and the Mt. Calvary SDA Church, in Huntsville, AL; Pastor Jeffery Watson and the Bethany SDA Church in Montgomery; Pastor Philip Johny and the South Jackson SDA Church in Jackson, MS; and Micah Weech and the Maranatha Church in Gulfport, MS.

One of the churches we visited was Riverside Chapel in Nashville, TN. The visit led to a very informative and insightful interview with Senior Pastor Furman Fordham. Elder Fordham shared how Riverside went about a paradigm shift and doubled their Sabbath School attendance. Read about it on the SCC website.

In 2015, the Sabbath School department is poised to continue offering training in the other seven territories and has its first training of the year in Pensacola, Florida at the Jordan Street SDA Church. A session of the training encourages the facilitators (formerly called teachers) to commit to studying the word of God and devoting an hour for every 10 minutes of teaching, centering the lessons around a theme and giving members practical take-aways lessons that they can apply to their lives. Our goal is to have a conference where members become disciples...students of the Word and disciple-makers... teachers of the Word. This, bible study is only one of the four fundamental objectives of the Sabbath School experience. We will look at the goal of fellowship in next quarter's issue.



## BUILDING A SOUL-WINNING SABBATH SCHOOL

1.

Implement the four Sabbath School objectives

- Promote Bible Study and Effective Class Teaching
- Foster Christian Fellowship
- Encourage community outreach activities
- Cultivate support for World Missions

2.

Plan with assistant coordinator for evangelism in promoting Branch Sabbath Schools, Community Guest Days, Friendship Evangelism initiatives and class outreach opportunities.

3.

Plan with assistant coordinator for the reclaiming of inactive members. (Help keep up-to-date Sabbath School membership lists.

4.

Plan with the world mission coordinator for a strong program of mission education in all divisions.

5.

Plan with hospitality coordinator for the care of visitors.

6.

Plan with the adult division leader for growth.

7.

Encourage activities outside of Sabbath School time (i.e. potlucks, outings, nature walks and other social activities).

8.

Make sure the extension division is properly functioning.

## ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL COORDINATOR/SUPERINTENDANT

The purpose of the Sabbath School is to make disciples for Christ. It includes the nurture of spiritual growth in members and prospective members, as well as the unchurched who come to join in the fellowship, study, sharing and service. The Sabbath School exists not only to minister to its members, but to train those members to minister to others. The Sabbath School is a school of Christian living, not just an event on Sabbath mornings. It can include Bible study groups that meet at other times also. Its purpose is evangelistic, not ritualistic.

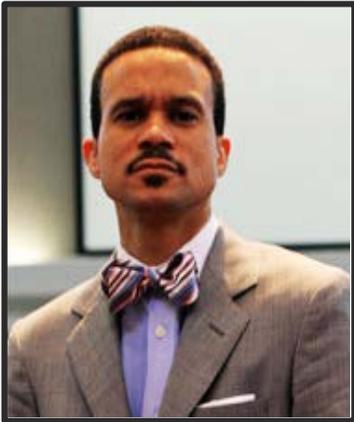
The Sabbath School is a lay ministry. It is run, staffed and funded by church members, not the clergy. God calls every member of the church into ministry, and the Sabbath School is the place of preparation, support and empowerment for ministry. It is, therefore, essential to have lay involvement and leadership in its operation.

## DUTIES

The ministry to which a person is called when he or she become general coordinator of the Sabbath School can be described in the following ways:



*“Responsibilities in the Local Church”*



**Site Visit Interview  
with Pastor Furman  
Fordham of Riverside  
Chapel SDA Church in  
Nashville, TN**

Steps to consider when  
implementing a new  
program:

- 1) *Have a missional reason for change*
- 2) *Sell your smaller groups and get them on board before selling to the large groups...*
- 3) *Study. Read books on church growth and on the mission of the Sabbath School*

*\* To read the full  
interview with Pastor  
Fordham visit:  
[www.scc-Adventist.org](http://www.scc-Adventist.org)*

## RUNNING A BRANCH SABBATH SCHOOL

A Branch Sabbath School is an evangelistic type of service conducted primarily for the benefit of non-Seventh-day Adventists. Branch Sabbath School is an evangelistic endeavor using Sabbath School materials. It may be held on any day of the week.

### Types of Branch Sabbath Schools:

#### Church Planting Branch Sabbath School

*Held on Sabbath at the same time as the regular Sabbath School, using the same materials, but in another location. Its purpose is to establish a new Sabbath School and eventually a new church. It is advisable to consult with the pastor and church officers regarding the best location for this type of Branch Sabbath School.*

#### Outreach Branch Sabbath School

*Evangelistic in nature and may be conducted on any day of the week. It is designed to create spiritual interest and bring souls to a saving relationship with Jesus. It may be conducted for children, youth, or adults.*

### Who Attends Branch Sabbath Schools:

Former members, guests who visit the church, friends, neighbors, relatives, ingathering contacts, and interests from literature distributions to name a few

### How to Start a Branch Sabbath Schools:

With some personal initiative and creativity, many church members can find ways to start Branch Sabbath Schools. Keep in mind that the Sabbath School department of the local church should always be kept up to date on the progress of its Branch Sabbath Schools.

The Branch Sabbath Schools are part of the overall church program. They are never the personal arena of any one person or group in the church.

Some suggestions for creating interest are:

- ❖ Have a story hour for children.
- ❖ Start a Bible marking class.
- ❖ Start a Bible discussion group.
- ❖ Conduct an adult program in conjunction with Vacation Bible School.
- ❖ Continue Vacation Bible School on a weekly basis.

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