

Total Member Involvement

PERSONAL MINISTRIES

STRATEGIC PLAN

2017 - 2020



GC Sabbath School and
Personal Ministries Department



Mobilizing every member for mission through Personal Ministries



REACH the WORLD

STRATEGIC PLAN 2015-2020

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

“The truth is to be scattered by all who claim to be disciples of Christ”

—*Christian Service*, p. 68.

Personal Ministries Strategic Plan

Total Member Involvement

Our Mission: The mission of Personal Ministries is to provide resources and training to involve every Seventh-day Adventist in soul-winning service. Equipping and mobilizing the lay members of the church is necessary to finish the work entrusted to us. It is vital for both the spiritual preparation of our own members and for reaching the world with the everlasting gospel and the three angels’ messages.



Our Goal: *To Make Disciples!*

PERSONAL MINISTRIES
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Sabbath School and
Personal Ministries

REACH UP In order to make disciples, we must first be disciples.

OBJECTIVE: To lead every member closer to God through prayer, Bible study, and fellowship with Christ in service.

How does Personal Ministries help us to reach up to God?

In order to minister to others through loving and personal soul-winning service, we have to lean heavily upon God in **prayer**. In order to be prepared to share the gospel, we are led to more earnest **Bible study**. Finally, taking up the yoke of **soul-winning service** itself, and actively drawing close to people in personal ministry, is itself a means of drawing closer to Christ—“Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me...” (Matthew 11:29).



KPIs:

- ▶ More members experiencing revival and reformation through personal prayer and Bible study.
- ▶ Increased attendance at Sabbath School, church, and prayer meetings.
- ▶ Increased involvement in local church ministries and personal witnessing.

REACH IN Jesus didn't command us to make members, but disciples (see Matthew 28:19).

OBJECTIVE: To make active disciples through ongoing and intentional nurture, training, and mentorship of church members.

How does Personal Ministries help us to reach in with God?

Church members who serve as mentors and trainers of other members, as well as those who are recipients of these ministries, always grow spiritually. Furthermore, by getting church members involved in soul-winning service, we not only reach the community, but the members themselves develop a more Christ-like character in preparation for heaven. Finally, Personal Ministries inspires us to reach current and former members who no longer attend church.

- KPIs:**
- ▶ More members experiencing revival and reformation as they aim to model Christ-like character, service, and lifestyle for those they mentor.
 - ▶ Increased number of local churches who implement a systematic and intentional process of discipleship for both new and existing members.
 - ▶ Increased number of experienced church members engaged in mentoring new members.
 - ▶ Increased number of churches implementing intentional plans to restore those who are no longer attending.
 - ▶ Increased number of non-attending and former members who return to regular church attendance.

REACH OUT We have a life and death message to give to the world (see Revelation 14:6-12).

OBJECTIVE: Involve every member in serving the needs of others, sharing Bible truth, and leading souls to follow Christ and unite with His remnant church.

How does Personal Ministries help us to reach out with God?

The heart of Seventh-day Adventist mission is to share the everlasting gospel with the world and to draw close to people through personal labor. Personal Ministries provides training, resources, and inspiration to engage church members in this vital work.

- KPIs:**
- ▶ Increased number of souls baptized into warm and welcoming Seventh-day Adventist churches.
 - ▶ Increased number of church members engaged in benevolent service to their communities.
 - ▶ Increased number of church members sharing truth-filled literature.
 - ▶ Increased number of church members giving Bible studies.
 - ▶ Increased number of churches conducting public evangelistic efforts.

Personal Ministries

Strategic Plan Implementation



GROW: A Global TMI Initiative

What is the GROW initiative? The GROW initiative aims to effectively implement the Personal Ministries strategic plan. It promotes Total Member Involvement (TMI) by providing training and resources to implement a balanced, agricultural soul-winning model—as taught by Jesus.

What are the five icons in the GROW logo? The five icons represent five essential evangelistic phases to make active disciples of Christ: (1) The soil of the heart must be *prepared* with friendship and service; (2) The seed of the Word must be *planted* with truth-filled literature, media, testimonies, and invitations to Bible studies or seminars; (3) Spiritual interest must be *cultivated* with ongoing Bible studies; (4) Decisions to follow Christ and His Word must be *harvested* with personal and public appeals; and (5) The harvest must be *preserved* with ongoing and systematic discipleship of new members.

Why is [Your Church] in brackets? The GROW initiative is not only a global initiative, but a local one. The brackets are there to invite churches, conferences, unions, and divisions to personalize the GROW logo to match their own churches and/or territories (see examples).



The 5 GROW Goals

The GROW initiative empowers local churches to not only get every member involved, but to do so in a way that fosters church growth. A church may have all of its members involved in active ministries, but if these ministries are focused on only one or two of the GROW phases, it will result in a **growth bottleneck**. Notice:

- ▶ If everyone is preparing the soil of the community with compassionate service, but very few share the truth, hearts will not be gripped by God's Word.
- ▶ If we share the truth but never provide benevolent service to the community, it will limit and distort our witness.
- ▶ If we distribute literature, but don't follow up with ongoing Bible studies and appeals for decisions, we'll fail to reap a harvest.
- ▶ If we experience a large harvest of souls, but fail to mentor new members with an intentional discipleship plan, it will result in complacency or backsliding.

Churches must have balanced evangelistic plans in which every member understands the importance of **every** phase of the soul-winning cycle. Only then will Total Member Involvement result in Total Church Growth!

Therefore, the goals of the GROW initiative include one goal for each of the five GROW phases:

Five GROW Goals

1 Church-wide **Community Need-Based Ministries** *in every local church*

2 Active **Literature Ministry** *in every local church*

3 Vibrant **Bible Study Ministry** *in every local church*

4 Regular **Public Evangelism** *in every local church*

5 Systematic **Discipleship Ministry** *in every local church*

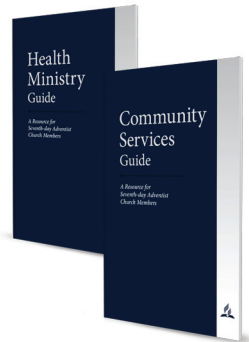
GROW Resources to Be Developed

For each phase of the evangelistic cycle, the Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department will develop and promote practical plans and resources to equip churches and help them GROW. These resources will be made available as they are developed, or information given on how to obtain them, at grow.adventist.org. Here's a sample:



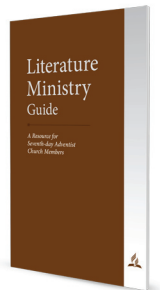
PREPARE

- ▶ **Health Ministries Guide** Practical instruction and resources to help local churches know how to conduct effective health ministry events such as cooking schools, health expos, supper clubs, free dental clinics, and more.
- ▶ **Community Services Guide** Practical ideas and guidance to help local churches know how to conduct church-wide need-based ministries and compassionate service projects in their communities.



PLANT

- ▶ **Literature Ministry Guide** Practical instruction on how to develop a strong literature and media distribution ministry in the local church (literature budget, display, recommendations, projects, promotion, goals, etc.).
- ▶ **Mission 365** Promote global initiative asking every church member to share an average of one GLOW tract a day and one sharing book a week.

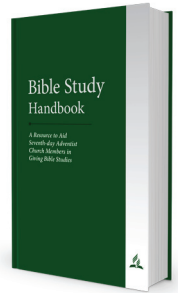




CULTIVATE

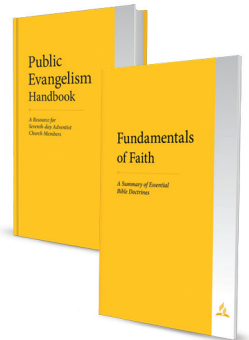
- ▶ **Revitalized Bible Schools** Renewed emphasis on every local church operating its own Bible school, while adding innovative new features to involve more members in Bible study ministry.
- ▶ **Bible Study Handbook** A comprehensive resource to aid Seventh-day Adventist Church members in giving Bible studies—includes inspiration, methodology, and in-depth doctrinal instruction.

Contains a separate chapter covering over 20 Bible study topics—each chapter includes the key points for that topic, the key texts for each point, explanations for each text, a summary and conclusion, a sample appeal, answers to common questions, and a Bible marking guide.



HARVEST

- ▶ **Public Evangelism Handbook** Detailed instruction on how to conduct an effective public evangelistic effort including a recommended calendar, advertising strategy, visitation plan, evangelistic team responsibilities, and more.
- ▶ **Fundamentals of Faith Baptismal Guide** An expanded summary of 28 fundamental beliefs with corresponding Scripture references for use in the thorough preparation of candidates for baptism or profession of faith.



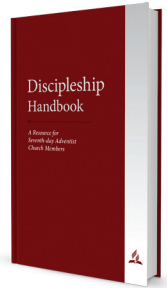


PRESERVE

- ▶ **Discipleship Handbook** Not a book about discipleship, but discipleship in a book—a 6-month discipleship plan for new and existing members that is great for personal study, small groups, Sabbath schools, or a new member mentorship program.

Covers devotional life, witnessing, church life, Christian lifestyle, and the cycle of evangelism; contains correlated Bible & Spirit of Prophecy reading plan; includes a mentor's guide with detailed steps to integrate new members into the local church.

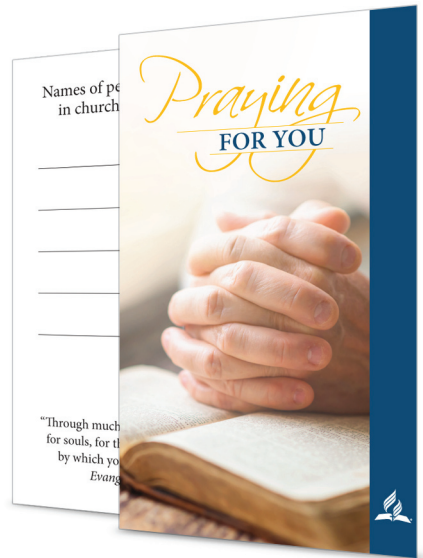
Distinctively Adventist and highly practical.



GROW Prayer Focus

The most carefully laid plans will never result in growth without the blessing of the Spirit of God. With every phase of the soul-winning process, we must remain in close communion with God through earnest prayer. We can plant, and we can water, but only God can bring growth (see 1 Corinthians 3:6). The Personal Ministries Strategic Plan therefore encourages churches, conferences, unions, and divisions to labor for souls not only in person, but also in the audience chamber with God.

“Through much prayer you must labor for souls, for this is the only method by which you can reach hearts. It is not your work, but the work of Christ who is by your side, that impresses hearts” (*Evangelism*, p. 341).



Providing a simple prayer card to keep in their Bibles can encourage members to pray for those they are endeavoring to lead to Christ.

Contrasting Views of Evangelism

Single-Phase Evangelism vs. the GROW Initiative

The GROW initiative is a broad and balanced approach to evangelism that moves away from “either-or” or “single-phase” methodologies. A single-phase mindset is one that fails to see the importance of every soul-winning phase. It narrowly views different aspects of evangelism as competing methods rather than valuable phases of the same process.

▶ **Single-Phase:** “Our church does evangelism once a year.”

GROW: Evangelistic meetings may happen only once a year in some churches, but successful evangelism is a year-round process that includes kindness, truth-sharing, studying, and mentoring too!

▶ **Single-Phase:** “Meeting people’s physical and emotional needs is *real* evangelism.”

GROW: Meeting these needs IS a vital part of evangelism, but it is not the only part. Need-based ministries can never replace the need to share Bible truth.

▶ **Single-Phase:** “If we focus on outreach, we’ll neglect the nurture of our members.”

GROW: To nurture is to properly care for something so that it will grow—and getting members involved in soul-winning is necessary for spiritual growth! “Let ministers teach church members that in order to grow in spirituality, they must carry the burden that the Lord has laid upon them—the burden of leading souls into the truth” (*Christian Service*, p. 69).



- ▶ **Single-Phase:** “My focus is friendship evangelism.”

GROW: That’s great! As long as we remember that no farmer prepares the soil without then sowing and reaping. The Lord has given us the wonderful privilege of leading our friends into the truth! “The Lord calls for the pardoned souls, those who rejoice in the light, to make known the truth to others” (*Christian Service*, p. 37).

- ▶ **Single-Phase:** “_____ is true evangelism.”
Evangelism Department might say, “Public evangelism”
ACS/ADRA might say, “Compassionate service”
Publishing might say, “Literature distribution”
Health Ministries might say, “Medical missionary work”
Youth Ministries might say, “Youth/children’s ministries”



GROW: That’s right! Every department of the church IS vital to the evangelistic mission of the church, yet each must work together toward the mission of leading souls to follow Christ and Bible truth.

- ▶ **Single-Phase:** “Personal evangelism is better than public, so let’s just do personal.” Or, “personal invitations work better than mailing out flyers, so let’s just do personal invitations.”

GROW: It’s true that personal ministry is more effective, but even better than an either-or mentality is to do both! Always “sow beside all waters” (Isa. 32.20). “When both are combined [extensive meetings and personal effort], with the blessing of God, a more perfect and thorough work may be wrought” (*Christian Service*, p. 121).

- ▶ **Single-Phase:** “A high number of baptisms is evidence of successful soul-winning.”

GROW: Not necessarily. If we baptize too hastily, without taking proper time to cultivate and harvest, it can result in more baptisms but cause unforeseen problems. “Great care should be exercised in accepting members into the church; for Satan has his specious devices through which he purposes to crowd false brethren into the church, through whom he can work more successfully to weaken the cause of God” (*Evangelism*, p. 313).

- ▶ **Single-Phase:** “Baptism is the goal of soul-winning.”

GROW: Baptism is definitely a goal (see Matt 28:19), but it isn’t the end goal of soul-winning. We must mentor and train new members to become grounded disciples who make other disciples. “One soul, won to the truth, will be instrumental in winning others, and there will be an ever-increasing result of blessing and salvation” (*Christian Service*, p. 121).

