

## The church is a community of people sharing a common purpose and fellowship. We are continually growing in faith and in the knowledge of Jesus, the Son of God.

Most of the heroes of the New Testament church were evangelists. The personal ministry of Jesus in saving the lost continues to be the primary model; but Peter, Paul, Barnabas, Philip, Stephen, Timothy and John Mark all figure prominently in early church history because they worked tirelessly and effectively to win new converts to Jesus Christ and to make the first century church grow. That pattern has continued through the centuries to our day.

You are called to that noble heritage as you become involved in coordinating the outreach of your local church. You have two thousand years of success on which to build. You have the model of thousands of successful men and women in history. Welcome to the most important task God ever assigned to church leaders - to free God's lost children and bring them home to the church and to eternal life.

## Personal Ministries Leader

### How to Plan

1. **Identify your goals.** Make the goals clear and measurable.
2. **Devise plans and a budget.** Chart on paper how you will achieve your goals, step by step. Place the planned activities on a calendar and show when you will start each project and when you expect to complete it. Be specific.
3. **Assign responsibilities.** Begin to build the team. Who will help you? What training is necessary? How much time is needed? Be specific about who is in charge of what.
4. **Encourage the troops.** You must be a coach and cheerleader. A volunteer organization is not very efficient and is held together only by convictions, loyalties and team spirit. Encouragement will accomplish much more than criticism or attempts to use guilt to motivate.
5. **Evaluate the results.** Many goals that look good in theory cannot be realized in real life. Some people are more willing to talk than perform. Plans that are exciting on paper sometimes fail miserably in execution. When your committee meets, ask the members to help you evaluate the program. After a fair test, terminate what will not work and start something new that has a better chance of success. Be sensitive to how long it takes for new ideas to really get started. Some groups fail at the very things other congregations do well simply because they do not work at any plan long enough.

For resources and information on training, log into the members site at [sspm.adventistconnect.org](http://sspm.adventistconnect.org) or contact your local conference personal ministries director.



## THE MINISTRY OF THE Personal Ministries Leader

Have you been asked to serve your local church as an outreach coordinator or personal ministries leader? Or perhaps you serve on a church nominating committee and wonder what a personal ministries leader is expected to do. This guide has been designed to help you understand this role within your local church.

[sspm.adventistconnect.org](http://sspm.adventistconnect.org)

## The Role of Personal Ministries Leader

The mission of the Personal Ministries Leader is to mobilize and motivate church members to meet the spiritual, emotional, social and physical needs of those in the broader community. The ultimate goal is to help others develop a relationship with Jesus and find salvation.

The personal ministries leader is responsible for:

- encouraging **volunteers** to become involved in outreach and soul-winning activities
- **educating and communicating** with volunteers
- **planning** with the community services leader and potential member coordinator. These areas report to the Personal Ministries Leader.
- creating an overall **strategy** and the **management** of outreach activities (Bible studies, lay evangelism, ADRA Appeal, Signs of the Times, lay witness training, prison ministry and other outreach programs). These areas report to the Personal Ministries Leader.
- **Lay Bible Ministers:** Train a team of members who can give Bible studies.
- **Literature Distribution:** Organize ways to place literature in the hands of as many people as possible. Distribute Signs and have up-to-date, colourful brochures on a wide range of topics available so members can give them away.
- **Prospect Lists:** The people who respond to media ministries are all prospects for church membership. Adventist Media advises

of the names who have responded from your area. A telephone call has proven to be the best way of establishing contact with these prospects. A potential member coordinator can oversee in this area.

- **ADRA Appeal:** This is probably the largest community outreach event of the entire year.
- **Community Services:** Assist in promoting this area of ministry and, if the church does not have someone carrying this responsibility, you will need to give it direction.
- **Public Seminars:** A key part of outreach is a series of meetings for the general public. It has proven to be effective to have a “sequence” of seminars through the year that touch on health topics, family life subjects and Bible study, thus appealing to a wide range of interests in the community. Seminar packages that contain handouts, audio-visuals, lecture notes and advertising materials are available from the conference office.
- **Prison Ministry:** A ministry to those in prison is a rewarding experience for both the prisoner and the visitor.
- **Evangelism Council:** In large cities, you may be asked to participate on a city-wide coordinating council and coordinate your congregation’s activities with other Adventist churches in your area.

### Becoming a Personal Ministries Leader

The Personal Ministries Leader is elected by the church nominating committee yearly.

**Responsible to** the pastor and various committees within the church.

### Time Commitment



- This is a major responsibility in the church and requires significant time.
- Many who are successful soul-winning leaders in church follow the plan of devoting two evenings a week to it, or one evening and Sabbath afternoons.
- One time period each week is devoted to planning and meeting with committees; the other is given to actual evangelism.

### Skills and Spiritual Gifts

There is no evident correlation between personality type or speaking ability and success in this role. Some have higher education, others have limited schooling. None of these factors in background, talent or culture seem to spell success. There is, however, one quality found in all successful leaders of outreach and soul-winning - selfless dedication. God’s call to ministry is at the heart of this work. As Paul said, “Woe is me if I preach not the gospel.” Do you feel impelled of God to win lost souls? This ministry is more than an assignment from the nominating committee; it is a passion!

