



REACHING THE WORLD: PERSONAL OUTREACH

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Sabbath School Program: The Many Faces of Missionaries, Yours Included!

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World mission emphasis is one of the four principle purposes of Sabbath School. The focus of this Sabbath School program is to present some ideas on how to stimulate interest in world mission outreach on a more personal level. To get people in Sabbath School involved in the church around the world, we must stir them to think about global realities, cross-cultural relationships, and a world much bigger than our own.

This program illustrates various types of world mission outreach in action; things Sabbath School members can do without leaving home. The program is designed around two presenters who also act as resource persons. You can design the best way to present the program in your Sabbath School. It might be read, or told as a story, or you might design an interview format. You could present the stories as skits using people dressed according to the timeframe of the story. You can use the ideas to design some world mission emphasis projects in your Sabbath School. You can't do all these things in one program, but you can choose what seems the most appealing and use others for more Sabbath School programs about world mission.

Presenter 1: *(Read or tell the stories or "interview" people about the following).*

World mission emphasis is an integral part of Sabbath school. The back cover of the *Adult Bible Study Guide* always features one of the World Divisions as the recipient of a special Thirteen Sabbath offering. Children's divisions sing about "Hear the Pennies dropping, every one for Jesus" [or its equivalent in your part of the world] as they take up mission offerings. The offering containers that many Sabbath Schools pass around during the class time usually contain two compartments, one for mission and the other for Sabbath School expense.

Some Missionary "Faces"

[You can set up an "interview" with Uriah Smith based on his theory about world mission.] Early Adventists did not pay much attention to world mission outreach, much less get personally involved. After experiencing the Great Disappointment in 1844, most early Adventists tended to focus on former Millerites as the only people eligible for salvation. The group who began to keep the seventh-day Sabbath was originally so small that "world" mission faded from view. Believe it or not, Uriah Smith, long-time editor of the *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald* felt that the multiethnic characteristic of North American society really represented the "whole world," and thus we were actually preaching to "every nation, kindred, tongue and people" (Rev. 14:6) without leaving the United States.

[You can set up an "interview" with Czechowski based on his story.] By the 1860s Adventists were beginning to send people to other countries. One relatively little known early Adventist missionary was M. B. Czechowski, a former Roman Catholic priest from Poland who became a Seventh-day Adventist in 1857. Czechowski spoke seven European languages. The records show that he was not too good at handling finances, so the official Seventh-day Adventist church would not sponsor him as a missionary to Europe. So he convinced the Advent Christian Church (another Millerite spin-off) to send him. Once he arrived, however, he proceeded to establish Seventh-day Adventist churches in various European countries.

You can read more about him in the Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia and a volume commemorating the Centenary of his work (Michal Belina Czechowski 1818-1876 (Warsaw, Poland: "Znaki Czasu" Publishing House, 1979. A bilingual volume in English and Polish).

Presenter 2: Beyond Giving an Offering

It's fine to drop a bill or two in the Sabbath School envelope that comes around during class time, but there are many ways to focus on world mission that motivates members to get involved beyond coming up with an occasional offering that disappears in a basket or envelope. [*Here are some things you can do to get people more personally involved in thinking about world mission. Some of these can be actual activities you can do in Sabbath School. Some are things members can adopt as personal projects and periodically report to the Sabbath School membership how they are doing. Put together an "Idea Team" to help you present some ideas and participation activities. You can project the ideas on the screen, hand out a list and have members choose a project, or design some other creative way to get people involved*].

- Turn down the back collars of shirts, blouses, and sweaters, and pray for the countries represented by the labels in your clothes.
- Identify and pray for neighbors and coworkers who are internationals. If no one in your group knows such people, look up foreign-sounding names in the community phone book, and pray for these people by name.
- Identify and pray for neighbors and coworkers who are members of other world religions: Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, etc.
- Listen to a short-wave radio broadcasting the gospel through Adventist World Radio or other global transmission ministries.
- Get an up-to-date map, choose a country and pray for Christians living in those countries.
- Take a group field trip to a local mosque, Hindu temple, or synagogue, and try to interview the religious leader. [You can't do this everywhere in the world, so use your good judgment]. Don't make this an evangelistic visit. Its purpose is to learn about the beliefs and some of the customs of others. Later you can design a Sabbath School program around reports from these visits.
- Go to an ethnic restaurant, and seek out the owners or hosts with the goal of interviewing them about their culture, religious beliefs, and—if they are immigrants—their experiences in and impressions of your country.
- Assign class members specific countries or nationalities to be researched on the Internet, asking the members to present a five-minute summary to the rest of the group.
- Have a group go to a Christian worship service that is different from yours either culturally or ethnically. Use this opportunity to remind yourselves that God's people constitute a broad range of races and ethnicities.

Suggested Songs

Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal No. 358 "Far and Near the Fields are Teeming."

Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal No. 367 "Rescue the Perishing."

Church Hymnal No. 619 "Watchman, Blow the Gospel Trumpet."

Church Hymnal No. 623 "Rescue the Perishing."

Morning Scripture Reading: Matthew 24:14.