

# Inter American Division

## Evangelism Master Plan 2011-2015



### Sharing the Christian Faith

The command of Jesus in Matthew 28:18-20 must be understood as a corporate responsibility to which every believer is obligated and must be organized and trained to fulfill. Ellen White, in offering inspired counsel to the church said; “The Seventh-day Adventist Church has been entrusted with the last warning message. They are to allow nothing else to absorb their attention. The proclamation of special solemn truths is the most important activity and that proclamation is to be worldwide in extent” (*Testimonies Vol. 9, p. 19*). The urgency of the gospel demands that Christ’s witnesses do not wait to be approached, but as the sent ones, they are proactive in going to those who need an upgrade in their understanding of their faith relationship.

### Engage the church.

Every church has a corporate witness to its local community. Unfortunately, some churches have lost their influence in their community as a result of infighting, lovelessness, or a church split. The church must seek to keep its witness strong and vibrant in the community. Therefore, as pastors, you must engage your flock to go out into the community and share their faith with everyone who is in their personal circle of influence. Just as a general sends his army out to do battle, likewise, our great commander Jesus Christ has commissioned his army to go out and engage the lost. The Greek word for “engage” (Echio) in this context, means “to provide occupation for;” (Phillippians 1:30; Luke 19:13). Pastors serve as field generals who lead and engage others. Therefore, lead by example and challenge others to do the same. After training the believers, they should be given a project to be involved in. Ellen White says: “In our churches let companies be formed for service. In the Lord's work there are to be no idlers. Let different ones unite in labor as fishers of men. Let them seek to gather souls from the corruption of the world into the saving purity of Christ's love”. {Ev 115.1}

### Evangelistic Realities in Inter American Division

1. There is an average of 1.3 percent annual population growth within the IAD territory based on the United Nations 2005-2009 Census

2. 1.3 percent population growth equates to an average of 2,000,000 annual population increases in the IAD territory
3. In the last quinquennium, we had an average of 200,000 annual baptisms within the IAD amounting to an average of 10% of the annual population increase

### **Our Challenge for this Quinquennium**

1. To preach the gospel for both a witness and to make disciples for the Kingdom of God (Matthew 28: 18-20 & Matthew 24:14).
2. To educate and mobilize the members of the church based on the counsel of Ellen White “Every true disciple is born into the kingdom of God as a missionary” (DA 167). “The work above all work, the business above all others, which should draw and engage the energy of the soul, is the work of saving souls for whom Christ has died. Make this the main, the important work of your life. Make it your special life work” (MYP 227).
3. **To effectively engage diversified and contextualized evangelistic strategies to effectively reach and evangelize un-churched residents within the Inter American Division territory, and baptize and retain them in the church in preparation for the kingdom of God.**
4. To create and provide relevant materials, equipment and resources to be used by the Pastors and Laity for increased effectiveness in soul winning within the IAD territory.
5. Soul winning should be elevated to primary focus at every level and institution within the organization with a strategic plan to significantly reduce the ratio of Adventists to non-Adventists within each region of the IAD territory.
6. To allocate soul winning budget at every institutional and organizational level of the church.
7. To recruit, train and deploy pastors and lay workers to effectively execute the gospel commission giving consideration to the social needs of targeted individuals and communities.
8. To strengthen the over 7,000 companies across the Division territory and change their statuses into organized churches.
9. To establish new companies in un-entered territories across the Division

**Vision One Million** is a program that:

1. Recruits, trains and **challenges** at least 1,000,000 Seventh Day Adventist church members across the Inter American Division territory to become passionate **disciples**, actively involved in small groups and **other diversified** outreach ministries.
2. These individuals will actively participate in such activities as; Prayer and fasting, Bible Study, Spirit of Prophecy Study, and the general Inreach and Outreach initiatives devised by the organizations as well as those initiatives generated within Small Groups.
3. Vision One Million members will be the chief proponents of the Division. Some of them will serve as the leaders of Small Groups.
4. Every administrator and departmental director at the Division, Union, and Conference/Mission levels shall organize promotional materials and strategize for members of the church to be involved in Vision One Million through their areas of responsibility and departmental initiatives.
5. **Vision One Million members shall function as the principal soul winning agents of the Inter American Division during the quinquennium 2011 – 2015.**
6. Every Pastor should give leadership to the operation of Vision One Million to ensure **members participation through the various distinctive departmental groupings.**

**Aspirations of the passionate disciples (Vision One Million)**

1. To have a passionate desire to serve the Lord and focus less on self.
2. Regularly attend church activities because they enjoy the presence of God.
3. As God's stewards, they sacrifice available resources for advancement of the cause of the gospel.
4. Excitedly share their faith with non-believers as a responsibility they cannot resist based on their love and commitment to God and fellowmen.
5. Worship the Lord daily, not just on Sabbaths.
6. Constantly seek new insights in their faith commitment and make personal applications
7. Submit to the Holy Spirit in lifestyle, behavioral conduct and decision making processes
8. Possess alert sensitivity to sin and conscious effort to renounce sinful tendencies
9. Joyfully utilize their skills, talents, gifts and other personal resources with those in need.
10. Commit to building and advancing communities of faith in which lives are changed to the honor and glory of God.
11. Adopt organic evangelism procedure, a natural lifestyle of modeling Christ to the world.
12. Engage in a lifestyle of continuous meditation, prayer, and study of God's word.

## **Implementing Vision One Million**

1. Each Union should conduct an evangelism summit to explain the program and develop strategy for its execution.
2. Persons that may participate in the strategizing summit for Vision One Million are:
  - a. Union Officers
  - b. Union Ministerial Secretary
  - c. Union Personal Ministries and Sabbath School Secretary
  - d. All Union departmental Directors
  - e. Local fields officers and all the relevant departmental directors
3. Ministerial Association and Personal Ministries and Sabbath School personnel shall unite efforts in educating the Pastors in all local fields and training them to execute Vision One Million.

## **VISION ONE MILLION: AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO EVANGELISM**

1. Each member who is recruited and trained as a passionate disciple of Jesus in the Vision One Million program shall receive a personalized commitment card that the person will sign and keep as a reminder of a commitment made to self and the Lord to participate in this overarching initiative to assist in transforming the lives of members of the church and the wider community through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.
2. Each department of the church shall design and present an evangelistic series to be added to the menu of evangelistic resources available for equipping the Pastors and passionate disciples of the church in any or all three areas of special emphases; Spiritual Infilling, Functional Relationship and Community Needs.
3. The Personal Ministries and Sabbath School department shall provide a training curriculum with a modular approach to equip the laity for engagement in Vision One Million.
4. Departments or Ministries of the church engaging in this integrated evangelistic program of Vision One Million shall present additional modules to the Personal Ministries and Sabbath School Lay Training curriculum. Such modules shall address the specific departmental/ministry training emphases relevant for preparing members who will engage in Vision One Million Evangelism based on the specific departmental/ministry emphases. Each department/ministry shall engage with the personal Ministries and Sabbath School Department to clarify details and harmonize efforts in this special evangelistic training and implementation initiative.

5. Leaders of each department or ministry of the church that is actively engaged in Vision One Million shall establish a goal of the number of persons from such department/ministry they desire to have as passionate disciples in the initiative. Leaders of such departments/ministries should determine and initiate an effective members' recruitment strategy in order to realize the stated goal.
6. Leaders of each participating department/ministry should prepare at least one 14 days evangelistic series and make this available as sermon resources that members of the church may utilize for soul winning efforts in this Vision One Million initiative.

**Vision One Million Integrated Training and Evangelistic Resources**

NO.	DEPARTMENT	NO. OF CURRICULUM TRAINING MODULE	AREAS OF EMPHASES			EVANGELISTIC SERIES
			SPIRITUAL INFILLING	FUNCTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS	COMM. NEEDS	
1.	PM/SS					
2.	HEALTH					
3.	CHILDREN					
4.	YOUTH					
5.	STEWARDSHIP					
6.	EDUCATION					
7.	FAMILY					
8.	WOMEN					
9.	MINISTERIAL					
10.	PUBLISHING					
11.	COMMUNICATION					
12.	ADRA					
13.	ADVENTIST MISSIONS					
14.	RELIGIOUS LIBERTY					

**VISION ONE MILLION CELEBRATIONS**

Vision One Million Celebration will be an annual event in which the one million passionate disciples will take at least one visitor to church on that Sabbath. Each Union local field and local church will develop a special program for that day. The Union may send a copy of its program to the Division for that day's celebration. One representative of the Division will be appointed to each Union to participate in the Vision One Million Celebration. The Division may conduct a live satellite uplink program on that day. Some activities that may be done during Vision One Million Celebration are:

- i. Literature distribution [One Million Bibles and Great Controversies]

- ii. Prayer
- iii. Musical Concert
- iv. Dynamic and Inspirational Preaching
- v. Baptisms
- vii. Sharing of Personal Experiences and Testimonies
- viii. Bible and Spirit of Prophecy Studies
- ix. Historical Reviews
- x. Fellowship Meals
- xi. Graduations/Certifications
- xii. Model Churches best practices

### **Union Wide Vision One Million Impact**

- a. This is a quinquennial evangelistic and soul winning impact to be conducted in each Union. The Inter American Division will select five (5) Unions for this Vision One Million Evangelistic Impact each year.
- b. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the passion of the Vision One Million passionate disciples of the specified Unions will be ignited to:
  - i. **Motivate Spiritual Infilling**
  - ii. **Promote Functional Relationships**
  - iii. **Address Community Needs**

### **Inter American Division Model Church**

To have one church in each Conference selected as a IAD Model Church (116)

Interested Pastors should indicate their desire to have one of their churches selected as one of the IAD Model churches

Qualified churches should have a membership of at least 100 members, a proactive Pastor who is committed to growing a model church.

#### **Some objectives of the Model Churches:**

- 1. Increase its membership by 100% in 2 -3 years
- 2. Implement all the concepts of Vision One Million
- 3. Have all the Ministries of the Church active
- 4. Have Inspiring worship services
- 5. Have Active small groups or an appropriate alternative
- 6. Submit monthly reports on its effective practices
- 7. Pastors are to utilize their own creativity and innovation to grow the church and consolidate the new believers

8. The Union and Local field should earmark an annual budget for specific, approved initiatives towards realizing the goals of the model church if required.
9. Annual Vision One Million celebration will feature effective practices of the 10. Model Churches so that others may receive inspiration

## **Annual Vision One Million Impact**

### **2012 The year of Spiritual Infilling – Connecting Vertically**

- All departments of the church engaging in programs that promote spiritual health:
  - Continuous prayer initiatives
  - Thematic study of the word
  - Members evangelization programs (weekend crusades for members)
- One million members studying with one million visitors
- Every pastoral districts engaging in one or more simultaneous evangelistic campaigns
- Media spots that invite community members to meet the Man of Calvary
- Vision one Million Congresses that bring the passionate disciples together each quarter or as regular as possible for spiritual stimulation, reporting and forecasting.
- Ensure that each target group of vision one million is reached with the gospel through thematic study of the word, Prayer and evangelistic campaign
- Annual Division wide Vision One Million Celebration day

### **2013 The year of Functional Relationships – Connecting Horizontally**

- Each Union, local field and pastor gives leadership to:
  - Bible Conferences (for the church and community members)
  - Prayer Conferences (for the church and community members)
  - Schools of evangelism
  - Community inter-personal relationship seminars and workshop
  - Seminars and workshops on repentance, conversion and forgiveness both for church and community members
- Vision one Million Congresses that bring the passionate disciples together each quarter or as regular as possible for spiritual stimulation, reporting and forecasting.
- Ensure that each target group of vision one million is reached with the gospel through thematic study of the word, Prayer and evangelistic campaign
- Annual Division wide Vision One Million Celebration day

## **2014 The year of addressing Community Needs – Connecting at the Community level**

- Each Union, local field and pastor gives leadership to social initiatives to alleviate community needs:
- Some initiatives to address social needs in communities:
  - - house painting
  - - house repairs
  - - park beautification
  - - feeding programs
  - - building of bus sheds
  - - stress seminars
  - - financial management seminars
  - - skills training
  - - counseling programs
  - - concerts in parks
  - - big screen seminars in parks and community squares
  - - utility consumption seminars
  - - legal advice seminars
  - - health management seminars
  - - wealth management seminars
  - - prayer stops (Stop at homes and businesses and offer prayer)
  - - pamphlet distribution
  - - supporting civic pride initiatives
- Vision one Million Congresses that bring the passionate disciples together each quarter or as regular as possible for spiritual stimulation, reporting and forecasting.
- Ensure that each target group of vision one million is reached with the gospel through thematic study of the word, Prayer and evangelistic campaign
- Annual Division wide Vision One Million Celebration day

## **2015 The year of Spiritual Infilling – Connecting Vertically**

- All departments of the church engaging in programs that promote spiritual health:
  - Continuous prayer initiatives
  - Thematic study of the word
  - Members evangelization programs (weekend crusades for members)
- One million members studying with one million visitors
- Every pastoral districts engaging in one or more simultaneous evangelistic campaigns
- Media spots that invite community members to meet the Man of Calvary



- Vision one Million Congresses that bring the passionate disciples together each quarter or as regular as possible for spiritual stimulation, reporting and forecasting.
  - Ensure that each target group of vision one million is reached with the gospel through thematic study of the word, Prayer and evangelistic campaign
- Annual Division wide Vision One Million Celebra

### **Target Groups for Vision One Million:**

- i. City Residents (large and medium size cities)
- ii. Former Members
- iii. Upper Class Inhabitants
- iv. Professional and Business People
- v. Cross Cultural Inhabitants
- vii. Advocates and Adherents of Post Modernism
- viii. Those who are not active adherents of Adventism

### **Essential Features of Vision One Million Evangelism**

The plan involves a spiritual renewal of each believer and an empowerment for discipleship. The program amalgamates all evangelistic best practices and innovations that engage the members in collaboration and concentrated effort towards the fulfillment of the Gospel Commission. It recognizes, highlights and affirms milestone evangelistic and church growth achievements at various levels within the organization. This evangelistic paradigm divides the annual evangelistic year of the church into four distinct phases, these are: a) preparation, b) sowing, c) reaping, and d) consolidating.

#### **I. PREPARATION**

The preparation phase is a period designated for the spiritual renewal of the members and specification and identification of particular evangelistic mission to be engaged and the recruitment and training of prospective participants.

Activities of the Preparation Phase:

1. Programs for spiritual renewal of each believer.
2. Selection of the organizing committee
3. Selection of subcommittees

4. Determination of the type of evangelistic activity to be conducted, some may be:  
 Family Life Campaign; Health Campaign; Traditional evangelistic campaign; Music Evangelism; Small Group Bible Study; Weekend Campaigns; Small Group House Campaigns; (or other locations outside of the church), Internet Evangelism; Cell Phone Evangelism; Upper Class Evangelism; Skills Bank Evangelism (People with similar skills meet to ...); City Evangelism, Large or Small Town Evangelism; Church Campaign; Tent Campaign.
5. Determination of field preparation activities
6. Selection of the relevant leadership personnel
7. Training of personnel to be engaged in the field preparation activities
8. Training of personnel to be engaged in the campaigns
9. This training phase may include:
  - a). Recruitment and training of music groups & Coordinators
  - b). Recruitment and training of Prayer Festival Coordinators
  - c). Recruitment and training of Health initiative Coordinators
  - d). Recruitment and training of Social Activities Coordinators
  - e). Recruitment and training of Small Groups Leaders
  - f). Recruitment and training of Consolidation Coordinators
  - g). Training and recruitment of Cell phone and internet Evangelism Coordinators
  - h). Recruitment and training of Lay Preachers
  - i). Recruitment and training of Lay Bible Workers

## **II. SOWING**

This is the engagement phase where the members of the church and especially those who are trained, go into the community to engage the general or designated public in social projects which will eventually lead to Bible study and invitations to decision making or reaping campaigns. Some Sowing activities may be:

- a). Prayer breakfast for all former members of the church

- b). Music Evangelism in all communities
- c). Health intervention activities in all communities
- d). Cell Phone/Internet Evangelistic interaction
- d). Small groups Bible studies
- e). Some initiatives to address social needs in communities:
  - house painting
  - house repairs
  - park beautification
  - feeding programs
  - building of bus sheds
  - stress seminars
  - financial management seminars
  - skills training
  - counseling programs
  - concerts in parks
  - big screen seminars in parks and community squares
  - utility consumption seminars
  - legal advice seminars
  - health management seminars
  - wealth management seminars
  - prayer stops (Stop at homes and businesses and offer prayer)
  - pamphlet distribution
  - supporting civic pride initiatives
- f). All pre-campaign activities will be engaged in this phase

### **III. REAPING**

1. A series of Reaping activities are conducted by Pastors and Lay Members during this phase.
2. The duration of these activities may be from one to six weeks dependent upon the local context and availability of resources.
3. Most of these reaping activities may run concurrently
4. One of the highlights of Vision One Million is to have grand simultaneous Baptismal celebrations.
5. These baptismal programs may be carried live by electronic means, to benefit a wide cross section of the population across the Division and or Union territories.
6. The use of the electronic media in evangelism is a major concern of this Evangelistic paradigm – Satellite, Internet, Cable, social media etc.
7. As part of the concept of Vision One Million, each Union should organize the program to realize baptismal accessions and to have numerous visitors in church on a designated day each year.
8. Recognition for outstanding evangelistic achievement is offered to fields, institutions and individuals during this phase of the program.

#### **IV. CONSOLIDATION**

During this phase, the new believers are welcomed into the fellowship of a caring, loving community where they are nurtured and discipled. They are also in grafted immediately into the evangelistic life of the church. Some programs that may be held during this phase are:

- a). Consolidation festivals
- b). Welcome festivals for new believers in each congregation
- c). General educational sessions about the church for new believers  
(Educational package)
- d). Doctrinal quiz (Just the name of each of the 28 fundamentals)
- e). Doctrinal study (Special Bible Class activities)
- f). District, Conference/Mission new believers convention

- g). Discipleship training programs

## **SCHEDULING**

Each Field may determine its own evangelistic schedule. The following is a suggested schedule:

- I. PREPARATION August - October
- II. SOWING October -December
- III. REAPING January – April
- IV. CONSOLIDATION April – August