

# SOUTH LEEWARD MISSION OF SDA

## EFFECTIVE CONSERVATION

BY

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<sup>15</sup> But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who *hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce* a crop. (Luke 8:15 NIV) See also Mark 4: 20 and Matthew 13: 23.

**Key Conservation Words:** Retain – *hold fast, keep, cling to, hold on to, etc.*  
Persevering – *patiently, endurance, persist, steadfast endurance, etc*  
Produce – bear, bring forth, (crop, harvest) etc

### Questions:

1. What does conservation look like? *One who is(presently) bearing fruit is conserved.*

2. What does the fruit look like? *Winning souls; teaching the doctrines; having fellowship with others; ministering to those in need; passionately worshipping God; habitually making other disciples* (John 15: 16 and Acts 2: 41-47, 2Tim. 2:2).

## SEVEN KEYS TO CONSERVATION IN THE CHURCH

### 1. PERSONAL COMMITMENT

All new converts should be personally committed to Christ and His mission. This should be clear at the point of their baptism and at the welcoming ceremony at the receiving congregation.

*Personal activities:* They should commit to a life of prayer, Bible study, worship, and fellowship with believers.

### 2. SABBATH SCHOOL GROUP

Sabbath school classes should be used to **connect** new converts to the church. These newly baptized members should be taught how to build relationships with and **care** for new believers. Sabbath school groups (classes) are the **link** between the new believer and the corporate body of believers – especially after a public evangelism event. It should therefore reproduce all of the major activities that connected the new converts to the evangelistic event.

*Sabbath school activities:* These activities include transporting to corporate services, visiting, Bible study (Sabbath school lesson), answering questions of faith, Sabbath lunches, sundown worship, praying with them, etc. Sabbath school groups should assign multiple persons to carry out these tasks. New converts should only be assigned to Sabbath school groups that are thus prepared for such tasks.

### 3. SPIRITUAL GUARDIAN

A Spiritual guardian is one who commits to personally assist a new believer for at least one year in their spiritual walk with God. Such persons should be carefully chosen to be the *models* and *mentors* for these members. It would be good to select spiritual guardians from the Sabbath school groups but that may not always be possible. However, spiritual guardians should always sign a *covenant of commitment* to their duty.

A spiritual guardian is selected with several things in mind: (a) geographic location in relation to the new member, (b) age compatibility, (c) interest in the new member, (d) the ability to deal with unusual problems of a new member, i.e., a woman from a divided home might be better able to encourage a new member with the same problem. Two men working on the same job or in the same kind of work can be an encouragement to each other provided one is a stable member. In each case a man should be assigned to a man, a woman to a woman, a young person to a youth. The one chosen to be a spiritual guardian is then asked if he would be willing to accept the responsibility.

*Spiritual Guardians Covenant and Responsibilities:* The covenant outlines the duties of the spiritual guardian and the newly baptized person. There are many different covenants that can be used. (See sample Spiritual Guardian roles and responsibilities)

### 4. NEW CONVERTS SMALL GROUP (CLASS)

A new convert should be placed in a group that is solely devoted to his or her spiritual maturity. Unlike the Sabbath school group that is for *connecting* with the church family, this group is for *discipling* the new believer to spiritual maturity. It is never advisable to have this group during the Sabbath school time since it requires at least an hour and a half on a weekly basis to be effective.

*Activities of the group:* In this group new believers are taught how to pray, study the word, develop devotional practices, discover spiritual gifts, minister, witness, etc. They should also have time to study a lesson, like *In Step with Jesus*. (See sample New Converts Group structure)

### 5. SPIRITUAL COMPANION

According to companionshit.net, companionship is that state of being friends. It is a closeness or familiarity, a true fellowship among people who for some reason have connected. Jesus called His disciples friends because they had become His companions with whom He communicated deep things of God (John 15: 15). The key ingredient then in companionship is communication.

In the Christian community, companionship includes communicating on a spiritual level through a mutual sharing of the things of Christ: the Word, the filling of the Holy Spirit, the love of Christ, and the ministries and gifts of the believers (bible.org). This should result in more informed, spirit-filled, love giving, members in our congregations. Christian fellowship among new believers, therefore, brings them into deeper spiritual companionship with God and with fellow believers.

In the new believers' class there should be at least one spiritual companion chosen who would be able to assist and hold their spiritual partner accountable to complete the responsibilities and activities of the group. This person should be a new believer but can be any member of the group.

## **6. MINISTRY INVOLVMENT**

New believers need to feel that they belong. They need to feel that they can make a contribution to the Mission. As a result, as soon as is practical, their gifts and abilities should be identified, and they should be placed in ministries. They do not need to be elected to serve. They are apprentices. Every ministry should therefore be able to accommodate apprentices and facilitate their growth and ministry development.

## **7. CORPORATE INVOLVMENT**

New believers should be given opportunity to participate in the corporate services of the church. Some of them would take longer than others to get involved in the church services but it is the duty of the church to assist them to get to this point as soon as possible. Many of our new believers come to the church with much public experiences and with many different gifts and abilities that can benefit the church.

These seven keys when practiced correctly should help to retain and mature productive new believers who come to our congregations.

## THE SPIRITUAL COMPANION

### **A charge to the spiritual guardian for \_\_\_\_\_**

You have been chosen to perform a most important work. Your brethren have placed great confidence in you, for to you is given the sacred responsibility to love, nurture, and encourage the one in your charge along the Christian pathway. To you who have been experiencing the joy of growth in the Christian life has been given the privilege of sharing this experience with those who are just beginning their walk in the path of increased light. The growing experience is fraught with many dangers of which discouragement and frustration are not the least. Heaven is eager to use you in making the way easier to travel.

*As a minister of the gospel and a fellow soul winner, I charge you that for the next twelve months you--*

- 1. In kindness and love, be a friend to your charge.*
- 2. Spend time in prayer, in your private devotions, for your charge.*
- 3. Take time to visit often with him, inviting him to your home for a meal when possible.*
- 4. Watch for him (her) at the services of the church. Sit with him and make him feel welcome.*
- 5. Inquire immediately, when he is absent from a meeting, as to the reason, either by telephone or a visit, letting him know that he was missed.*
- 6. Always show genuine interest in him, being careful never to pry into personal matters.*
- 7. Ever be an example to him, and by precept encourage him to look to Jesus as the example in the Christian walk.*
- 8. Introduce him to other church members. Make sure that he is incorporated into the functions of our church life.*
- 9. Help him when you can with his problems, being careful to counsel with your pastor on matters of great importance.*
- 10. Contact the pastor, should you move within the next twelve months. He will then arrange for someone else to take your place.*

*My Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_*

### **A Charge to the Newly Baptized**

*You have now been baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church and have become a member of a "family" that circles the earth. You have identified yourself with a people who are looking for the imminent return of Jesus and are making preparation now to meet Him. You have taken upon yourself the name of a people who are striving to hold high the standard of their profession—a people who are pilgrims in this world, looking for a better home. As a "babe" in the church you will grow day by day as you learn more of the will of Heaven for your life. All heaven rejoices that you are now one with those who "keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" ([Rev. 12:17](#)).*

*As a minister of the gospel, and a representative of this organization, I charge you to:*

- 1. Cherish your church membership always, recognizing yourself a member of God's family.*
- 2. Spend time each day in Bible study, prayer, and personal devotion.*
- 3. Establish the family altar in your home and have morning and evening worship with your family.*
- 4. Determine now to keep your Christian growth constant by being present at the regular services of the church. Make Sabbath school, the preaching service, and prayer meeting a part of your weekly activity.*
- 5. Take part in the activities of the church. Using your time and talents, be a worker in the cause of God.*
- 6. Be careful to represent the church aright in all your activities, knowing and believing that you are representing God in all you do.*
- 7. When you need help, feel free to call your spiritual guardian and talk over your problems. If they demand further attention, call your pastor. He will always be happy to help you.*
- 8. Have faith in God, ever trusting in His power to help, confident that "he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" ([Phil. 1:6](#)).*

*My name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_*

## NEW CONVERTS SMALL GROUP WEEKLY ORDER OF SERVICE (SAMPLE)

It is most important to note that the times given below are flexible and adjustable to how the group leader manages the group. Small groups don't do well when the leaders alone set rigid timeframes. The timeframe should be rigid, only when everyone in the group agrees to set it. If changes should be made, then all group members should agree on that as well.

**7:00 - 7:05 .....Welcome and Prayer**

**7:05 - 7:35 ..... Activities:**

1. Sharing food
2. Sharing self (caring time)
3. Teaching group principles and practices such as:
  - a. *Covenant*
  - b. *Spiritual companionship*
  - c. *Conversational prayer*
  - d. *Worship*
  - e. *Bible reading*
  - f. *Bible study*
  - g. *Bible meditation*
  - h. *Bible memorization*
  - i. *Journaling*
  - j. *Fellowship*
  - k. *Stewardship*
  - l. *Ministry*
  - m. *Evangelism*
  - n. *Organizational structure*
  - o. *Forming new groups*

**7:35 - 8:15..... Bible Study:**

1. Bible lesson study
2. Bible application

**8:15 - 8:30..... Prayer Session**

1. Prayer for needs
2. Conversational prayer