




NT Evangelism Conference

What Is the Difference?



What Do We Want to Accomplish?

- Establish the Biblical Mandate for Evangelism by Christians, Congregations and the Elders.
- Provide a Working Framework for Making Your Congregation Healthier and a Better Tool for Making Disciples.
- Relate Specific Examples From a Sabbatarian Church to Demonstrate What Can Happen When You Apply These Principles.
- Better Equip You for Service (Ministry)

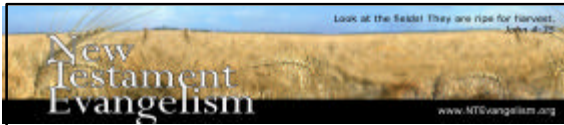


Case Studies of Three SDA Churches

House Churches and Sabbath Studies: *A new look at small congregations*

South Tulsa Church Plant: *How quality and a focus on evangelism created new growth opportunities*

Richardson Texas Church Development: *What can happen with a multiple-church planting strategy*



Case Studies of Three SDA Churches

Why Study Seventh Day Adventist Churches?

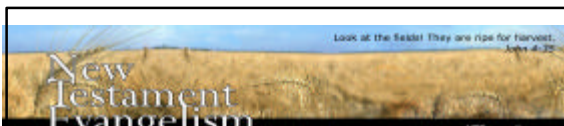
- *To demonstrate seventh-day churches can grow: Many believe Sabbath keeping is a barrier to evangelism. The SDA's have proven it is not.*
- *We did not find any strong examples of xCOG congregations that are experiencing significant growth.*



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Why Study Seventh Day Adventist Churches?

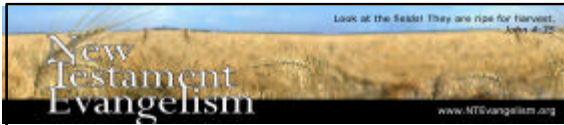
- *Their internal issues mirror our past/current church culture.*
 - *Belief that evangelism is not necessary – God will call*
 - *Excuses for not trying – it doesn't work here*
 - *Lazy pastors*
 - *Lazy congregations*
 - *Congregations that are spiritually dead*
 - *Congregations of such poor quality that members are too embarrassed to invite friends*



Case Studies of Three SDA Churches

Why Study Seventh Day Adventist Churches?

The SDA's are baptizing just under one million new people each year.



Case Studies of Three SDA Churches

A Pennsylvania House Church:

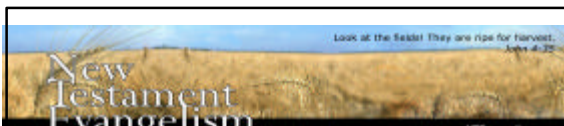
- Begun by a young couple – nearest SDA church was 20 miles away
- Wanted to find a way to reach into their community
- Talked it over with the conference leadership and got the cooperation from the nearby pastor
- Started with just their family
- Invited friends and neighbors over for “House Church”



Case Studies of Three SDA Churches

A Pennsylvania House Church:

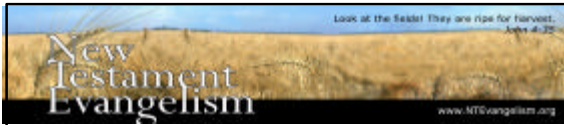
- Simple format:
 - Food
 - Fellowship
 - Singing
 - A Scripture study or message
 - Sharing
 - Prayer



Case Studies of Three SDA Churches

A Pennsylvania House Church:

- The Good News:
 - It is growing – 49 people in 4 years, now two house churches about 10 miles apart
 - Reactivated some Adventists who were turned off by the traditional church services and politics
 - Deep bonding with people – there are no spectators in a house church
 - Personal growth



Case Studies of Three SDA Churches

A Pennsylvania House Church:

- The Bad News:
 - Resistance from the established members – felt they were being abandoned. “When are you coming back?”
 - When people stop coming, it really hurts. The bonds developed in house churches run very deep.
 - Having house church = trashed house when done
 - It takes commitment
 - Developing relationships takes effort



Case Studies of Three SDA Churches

A Pennsylvania House Church:

- The fruit:
 - 2 to 49 in 4 years
 - Second house church
 - Revitalized sense of personal mission
 - Deep and intimate friendships

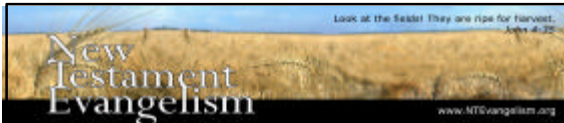


Case Studies of Three SDA Churches

A Pennsylvania House Church:

The answer to going back to a “traditional” church?

“NEVER!”
They are having too much fun.



Case Studies of Three SDA Churches

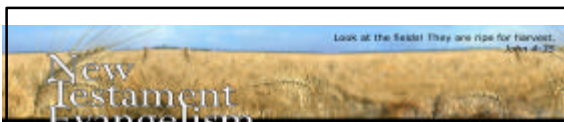
South Tulsa Church Plant: *How quality and a focus on evangelism created new growth opportunities*



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The Process:

- Bill McClendon – businessman, sold business
- Originally asked to start a new church by himself
- Asked for five leadership families
- Spent nine months meeting, planning, praying



Case Studies of Three SDA Churches

His Description:

Look at the field! They are ripe for harvest. John 4:35



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Case Studies of Three SDA Churches

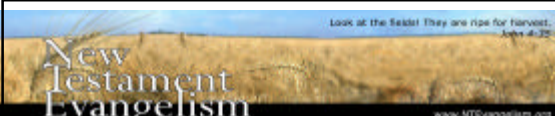
Mother Church:

- 200 attending in 1999
- 200 attending in 2003

South Tulsa Adventist Fellowship:

- 15 adults, 12 children in 2000
- 300 attending in 2003
- 400 attending in 2004

Look at the field! They are ripe for harvest. John 4:35




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Case Studies of Three SDA Churches

**The Texas SDA Conference:
Richardson, TX (North Dallas)**

- 1998
 - (1) Church
 - (415) In attendance

Look at the field! They are ripe for harvest. John 4:35

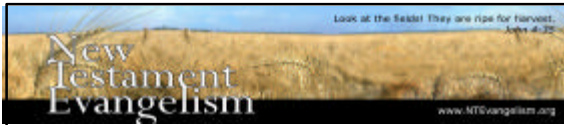


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Case Studies of Three SDA Churches

The Texas SDA Conference: Richardson, TX

- 2000 – Mosaic Christian Fellowship
- 2001 – Richardson Spanish
- 2001 – New Life African
- 2002 – North Dallas Brazilian
- 2003 – Dallas Metroplex Zimbabwean
- 2003 – Plano Spanish



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The Texas SDA Conference: Richardson, TX

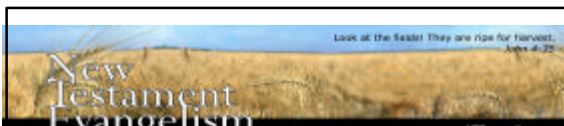
- 2000 – Mosaic Christian Fellowship (200)
- 2001 – Richardson Spanish (375)
- 2001 – New Life African (200)
- 2002 – North Dallas Brazilian (60)
- 2003 – Dallas Metroplex Zimbabwean (60)
- 2003 – Plano Spanish (75)
- 2004 – Richardson Mother Church (550)



Case Studies of Three SDA Churches

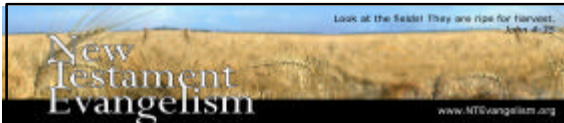
The Texas SDA Conference: Richardson, TX

- 1998 – 415 attendance
- 2003 – 1,520 attendance
- Net gain of 1,105 new people



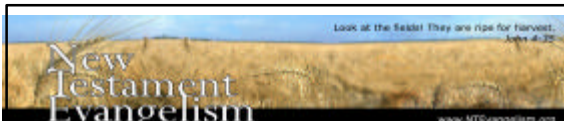
Case Studies of Three SDA Churches

- Dallas Area Statistics from 1999 to 2003
- Nine new churches
- 1,532 new members (+ 34.5%)
 - 4,438 members to 5,970 members
- \$1,168,519 increase in tithe/donations (+ 32.9%)



Case Studies of Three SDA Churches

- The Texas SDA Conference: Richardson, TX**
- 1998 – 415 attendance
 - 2003 – 1,520 attendance
 - Net gain of 1,105 new people
 - Dallas area: 1,532 new people from 1999 to 2003
 - Where did most of the growth come from?
 - Healthy Sabbatarian churches planting new healthy Sabbatarian churches attract new members



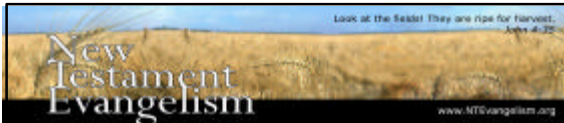
Case Studies of Three SDA Churches

- What are the Differences?**
- Commitment to Evangelism – Mission Focus
 - Evangelism = Why We Are Called Now
 - Expectation of Fruit
 - Support From Leadership
 - 85% Support Rule
 - Solved Mother Church Problems First
 - Allocation of Resources
 - Freedom to Try



Case Studies of Three SDA Churches

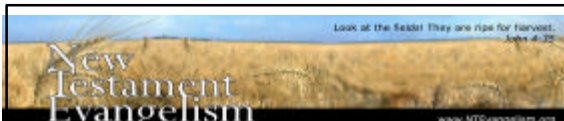
- What are the Differences?**
- They Use NCD – Natural Church Development – to Improve Quality and Church Health
 - High Quality Churches Grow



Case Studies of Three SDA Churches

What Are Their Practical Steps?

- Prove the Theology of Evangelism
- Simplify to Sound Doctrine
- Study Natural Church Development and Implement It
 - Church health and quality are in our control
 - Unhealthy churches need to be healed or they will die
- Don't Wait to be Ready Before You Evangelize
 - Evangelism helps make us healthy
 - Most things work in healthy churches. Nothing seems to work in unhealthy churches.



Are you a keeper of an aquarium ...



... or a Fisher of Men?
