**RECRUITING AND RETAINING ASC MEMBERS**

Luke reports that Jesus declares, “*The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few*,” addressing his disciples, those in attendance, and consequently, those moving forward faithfully in mission through the corridors of time. Thus, according to Luke 10:2, Jesus continues to announce, “*Request that the Lord of the Harvest send labourers into his harvest field*.”

The work that the church is called to undertake is tremendous. If the church is to function at its best, total membership involvement is necessary. The work cannot be delegated to a small group of people.

The 2001 World Survey reports that only 29% of our members are involved in their community. One of the goals then was to raise our community involvement to 40% by the year 2010. Churches were invited to join in meeting with the goal—of continually increasing the ranks of God’s mighty community services army. The invitation is still extended today.

As leaders in community services, we must remember that the church committed to community service and mission when they reaffirmed their baptismal vows. ALL of them have enlisted in the service of Christ. The church is there to receive revelation from God. The church is ready to be released on mission.

AS COMMUNITY SERVICES LEADERS, YOU ARE NOT CALLED TO **RECRUIT** WORKER – YOU ARE CALLED TO **RELEASE** THEM.

Seven points to release and retain them as Community Services Leaders:

1. **TALK THEOLOGY**

The members want to know what God has said. What does the Lord require?

God speaks to the church in Isaiah 58:6-7

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Jesus spoke to the church in Luke 4:18

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James 1:27

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Let The Church Know What Is Requires!

Every Seventh-day Adventist church has been called by God to be a catalyst for change in its community, imitating Jesus and using compassionate ministries to deliver hope and assistance in the name of Jesus. (Isaiah 58:6, 7; James 1:27; Luke 4:18; Ministry of Healing, p. 143).

1. **THINK MISSION**

Romans 12:2 (New Living Translation (NLT)) says, “… let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.”

Think Mission. Be passionate about your mission. Focus on Mission, LET IT CONSUME YOU!

We are called to lead a mission, not a department. Properly articulating the church’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is one way to help members see the opportunities available for their involvement. In this way, they can fully embrace the concept and see how they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in and how exactly they can \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

The mission of Adventist Community Services (ACS): is to serve communities in Christ’s name.

*Think Mission: Share the Need and Vision.*

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People will be more likely to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the work at hand if they are made to fully understand the potential implications of their participation.

In order to loose members and prevent them from losing interest in being active. Have the structures and procedures that encourage members to become involved. These procedures should be clear and structured.

Our business is mission-related. The mission is the business of the church. Keep the right focus alive in each one of your initiatives. In time, you will reach more, release more, and retain more. Remember to regularly evaluate your focus and initiatives. Frequent evaluations avoid transforming our movement into just a monument (Erton Kohler, Secretary GC). So, EVALUATE, KEEP FRESH & FOCUSED. YOU WILL LOOSE THEM and NOT LOSE THEM!

1. **WALK PRAYFULLY**

Jesus used this as a means of expanding the mission's personnel resources.

Mark 1:35

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Luke 10:2

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John 17:17

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It would be imprudent of the church to disregard this same power that Jesus called on and not ask God to step in and supply steadfast servants for his ministry.

It is necessary to seek God’s input; after all, it is His work, so He will provide labourers and mission-minded people who are eager to be involved.

Keep doing as the Apostle Paul encourages us to do: “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints” (Ephesians 6:18).

1. Pray for the Worker.

We have to trust God to provide capable and willing members for the church’s Community Services.

1. Pray for the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit comes and produces a revolution in the church’s mission. The Holy Spirit is standing to support the work of the church (Act.1:8 - KJV).

“But ye shall receive power; after that the Holy Ghost comes upon you: and ye shall be ASC Members in SW, SE, MS, C. NW, NNW, NNE. And NE the uttermost part of SCC”

The Holy Spirit wants to partner with the members to become a part of this mission to bring others to Christ. Once they own up to the mission, they will automatically become more involved and stay involved.

1. Pray for divine wisdom

Pray for a clear vision of what is possible with God’s help and who can become His servants.

1. **WORK WITH YOUR FAMILY**

Work with everyone in your family.

Encourage members to get their family and friends involved in ASC.

* Joshua 24:15

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* 1 Timothy 5:8

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* Mark 9: Go home to your friend.

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* John, Go call your husband.

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* Acts 1: 8 Go home to Jerusalem.

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When members are involved in getting their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to become ASC members of the church, they themselves become more invested in the church and will more likely be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ actively involved.

1. **GET YOUR BOARD ON BOARD**

The mission needs to be the priority of each department.

On the board, seek to do the following:

1. Explain the results of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the data you have acquired, and their implications.
2. Describe the precise, attainable, and quantifiable \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that you feel the Holy Spirit is urging ACS to follow in light of the assessment.
3. Describe the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that this community offers ACS.
4. Describe any \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the church could create for this neighbourhood.
5. Take note of all the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, even the ones that have little to do with the areas you serve.
6. Talk about internal and societal \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that can be mobilized to support the initiatives that the church may decide to implement.
7. **BE RELATIONAL**

Your objective is to establish relationships, not to recruit. Get to know your church's members: their giftedness. Guide them in realizing which of the roles in ACS best suit their interests and abilities.

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ is equally the responsibility of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who believes in Him.

“To \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ …is given” \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and therefore some responsibility, to minister in Christ’s name (1 Corinthians 12:7)

The Holy Spirit provides “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” that enable believers to engage in “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” (1 Corinthians 12:4-5).

To “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” believer “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” has been given “to prepare God’s people for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, so that the body of Christ may be built up” (Ephesians 4:7-12).

* Get to know the YOUTH of your congregation.

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* Utilize this resource instead of overlooking it.
* Young people can assist ACS by bringing in and implementing fresh concepts.
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* Young people can assist ACS by bringing in and implementing fresh concepts.
* Demonstrate enthusiasm.

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* Know what you need.

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* Describe your vision for their involvement.

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1. **IMITATE JESUS**

*God has called every Seventh-day Adventist Church be a transforming agent in its community, following the methods of Jesus to bring help and hope through ministries of compassion in His name* (Luke 4:16 - 21; Ministry of Healing, p. 143).

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
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Those who do God's work, using God's methods, will achieve God’s results. Mission produce results. Mission is a result of discipleship. Discipleship, is people taking care of people to multiply more people. In the mission, we lead people to be disciples. In discipleship we lead people back to the mission (Erton Kohler, Secretary, GC).