**Carolina Conference of SDA**

**Men’s Ministries Department**

**Starting Men’s Ministry Suggestions**

**Pastor Tony LaPorte**

Scope: There has been a steady declination of men’s spiritual involvement in our Churches. It appears that the role of men as “spiritual leaders” has been marked with less interest in the churches and in the households. There is a great need to reach out and minister to men and encourage them to find their way back to Jesus and re-establish their role as spiritual leaders.

Purpose:

1. To develop and maintain an active Men’s Ministry program in the local churches.
2. To refocus men’s roles as spiritual leaders and mentors.
3. To create a “Men’s Ministry Environment” where trusting relationships, friendships and camaraderie may be established among men.

Procedures:

1. Pray, pray, pray for the wisdom, understanding and patience needed.
2. Proclaim in prayer: Psalm 32:8 “I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.” Also Jeremiah 33:3 “Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.”

It is imperative that you submit to the guidance and teaching of the Lord as you commence your local Men’s Ministry.

1. Initiate a survey: This survey should be done at least three (3) weeks in a row; it takes that many attempts to reach all your men. You might want to consider mailing the survey to the men that you were unable to reach.
2. Gather findings and call for a meeting: (Know what expertise you have among the men)
3. Create a mission statement
4. Cast a vision
5. Brain storm for a possible project to initiate your first event

 Note: It is important to start your first MM activity with a project of choice, selected by the men. It will take several projects of the “men” working together before they build camaraderie, trusting relationships and a safe haven to express themselves openly to other men. Remember you need to create a safe atmosphere for men to open up and talk.

Examples of Projects and Events: (List is not in any particular order)

1. Changing a roof for anyone in the community, church member
2. Painting a house
3. Simple auto services: Tune ups (for those that can’t afford it or are on a fixed income)
4. Bowling, fishing, sport events
5. Cleaning yards
6. Big Brother program (mentoring)
7. Improving a community playground or build one
8. Organize “Emergency Response Group” (for the community and church)
9. Prayer Ministry and Bible study groups for men

The list mentioned above is only suggestions; there are many other projects that can be accomplished. This is why the “Brainstorming” session is important to identify definitive projects to be realized.

1. In the planning sessions, using the five “Ws” must be:

 **What** is the project or event?

 **Why**- reason for the project/event?

 **Who** will be participating in the project/event?

 **Where** is the project or event to be held?

 **When** is the project or activity to be accomplished?

Remember that bad planning will result in bad results or no project. Men like to be organized, so don’t plan without organization or try to accomplish a project without organization. So bear in mind throughout the planning session the following suggestions/questions should accompany your set goals for your activity.

* Choose a simple project/event at first
* Is this planned project an election of the men or me?
* Are the projects /events doable and realistic?
* Prioritized your plan events/projects
1. Create a contact list (names, phone and addresses) and give a copy to all the men.
2. Establish a “Men’s Ministries” fund (request at the church board)
3. Exchange your contact information with other MM leaders (Helps to share ideas and if close enough, may plan an event together with another church MM)
4. Look for resources (books, DVD’s, Quick Start Guide)
5. Plan a yearly MM weekend at your local church
6. Contact the MM Department for any questions or resources
7. Conference MM Coordinator may be available for presentations/seminars

May the Lord bless your efforts in establishing an active MM in your Church. Stay encouraged, be patient, don’t get frustrated. Keep the following promises ever before you: “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.” Gal. 6:9 The Apostle Paul also reminds us, “Therefore, my brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain.” 1Cor. 15:58

**Contact Information**

1. Conference Men’s Ministries Department

(704) 596-3200 Ask to be connected to the MM Dept.

 Secretary: Jayme Rouse Email: jrouse@carolinasda.org

1. Pastor Tony LaPorte

(314) 703-8356 Email: tlaporte@carolinasda.org