



SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST
CHURCH

North American Division

June 18, 2009

Elder Milton Adams
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Office of the President

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Dear Milton:

Thank you for allowing Marti and me to visit your church and to be a part of your worship service, as well as the afternoon and evening events.

While it is impossible to completely evaluate everything in a visit of just one day, there are a few things that I really appreciated.

1. Your Simple Church group was not just a rearrangement of the Adventists of the area. Besides you and your wife, I met the Adventist couple that completes your leadership team. They are obviously members of some leadership experience, but others were definitely new to the Adventist Church. I was so happy that the new believers had found a place where they could worship. They could only find the Bible texts because page numbers were given. They had not yet starting dressing like other church members. And they were very open about their struggles, their failures and their victories. Thank you for being there for them.
2. Church planting can be tough on kids. You did a nice job of involving your own children and the other kids as you led the worship.
3. Even the very new attendees—it was their first Sabbath—were included in reading scripture and giving testimonies. It was wonderful.
4. When your new believers talked about what was good about their week and made their prayer requests, I was moved.
5. The noon meal was an important teaching time. Your wife put out the signup sheet for the next Sabbath's lunch, but she had already signed up for any part where meat might be included. This insured that the meal would be vegetarian. You even provided for a special line for any who wished to have a vegan diet.
6. The signup sheet also helped people commit to being there the next week because they had committed to bring part of the lunch.

7. Strong appeals were made to accept Jesus and receive baptism . . . and yet the appeals were tactful and engaging.
8. An earliteen girl was planning for baptism soon, but you wisely arranged for her mother to attend Simple Church first. She came to learn what her daughter was joining. But you also included the mother in a way that will make it possible for her to learn about the church and perhaps make a commitment to being baptized, too, down the road.
9. Since the meeting is in your home, your library is there for everyone to see. What a good way to help people become acquainted with such books as the *Bible Stories* for kids and the Spirit of Prophecy books!
10. Your commitment to the Adventist Church is obvious because you take members to such events as the Mark Finley evangelistic meetings and the local camp meeting. You even said that you expect your members to help with evangelistic meetings at least once a year.
11. Even though a number of the people were not members, you included them all in the afternoon witnessing. It was a good way to teach witnessing and to teach Sabbath keeping.
12. When you spoke with the out-of-town group that you were coaching, you were very strong about the idea that all tithe would need to go to the conference where the members were located, and that all church funds would need to be handled by the appointed church treasurer who would be audited by the conference. Thank you for maintaining the integrity of the tithe and offerings.
13. Several times in this coaching call, you emphasized the need to be working with the local conference in which they reside. Good!

Milton, we enjoyed a wonderful Sabbath with you. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of Simple Church, if only for one day.

Sincerely,

Don C. Schneider

Don C. Schneider
President