

## THE MINISTRY THAT DIED AND NOBODY NOTICED

Total Member Involvement | Session 4  
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### THE MOSES MODEL

The Problem: Pastor Dependency

**Exodus 18:13-18** “The thing that you do is not good. Both you and these people who are with you will surely wear yourselves out. For this thing is too much for you; you are not able to perform it by yourself.”

The Solution: Total Member Involvement

**Exodus 18:19-23** Listen now to my voice... you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do. Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. And let them judge the people at all times.”

The four responsibilities of Moses' job as church leader of Israel:

1. Teach the people God's statutes and the laws.
2. Show the people “the ways in which they must walk and the work they must do.”
3. Select leaders and place them in positions of responsibility.
4. Let the appointed local leaders “judge the people at all times” while Moses dealt with “every great matter.”

Years later, however, the Israelites reverted, crying out for a stronger, central leader.

**1 Samuel 8:4, 5** Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, and said to him... Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.”

### THE APOSTOLIC EXPERIENCE

**Acts 2:44-47** Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need...

**Acts 4:32-35** Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common... Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.

**Acts 6:1** Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution.

***The Ministry of Healing, p. 147*** Everywhere there is a tendency to substitute the work of organizations for individual effort. Human wisdom tends to consolidation, to centralization, to the building up of great churches and institutions. Multitudes leave to institutions and organizations the work of benevolence; they excuse themselves from contact with the world, and their hearts grow cold. They become self-absorbed and unimpressible. Love for God and man dies out of the soul. Christ commits to His followers an individual work,-- a work that cannot be done by proxy. Ministry to the sick and the poor, the giving of the gospel to the lost, is not to be left to committees or organized charities. Individual responsibility, individual effort, personal sacrifice, is the requirement of the gospel.

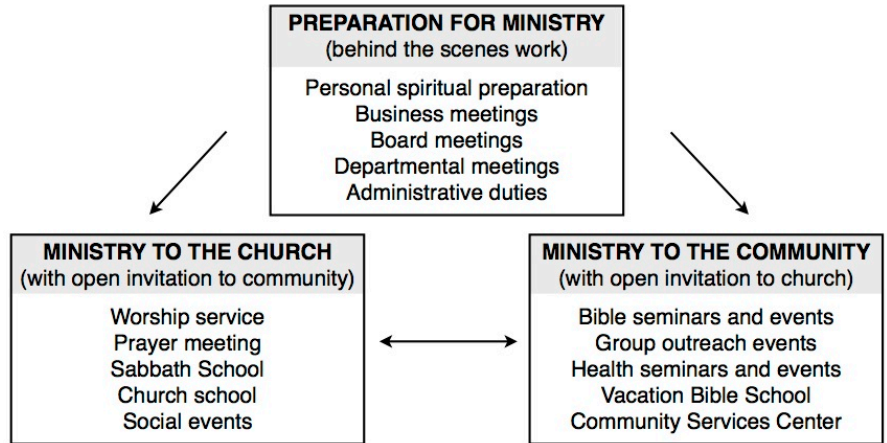
**Acts 6:2-4** Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” ... Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

## TYPICAL SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST MINISTRY STRUCTURE TODAY

In a previous presentation, we saw how the Seventh-day Adventist movement grow rapidly by the work of local church members who were trained to care for the services and various ministries of the local church. Sadly, like the Israelites of old and the early church believers, we seem to have drifted away from God's ideal.

Most Seventh-day Adventist churches probably function this way. At first glance, everything seems fine:

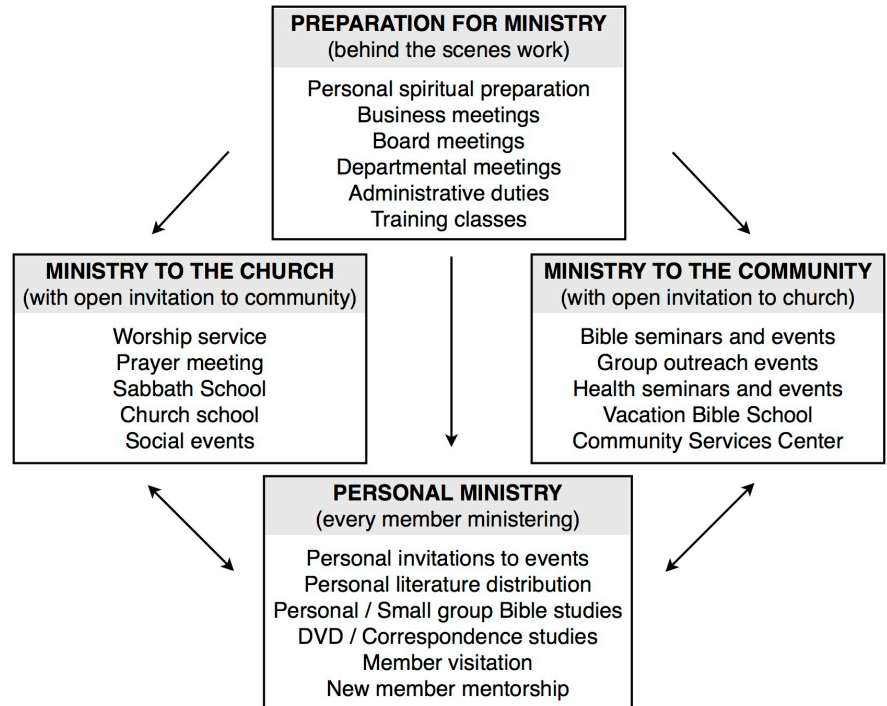
- ✓ Administrative work
- ✓ Ministry to the church family and the community
- ✓ Plenty of activities and programs, and even public evangelism
- ✓ Perhaps even steady tithe, stable membership, and healthy budget



## TRAINING CENTER CHURCH MINISTRY STRUCTURE

In a training center church, the primary objective is training, equipping, and employing all members in personal soul-winning labor and care for each other.

- ✓ First work of the board is evangelism in all its phases and the spiritual nurture of all members
- ✓ Classes held for all members to be effective personal soul-winners
- ✓ All corporate outreach activities, including evangelistic campaigns, simply augment ongoing personal work of the individual church members



**Christian Service, p. 121** Your work may accomplish more real good than the more extensive meetings, if they lack in personal effort. When both are combined, with the blessing of God, a more perfect and thorough work may be wrought; but if we can have but one part done, let it be the individual labor of opening the Scriptures in households, making personal appeals, and talking familiarly with the members of the family, not about things of little importance, but of the great themes of redemption.

**Christian Service, p. 12** The real character of the church is measured, not by the high profession she makes, not by the names enrolled upon the church book, but by what she is actually doing for the Master, by the number of her persevering, faithful workers. Personal interest, and vigilant, individual effort will accomplish more for the cause of Christ than can be wrought by sermons or creeds.