

# RETOOL YOUR SCHOOL!

## Part 3

**REVIEW**

# MONDAY?

## THE POWER OF WONDER

- “If, instead of preaching to them, the speaker would try to teach them, speaking in a conversational tone and asking them questions, their minds would be aroused to activity, and they would be able more clearly to comprehend the words spoken.” {GW 167.1}

# Personal qualifications of a successful Sabbath School teacher (TUESDAY)

**1. A knowledge of Christ**

**2. A knowledge of the Bible**

**3. A knowledge of the students**

**4. A knowledge of self**



**SABBATH SCHOOL'S  
MAIN GOAL**

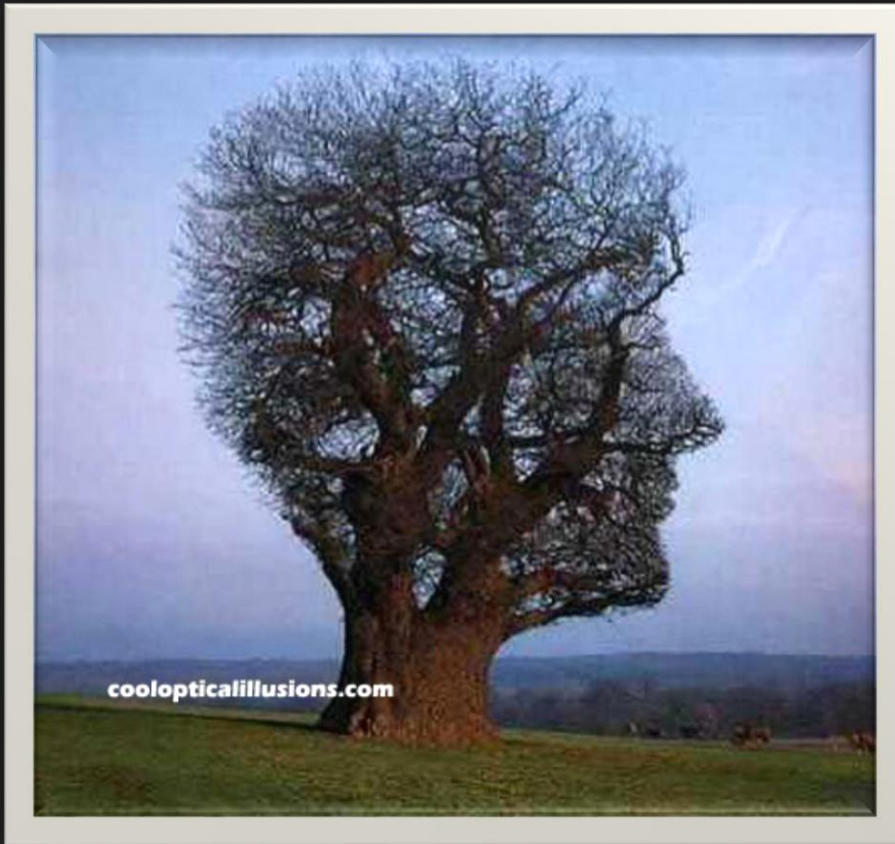
Do you remember the fig tree incident?



# What did it mean to you?

- **MATTHEW 21:19** And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away.
- **MATTHEW 21:20** And when the disciples saw [it], they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away!





MAN = TREE

"1 ¶ Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the \*ungodly... 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not \*wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

Psalm 1:1-3

So how  
do trees  
produce  
fruit?





# The Process of Photosynthesis!



So what is light symbolic of in the Bible?



# Light is truth!



“Thy word [is] a lamp  
unto my feet, and a  
light unto my path.” –  
Psalm 119:105

“Good and evil never harmonize. Between light and  
darkness there can be no compromise. Truth is light  
revealed; error is darkness. Light has no fellowship with  
darkness, righteousness no fellowship with  
unrighteousness. . . . {HP 260.3}

***“The souls who love God, who believe in Christ, and who eagerly grasp every ray of light, will see light, and rejoice in the truth. They will communicate the light. They will grow in holiness. Those who receive the Holy Spirit will feel the chilling atmosphere that surrounds the souls of others by whom these great and solemn realities are unappreciated, and spoken against. They feel that they are in the council of the ungodly, of men who stand in the way of sinners, and sit in the seat of the scornful.” {1888 1335.1}***



THE ABUNDANT LIGHT FROM THE SUN SHOULD  
NATURALLY PRODUCE FRUIT!



WHAT DOES THE FRUIT THEN SYMBOLIZE?





## ACTIONS!

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Galatians 5:23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.





“A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither [can] a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore **by their fruits** ye shall know them.”

MATTHEW 7:18-20

Sabbath School is intended to  
increase faith and works!



# The Mission of the Sabbath School

The mission of the Sabbath School is to be a system of local church religious education that builds **faith and practice**. The Sabbath School is based at the local church. It builds faith through the study of the Scriptures and the doctrines and teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

It builds practice through the application of biblical principles and the teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to the individual lives of the Sabbath School members.

# SOUL WINNING ALSO!

- **The object of Sabbath school work** should be the ingathering of souls. The order of working may be faultless, the facilities all that could be desired; but if the children and youth are not brought to Christ, the school is a failure; for unless souls are drawn to Christ, they become more and more unimpressionable under the influence of a formal religion. The teacher should cooperate, as he knocks at the door of the heart of those who need help. If pupils respond to the pleading of the Spirit, and open the door of the heart, that Jesus may come in, He will open their understanding, that they may comprehend the things of God. The teacher's work is simple work, but if it is done in the Spirit of Jesus, depth and efficiency will be added to it by the operation of the Spirit of God. {CSW 61.1}

# SABBATH SCHOOL THEN AND NOW...

LOOK AT LESSON STUDIES



# Two phases



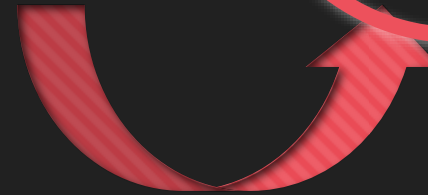
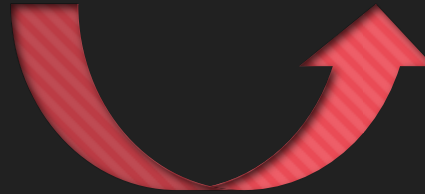
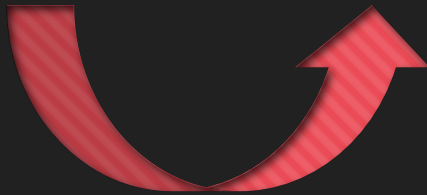
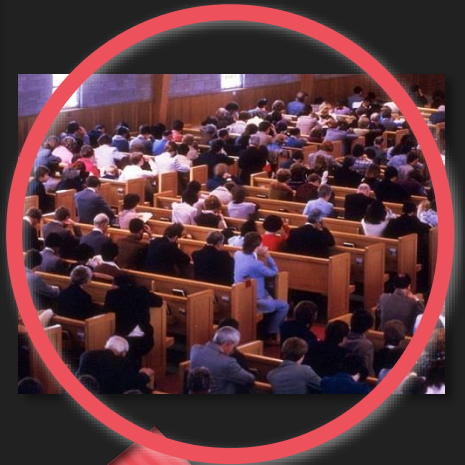
Conversion Phase



Discipleship Phase



# The conversion process



Now what?

The discipleship  
process continues

• • •



# WHY TAKE ATTENDANCE?

- Sabbath School attendance shows member care... Some have gotten old age pension and they're legal documents = 2<sup>nd</sup> qtr 2015 = ss convention leaflet
- Did Jesus say stay with the 99 and let the 1 one find it's way back or...?

# Why do people drop out?

- Call of the world
- Lack of fellowship
- Personality clashes
- Force of habit and lifestyle issues

# Problem 1 - The call of the world

- Friends, relatives, former lifestyle habits, examples of inconsistency in church members
- Sabbath problems at work



## Problem 2 - Lack of fellowship

Function	Ratio	Explanation
Friendship	1:6	Each new member should have a minimum of seven new friends in the church within the first six months.
Member/group involvement	75:100	75 of every 100 church members should be involved in a group.
New member group involvement	9:10	Nine of every ten new members should be involved in a small group.



# Problem 3 - Personality clashes with people in the church



## Problem 3 - Personality clashes with people in the church (cont.)

“Old guard” “gatekeeper” traditionalists who do not really want new members in the church because it disturbs the power structure.

Church members who “lock out” new members and don’t even realize they are doing it.

HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED THIS OR THE  
OPPOSITE?

## Problem 3 - Personality clashes with people in the church (cont.)

They unconsciously want to “protect” their “church home” from “outside” influences, and they see this as a perfectly legitimate attitude in line with Christian “standards.”

Intolerant church members who insist that new members must immediately meet their personal standards.

## Problem 3 - Personality clashes with people in the church (cont.)

Church members' impatience with new members' unfamiliarity with Adventist church practices.

Unfortunate use of Adventist "vocabulary" and lack of common sense in dealing with new members.

## Problem 3 - Personality clashes with people in the church (cont.)

Inability of the new member to find a social “home” in the church.

“Locked out” new members is one of the most common reasons why people leave.





## Problem 4- Force of habit

- People's lifestyle cause them to form habits that keep them from church.
- Tired, too much to do, etc.

If someone is absent three Sabbaths in a row, and no one knows where they are, it is a sign that something is wrong!

# What new members don't understand



New members come from many different backgrounds and usually do not understand many Adventist ways of doing things.

# Assimilating and retaining new members in the Church



What can Sabbath School do?

**SABBATH SCHOOL  
ACTION UNITS!**

**(Small Groups!)**

“Our Sabbath schools are not what the Lord would have them to be, for there is altogether **too much dependence placed upon form and machinery**, while the life-giving power of God is not manifested for the conversion of souls, for whom Christ died. This order of things must be changed if our Sabbath schools meet the purpose for which they exist.”

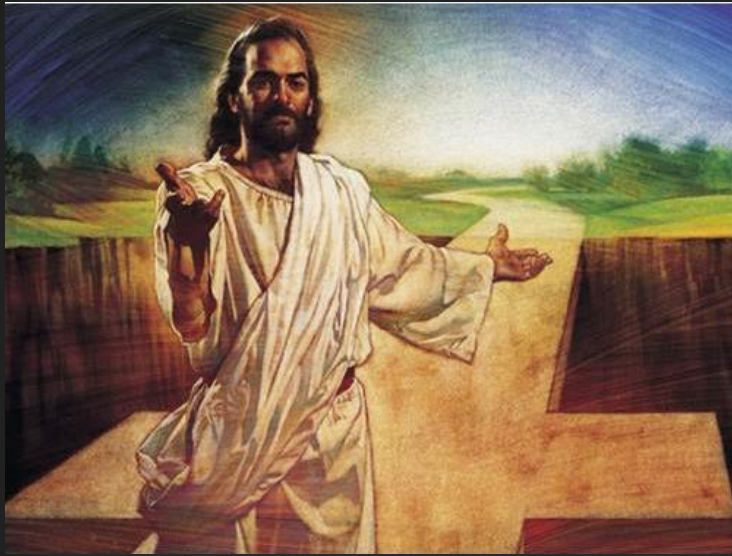
—*Counsels to Teachers*, p. 41





“How sad it is to think of the great amount of mechanical work that is done in the Sabbath school, while there is little evidence that there is moral transformation in the souls of those who teach and who are taught!”

—*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*,  
p. 66



“There is much to be done in the Sabbath School work also, in bringing the people to realize their obligation and to act their part. God calls them to work for Him, and the ministers should guide them in their effort.”

—*5 Testimonies*, p. 256

# Sabbath School objectives

**Spiritual  
nurture  
(Bible study)**

**Fellowship**

**Community  
outreach**

**World  
missions**

# Testimonies of Sabbath School action units

- From 20-100 in six weeks: Portland Oregon
- Fifty families returned: Holland, Michigan
- Sixty brought back 31: Owasso, Michigan
- A transformed church: Iona, Michigan  
and Saginaw, Michigan
- Four non-Adventists came to Paradise  
Valley, Arizona

# Testimonies of Sabbath School action units (cont.)

- Back to Church after 30 years:  
Grand Rapids, Michigan
- A 15%-90% increase in daily lesson  
study  
in two months, Owasso, Michigan.
- Woman discovered her spiritual gift,  
Baltimore First.



# The formation of small groups

“The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort is a plan that has been presented before me by One who cannot err. If there is a large number in the church, let the members be formed into small companies, to work not only for the church members but for unbelievers also.”

—*Evangelism*, p. 115



# THE MONTREAL ADVENTIST MEETUP



# HOW WILL YOU TAKE HOLD?

- “We are to stand in this world as though there were all around us the purchase of the blood of Christ, and as though it depended very much upon our words, deportment, and manner of labor, whether these souls shall be saved or not. . . . It depends very much on the way we take hold to labor whether we shall have souls as the result of our efforts.”

-Manuscript 14, 1887. {Ev 140.2}





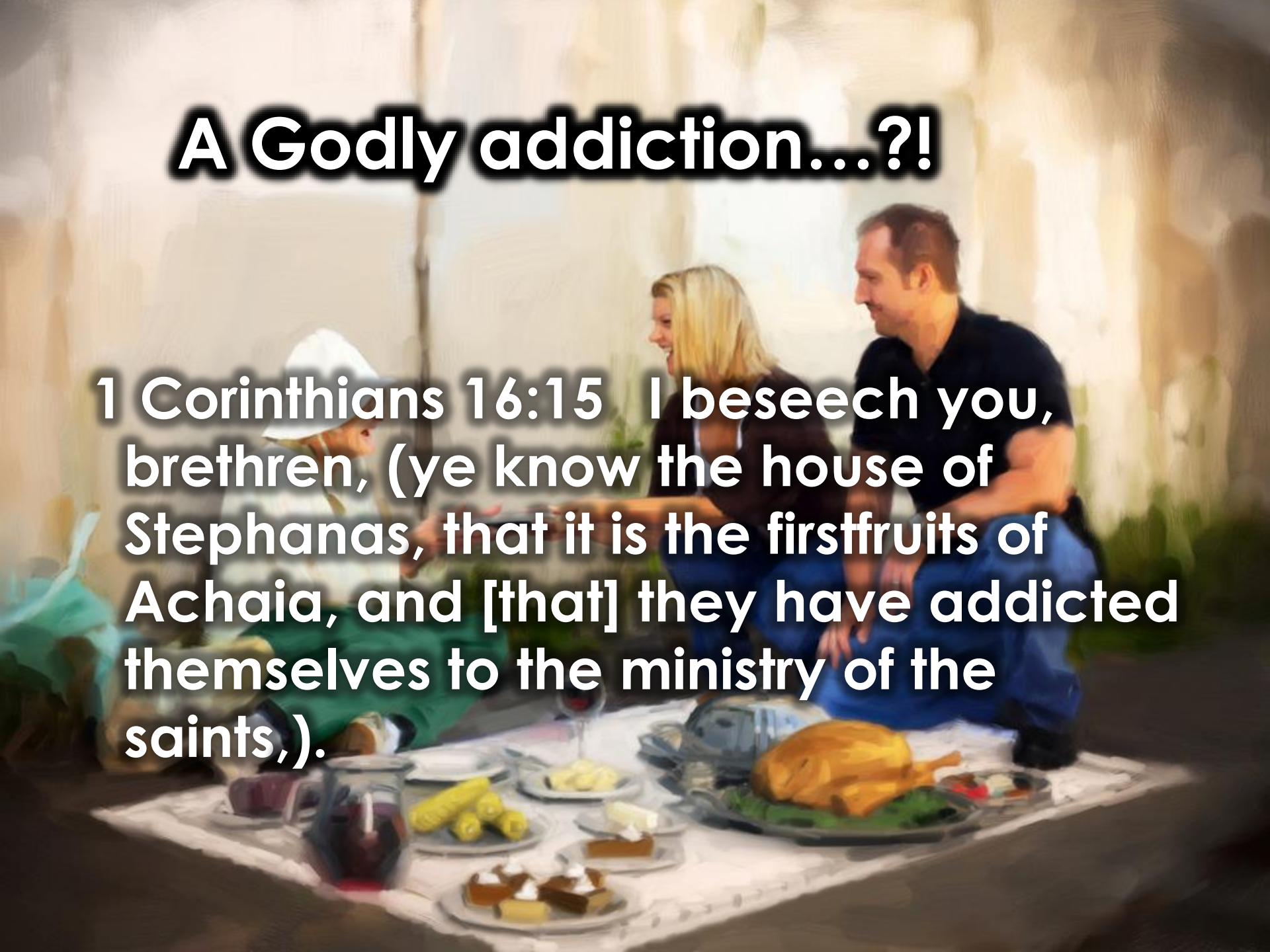






# A Godly addiction...?!

1 Corinthians 16:15 I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and [that] they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,).

A photograph of a man and a woman sitting at a table with a large roasted bird and other dishes, talking to a priest in a white habit. The scene is set in a room with a white wall and a window with sheer curtains. The table is covered with a white tablecloth and has several plates of food, including a large roasted bird, corn, and bread. A glass of red wine is also on the table. The man and woman are looking at the priest, who is gesturing with his hands as he speaks.

# The Addiction Explained...

**“A rich reward will be given to the true workers, who put all there is of them into the work. There is no greater bliss on this side of heaven than in winning souls to Christ. Joy fills the heart as the workers realize that this great miracle could never have been wrought by human agencies, but only through the One who loves souls ready to perish.**

”

..



# **The Addiction Explained...**

**...The divine presence is close beside every true worker, making souls penitent. Thus the Christian brotherhood is formed. The worker and those worked for are touched with the love of Christ. Heart touches heart, and the blending of soul with soul is like the heavenly intercourse between ministering angels."**

**-Evangelism pg. 333.3**

# THE FAITH & LIFE INTERSECT





We want our faith experience to pour  
into our weekly lives instead of the other  
way around!



When faith is tied to a building faith can be shallow, but when faith is tied to an experience beyond a building that is when it shines!





# Sabbath School Action Unit potential

- Provide an excellent “training school.”
- Turn spectators into participants.
- Prepare members for effective outreach.
- Enable members to win and retain backsliders.
- Assist members to reach their own goals.

# Sabbath School Action Unit potential (cont.)

- Contribute to a finished work through focused, coordinated effort.
- Provide assistance to most church projects and activities.

# Sabbath School Action Unit plan

- Classes of six to eight
- Outreach leaders - care coordinator
- Outreach plan
- Class time - one hour
- Time for missing class members
- Time for outreach
- Lesson discussion application



# Sabbath School Action Unit plan (cont.)

- Monthly corporate sharing
- Monthly home fellowship/  
evaluation
- Weekly, then monthly leader  
consultation



# Class needs

**Class size of 6-8**

**Outreach leader**

**Outreach plan**

**Time (25 minutes)**

# The key of discipleship



Small Groups



Sabbath  
School Action  
Units



A man with long brown hair and a beard, dressed in a white robe with a purple sash, stands in a field of tall green grass. He is holding a red sign with white text that says "HELP WANTED". Above his head is a white thought bubble containing the text "THE LABORERS ARE FEW!". In the background, there is a stone building with two large, arched stained-glass windows. The windows have a grid pattern and are filled with various colors including green, purple, and blue. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

THE  
LABORERS  
ARE FEW!

HELP  
WANTED

# RESOURCES

- [www.creativeministry.org](http://www.creativeministry.org)
- <http://www.sabbathschoolpersonalministries.org>
- <http://festivalofthelaity.com>
- <http://www.adventsource.org>
- [www.Adventnorth.ca](http://www.Adventnorth.ca) (Canadian store carrying similar products to Advent Source.)
- REINVENT YOUR SABBATH SCHOOL by Chris and Yolanda Blake
- International Institute of Christian Ministries (IICM)

