



# ministry is rather . . .

# P E R S O N A L !

*BOL Personal Ministries has established some ambitious goals and launched a proactive soul-winning campaign, “Won by One.” Following is an interview with PM Leader Carla Lindsay, who shares her committee’s vision, hopes and urgency for this churchwide effort.*

**BOL: What really is personal ministry?**

**Carla:** Personal ministry is essentially one-on-one evangelism—serving others and witnessing to them about God’s love, His truth, and His goodness.

**BOL: As leader of this ministry, what do you want members to understand about personal ministry?**

**Carla:** I want everyone to understand the importance of a familiar statement by evangelist John Collins: “Shepherds don’t produce sheep; *sheep* produce sheep.” The Lord, himself has given His church the Great Commission to witness, teach and baptize souls. That’s the primary reason the church exists—to carry out this mission. That’s why I love the theme we chose for our efforts this year: “**Won by One,**” which was coined by Elder Collins and used with his permission. It drives home the fact that it takes one to win one. The *Won by One* arm bracelets we have distributed remind each of us that we may be the only “Bible” someone ever “reads.” Therefore, it is imperative that we “*walk the talk.*” You just may be the one who the Lord has sent to win an individual to Him. What a shame if we’re unable to say that someone has accepted the Lord partly because of our outreach, witness or testimony. Even more shameful is a missed witnessing opportunity, or a situation where someone no longer fellowships with us due to an unkind word or action on our part.

**BOL: How do you and your committee hope to promote this vital ministry and encourage members to engage in personal evangelism/witnessing?**

**Carla:** By doing a better job ministering first to our own church family and then reaching out. We’re encouraging everyone to get to know each other and warmly welcome our guests in alliance with the ushers and greeters. We also plan to establish a weekly Sabbath lunch for visitors so they will have a place to go for fellowship after worship. Remember, truth typically draws people into the church, but *fellowship* keeps them there. We will also partner with the Interest Committee to develop a data base of “interested individuals” and foster that interest according to their specific needs. We’ll work with “*It Is Written*” to follow up on interested individual leads in the community and establish a network of Bible studies. We also plan to produce a short film featuring the personal conviction testimonies of our members. And we plan to reinstate our “brown bag” study/discussion sessions with Pastor Frazier. Finally, we’re planning regular

“walkabouts” in the Westchester community to nurture relationships with our neighbors.

**BOL: What are some practical ways we can witness?**

**Carla:** Invite people to worship and to church activities! Share religious tracts and pamphlets with family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers. Invite guests home for a Sabbath meal. Send a subscription to our denominational magazines to individuals and businesses within your sphere of influence. Give Bible studies. Become actively involved in one or more church ministries. Get involved in community groups and activities, and let your light shine. Respond to others’ needs—even when it isn’t convenient. Share your testimony, particularly what the Lord has done for you. Be *inclusive*, not *exclusive*!

**BOL: What are some things you do to personally foster and enhance your witness?**

**Carla:** I carry BOL outreach cards and bookmarks with me at all times! I invite my patients, coworkers, friends and family all the time to join me for worship. If they don’t respond the first time, I ask them again a bit later or tell them what a great weekend I had with my church family. I also share with them events and things I have done and learned at church. I answer their questions about my “peculiar” lifestyle and always take advantage of an “opening wedge” to start a conversation about the SDA church. I try to meet them where they are.

Moreover, personal ministry is deeply *personal* for me. I try to edify, connect with, and encourage my own church family by staying in touch with individuals whom the Lord has impressed me to contact via e-mail, phone, text or visits. I constantly give my testimony. I can’t help myself, because I can’t hold it in. The Lord has been so good to me and I just don’t want anyone to miss out on His grace, His mercy, and His promise to save us and make us whole! I just *love* the Lord, and I *have* to share it! ☺

**BOL PERSONAL MINISTRIES COMMITTEE**

Dr. Carla Herriford Lindsay, *Leader*  
Kathy Westfield, *Secretary*

Adria Chea – Oscar Daniels – Gayle Goode – Brent Hart  
Jasmine Johnson - Dena Park – Sheron Petrie  
Cheryl Rudley – Greg Woods – Jill Woods