Periodic evaluations will be conducted to determine the success of various stages of the project and to identify lessons learned. A monitoring process will help identify milestones reached and progress achieved or lack thereof.

Regular reports will be submitted to the sponsoring organizations and to the Adventist media in Germany such as, the Advent Echo (official German church paper) and Stimme der Hoffnung (German Voice of Prophecy).

The researcher expects to plant two new ethnic churches in Berlin providing a venue for the German Seventh-day Adventist Church to grow in membership.

Andrews University, Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary

Title: Developing a Relationship-Based Evangelism Training Program to Equip Church Leaders and Members in the North Brazil Union

Name of researcher: Davi Tavares

Adviser: Bruce Moyer, Ph.D.

Date completed: February 2009

This project will create a relationship-based training program to equip and motivate pastors, theology students, local leaders, and church members in the North Brazil Union to reach people through a relational evangelism approach.

Theoretical and practical books were analyzed and good concepts and useful tools were found related to relational evangelism. In order to develop a relationship-based evangelism training program to equip church members in the North Brazil Union, a five-step process will be followed as reproduced in the following chapters of this dissertation.

First, this researcher will show the theological basis for the relational evangelism style as found in the New Testament, mainly in Jesus’ and the apostles’ relational approaches. In addition, some evangelical authors, including Ellen White, were studied.

Second, in the literature review this researcher will examine books and journal articles about the topic in question, and establish the connection between the relational approach and the accomplishment of the great commission. The role of the Holy Spirit, the relationship and fellowship in the early church as a community of love, and preaching the gospel with kindness and passion are also emphasized.

Third, significant information and data from the North Brazil Union were gathered to enrich this project.

Fourth, a suggested “relationship-based evangelism training program” will be provided with new strategies and innovative approaches regarding how to reach people for Jesus in this
postmodern world using kindness and love.

Fifth, several recommendations and suggestions will be provided for lay people, pastors, directors of departments, and presidents of conferences trying to implement in their fields a dynamic and effective evangelistic program based on friendship and interpersonal relationships.

The researcher is expecting the following results from this project:

1. Contribute to the fulfillment of the “Great Commission” in the North Brazil Union territory.
2. Strengthen and motivate pastors, local leaders, and church members to be engaged in a relational evangelistic method.
3. Build people’s ministries and change people’s lives in families, churches, and communities.
4. Give support to both the membership and leadership in the North Brazil Union, challenging them to work together to experience and implement relational evangelism.
5. Help leaders and church members to know how to develop effective teamwork in the North Brazil Union, and how to utilize more effectively the relational evangelistic method to lead people to the kingdom of God.

This project will show that relational evangelism which follows Jesus’ friendship method is one of the best strategies to reach people for Jesus in this secularized and changing world. All members and church leaders will be mentored, taught, and motivated to participate in an evangelism program focused on interpersonal relationships, friendship, and love.

Andrews University, Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary

Title: A Model for Small Group Ministry in the North Zambia Field of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

Name of researcher: Chapi S. Wellington
Adviser: Gorden Doss, Ph.D.
Date completed: July, 2008

The purpose of this dissertation is to develop a contextualized model for small group ministry in the North Zambia Field to enhance the retention of new members.

While the numbers of members being baptized annually are encouraging, the percentage of members dropping out of the church annually is a cause of great concern. Between 1996 and 2006, the North Zambia Field, through baptism or profession of faith, had 72,652 converts, an annual average of 7,265 converts. However, 17,303 or 23.82 percent of those added and 2.70 percent of the total membership dropped out of the church through apostasy and going missing. This annual loss of church membership poses a seri-