

Slide 1 Get up off the Sticky Floor & Break that Glass!

Slide 2: The term “glass ceiling” was coined by Marilyn Loden as she spoke on a panel at the 1978 Women’s Exposition in New York. It was her way of describing the invisible barriers that prevented women from obtaining upper-level positions.” **As** women began to find ways to overcome those barriers, they were said to “break the glass ceiling.”

On the other hand, “Sticky Floor” is a metaphor for holding yourself back either unwittingly or by design – content to reach a certain level!

The General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is now asking us to break the evangelistic glass ceiling in 2022.

Slide 3: In other words, get up off that sticky floor! Move past the barriers that keep us from winning souls – contentment, ignorance, fear, shame, legal restrictions, worldly distractions, politics, the covid-19 pandemic, vaccinated impatience toward the “un-jabbed”!

And this is not just for the pastors or the elders. Do you need proof that I’m speaking the truth? Evangelism, pg. 356 reads, “Those who are most actively employed in doing with interested fidelity their work to win souls to Jesus Christ, are the best developed in spirituality and devotion.”

And so, I wish to submit to everyone present here, the only method that will ever enable us to break free from the Guerrilla glue-sticky floor of low baptisms, low retention, and minimal church growth, is Christ’s method.

Slide 4: “Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, “Follow Me.” ***The Ministry of Healing, 143***

Slide 5: Brethren, the Adventist Health Message is the “great entering wedge” that allows us to mingle (Evangelism p. 513), “break down the prejudice” (Medical Missionary p. 241), “soften hearts (Manuscript 51), and “open the door for the entrance of the truth” (Medical Missionary p. 320).

Slide 6: Christ’s method is what Health Evangelists call “The Cycle of Evangelism.” And when we get it right, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we WILL break the glass ceiling!

Slide 7: Sister White wrote in Manuscript 23, 1901, “. . . separate medical missionary work from the gospel and the work will be crippled.”

There are only two choices here: combine health & evangelism and fly past that ceiling or separate the two and cripple the work!

You know, when we're having evangelistic campaigns and calling people out of Babylon, our go to verses are Revelation 14:6-12. And we point the listeners to the Third Angel's message (verses 9-12), when we're talking about the Sunday Law - "If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive *his* mark in his forehead, or in his hand, (10) The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God...(12) Here is the patience of the saints: here *are* they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

Now, listen to what the prophet of the Lord wrote:

Slide 8: "The health reform, I was shown, is a part of the third angel's message, and is just as closely connected with it as are the arm and hand with the human body..." Testimonies for the Church, Vol.1, p.486

Slide 9: When my last laptop was giving trouble, it would freeze up, overheat, and make strange noises. I tried all kinds of methods to avoid buying a new one.

Slide 10: I deleted files, I rebooted, and I backed up important information just in case. But it wasn't until I did a factory reset on my computer that I was able to see results.

I said that to say, we cannot and will not break that evangelistic glass ceiling by doing what we've always done both on the local level and at the conference level.

Slide 11: We can no longer make our first step before a campaign, (worse now a virtual one), the giving out of bible studies and call that mingling, or one month before the campaign go handing out school supplies claiming to meet the community's needs and then expect the carnal mind to simply follow us in baptism – because guess what? We have not yet, won their confidence!

Slide 12: We must reset! So, what does that reset look like? Again, it's called the cycle of evangelism.

Slide 13: I'm using 7 steps as outlined by Dean Dennis, a Seventh-day Adventist Entrepreneur with special skills in Marketing.

Now, while these steps focus on Health Evangelism and most of the examples will be on health, I'm in no way saying those are the only ones that can fit into each step. So, I just want to make that clear.

Many of you may be thinking, I'm not a church leader, I'm just here to pray; why do I need to hear these steps? Well, you need to hear them because Ellen White wrote: "We have come to a time when every member of the church should take hold of medical missionary work." Testimonies Vol.7 p.62.

It was true then, and it's true now! Hence the reason I'm sharing the steps with the entire church.

So here we go:

Slide 14: The first step is to

1. Assess the needs of the community. And you don't have to go do surveys yourself or reinvent the wheel. Most Governments do a census every ten years and mini studies in between. In this digital age, you can go to google and find out through public records what the most common and prevalent diseases are in your target area. What are the mortality rates, what are people dying of? Is this a suicide capital? Is there a cancer cluster here? Are many people reporting depression? Maybe their needs don't surround health – maybe it's a swimming program or CPR course that's needed. Maybe lots of seniors live in this area and need help shopping. Or there may be an alarming amount of young, single mothers.
2. **Slide 15:** When you find out what they need, train the membership to meet those specific needs. This is step 2. Activate the church as much as possible, but if many don't want to get involved, mobilize the faithful few to work. If you're going to run a CPR course, bring in an expert to train your members and show them how to set up for a large group and what needs to be done. If you're going to do health expo, train them to do that! Make sure each person knows his/her role, so there will be an organized, coordinated effort that will bring a professional atmosphere to the work you're going to embark upon.
3. **Slide 16:** Then from step three, we begin mingling with the people. Launch a public health event. It might be a health expo; it might simply be the screening of a health film like "God's Health Plan" by Doug Batchelor or Fork over Knives. It might be a short film on how learning CPR saves lives. Or Stewards of Children Abuse Prevention certification. Do something exciting that will engage the community to give them a preview, a taste of what we're about to do in the community. And make sure to have them register as they attend. Critical information at that point is their name, age range, & email & phone number.
4. **Slide 17:** Then in Step 4, you can introduce them to lifestyle principles – nutrition, exercise, water, sunshine, etc. You can do this virtually because you already have their contact information from Step 3.
5. **Slide 18:** In step 5, we partner with Christ in healing their diseases! Engage them in a lifestyle change program. CHIPS, 8 Weeks to Wellness, reversing diabetes, addiction cessation program. These usually take place over a couple of weeks. So, you invite the

community and teach them the nuts and bolts about a healthy lifestyle. This program would be infused with substantiation from the Bible and how love motivates us to share this information. In doing this, we gain their trust!

6. **Slide 19:** If we go back to Ministry of Healing pg. 143, Step 6 is the point where Christ bade them, "Come Follow Me! So, this involves Bible Studies and Evangelism Campaigns, etc.
7. **Slide 20:** And Step 7 is Baptism - their response to "Come Follow Me."

But if we tell the truth and really evaluate, we'll admit that we most often start at Step 6 – Bible Studies & Evangelistic Campaigns then Step 7 – Baptism. Then we go right back to step 6 and step 7 and forget about the complete cycle: mingle, meet needs, win confidence, bid them follow Christ!

That's why we're only baptizing one or two people and they hardly stick around. Because the love part demonstrated in the mingling, the meeting of needs, & the winning of their confidence is often being left out. We are robbing the work of its power when we leave that part out! And why do we leave it out? Because it's the patient part of the work, the slow-moving part. But we're so anxious to get to step 6 so we can speak about the Sabbath or expose the Pope! Yet we don't realize that when we don't have credibility with our audience in an evangelistic campaign and we shock them, sad to say, they often don't come back!

Now don't get me wrong, God said his work will not return unto him void, so we will get one or two wherever the gospel is preached. But if we want to break that ceiling, if we want a hundred where only one is being baptized, we've got to use Christ's method.

Slide 21: It was God who first asked us to go break the evangelistic glass ceiling when he said in John 14:12 "He that believes on me, greater works than these shall he do." And when God asks us to do something, He gives us all the tools needed for success!

Slide 22: So, let's reset!

We've been praying for 34 days now – asking God for wisdom and power. But he who does nothing but pray, will soon cease to pray!

It's time to get up off your sticky floor and break all kinds of ceilings!

Slide 23: I'll end with this quote from Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6 p. 289. "The medical missionary work should be a part of the work of every church in our land. Disconnected ...It would consume, but not produce!

Ask yourself, is what you've been doing taking up a lot of time and energy but not yielding results? **Slide 24:** Christ's method alone will break that ceiling! God bless!