



- Jesus in my City
- The Youth and Teamwork
- Generation in Crisis

General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®

Adventist Youth Ministries



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Editorial

t seems like just yesterday we began this new year, but here we are in the last quarter of the year. Our last AYL magazine of this our first full year of this publication. It's been an eventful year for youth Ministry all across the world and we praise God for all that He has done.

Yet as we come to the end of this year there are two things I would like to do, look back and look forward. Ellen White wrote, "We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and his teaching in our past history." (9T 10) I am looking back that I may boldly walk forward as I look into the future.

October 22, 2019 will be exactly 175 years from the date of the "Great Disappointment" for the Millerites. This year October 22 will be on the same day of the week as it was in 1844. However, that's not the only thing that is the same. God is still leading His people just as He did in 1844. He has not changed, and He still desires to save us. Today the people of God still hold the same

hope as the Millerites did. We are still looking for Jesus soon return even though we don't know when He will come we are sure He WILL come.

It is precisely because of this hope we can move forward in planning for the future. There is a work for us to do especially as young people. Ellen White said "With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world! How soon might the end come—the end of suffering and sorrow and sin!" (Ed 271) We have this hope and we want to "Pass It On." It is imperative that we train our young people to take their rightful place as leaders and equally important that we mentor and empower them to lead.

Every adult was once a child but we have not faced the same challenges today's youth face. This is why it's critical that we not only train our children but we ensure our church leaders are equipped to support our youth. This is why the 2019 Leadership And Development (LEAD) Council focused on the youth. In our global church, the youth are a prized asset. They are to be treated as such. Our time, talent and resources will not be wasted invested in the youth and passing on our Identity, Mission and Leadership.

As we are coming to the end of this year and seeing tragedies all around us, let's not be discouraged. Our hope is in God, as we prepare for the new year and new beginnings we can continue to trust God. As a people when He calls us we can say "I Will Go." Let's make ourselves available to do whatever God calls us to do and by God's grace we will not be here another 175 years. Let's invest our time, talents and resources to take the message to the whole world in this generation.



Andrés J. Peralta, D. Min. Associate Youth Director General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventists



"Strive for the Goal! Achieve More!": Youth Congress of the Western Russian Union Conference

he Fifth Youth
Congress of the
Western Russian
Union Conference of
the Adventist Church
was held at the Zaoksky Theological
Academy, Zaoksky, July 16-21, 2019.
This bright event united, inspired
and sparked an even greater faith
in God among the youth of western
Russia and guests from Azerbaijan,
Belarus, Germany, South Africa,
China, and the USA.

The slogan chosen by the organizers reflects the appeal to young people: "STRIVE FOR THE BEST! ACHIEVE MORE!"

Hundreds of young people from

various communities gathered in order to get closer to God, to feel each other's shoulders, to reach out to those in need. Congress is a unique opportunity to gain spiritual growth and awakening for the complete dedication of life to Jesus Christ and the glorification of His name by the younger generation.

The congress program began with an appeal from Church leaders:

"Strive for reward, strive for Jesus!" – Gary Blanchard, Director of Youth ministries department in General Conference of Adventist Church

"Unleash your potential! Create with Jesus! Make your church alive!"

- Mikhail Kaminsky, Head of the Adventist Church of the Euro - Asian Division

"Let God bless you!" - Gennady Kasap, director of the youth department of ESD

"Do everything for the glory of God!" - Lev Bondarchuk, director of the youth department of the WRUC

What is the vision of the younger generation and the challenges that Church leaders face? The organizers of the congress share their thoughts.

"I want to say something in defense of our young people," emphasizes Ivan Velgosha, the head of the Adventist Church in Western Russia. "We did not encounter such temptations as today's youth face. This suggests that we need to actively pray for them, share experiences, support and go through this period together."

"This year you invited for evening meeting a speaker from Hawaii. What is the reason for this choice?"

"Taj is actively developing voluntary ministry among young people. He is trying to found a movement of youth ministry for people and God in different parts of the world. We want God to use him to give us some new impulse, fresh approach, support, and spiritual strengthening."

Taj Pacleb – is the speaker of the evening meetings at the Congress.

"In your speeches, you talked a lot about experiments with God. How can one feel His voice not only in everyday life but also in choosing a life partner?"

"First, you need to establish a relationship with God, to know Him. When you get to know Him, you will gradually know yourself, what kind of person you are. You learn your weaknesses and strengths, goals, aspirations in life. When you find out, you are ready to get to know someone else. His strengths and weaknesses, goals and ambitions.

So you understand whether you are compatible or not. The Bible says, "In the multitude of counselors the plans are established." It is important to ask the advice of spiritual people who know you and that other person.

No need to rely on your feelings, it is impossible to trust yourself in this matter. Some people say, "Follow your heart." However, you can follow it the wrong way. Feelings can deceive you. You need a spiritual guide to enlighten you. And even if you get approval from them, you still need an answer from God. You need clarification on this personal matter. You can pray: "Lord, give me peace of mind." This is what you need to pray for."

Many young people after the call of Gennady Kasap at the congress felt the urge and decided to be baptized.

"Please tell me how not to make this decision hastily, under the influence of emotions?"

"Baptism should not be performed solely on emotions.

Man must be changed under the influence of the Holy Spirit. Baptism is not a graduation from school. This is just the beginning. In the Bible, we find three steps you must take before you are baptized. These three steps will show if you are ready to make a covenant with God or not.

- Take heed to the Bible.
- 2. Believe with all your heart.
- 3. Repent.

You must personally go through these three steps. When you have gone through these steps, you testify of your decision and result with your baptism. This is a visual path, only the person himself must and can understand whether he is ready or not."

"Many young people sometimes doubt God. What needs to be done to keep this from happening?"

"If there are doubts about God, it means that I do not read the Bible properly or do not pray enough. At this time, I lose touch with the Creator. I get weaker from this and doubts arise. All of humanity is experiencing this spiritual struggle between flesh and spirit. Both flesh and spirit need to be reinforced, "fed." What you feed more will lead you. If we feed your flesh with the benefits of the world that attract us, with what we see and listen to: they will sustain our flesh. And if we feed our spirit, then our spiritual essence will be stronger. Therefore, it is very important to pray, read the Holy Scriptures, attend the Church, and surround yourself with spiritual people. This struggle between flesh and spirit will always be. That which is stronger will win. What you will cultivate in yourself will triumph."

We live in the last days, and the Lord wants to prepare an army of young people to finish what has been started. Satan knows everything, he understands this and therefore he tempts young people now like never before. Satan attacks because he is afraid of us. He knows that if we take this struggle seriously, we can make a revolution in the Church, and he will lose.

Recall the story of David.
Goliath challenged the Israeli
people, but no one took him up. Only
one young man, David, rose up to
him. He was at that time a young
person, like many of the young
people at this congress. All normal
people were afraid of Goliath, but
David was not. When he went to
Goliath, all of Israel was ready to
fight!

Because of one example, a young guy who firmly believed in victory inspired the rest of the people to battle. It was a spiritual struggle. If we take this matter seriously, our Church will rise. I urge young people to take this seriously and to follow Christ in this struggle.

Daria Sherstianykh

Photo: Aleksei Budnikov Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division



A senior youth leader is...

eing part of the senior youth leader initiative was extremely enriching because it helped us to navigate through many topics that appeal to young people. I am one of those who share the thought that every day the number of young people leaving our church is increasing, and the Senior Youth Leader Curriculum is an answer to that reality for the local church.

As young people, we believe that the world offers us many benefits, joys, and pleasure which is attractive to us. In most cases, we believe the way the church treats us will push us closer to deviating from the right path. This arises because as young people we need to be recognized, valued, heard, understood and given a chance.

It's comforting to know there are still people struggling to change the view our young people have had for centuries. They are instilling the idea that the youth are a jewel. They encourage leaders to plant the gifts of the Holy Spirit so our youth can flourish, and at the same time, they can become beings of light for their neighbors and friends.

Undoubtedly, the youth ministry of the Adventist Church has focused on training leaders who can be relevant. It is necessary to educate the congregation about different topics in a plain and simple way, which will help them understand how to work with the youth and vice versa.

I thank God, I had the opportunity to be part of the first group in the Dominican Republic Union (IAD) and indeed in the world to graduate under the new Senior Youth Leader curriculum where over 270 graduated of which I was the leader. I can testify that the knowledge we acquired is broad and helps us to forge ahead in a better way. It encourages leaders to be stronger leaders, mentors, and examples for others. It also helps us understand as young people and as people, in many cases, we feel misunderstood and consider that leaving the church is the best option.

In the period in which this initiative was studied and implemented, I realized the involvement of the Pastors and Elders was critical. The Pastor and the Elder are the gatekeepers of the local church. Their influence is unparalleled.

This experience was accomplished with God's providence. Sometimes our faith was decreasing and everything

seemed to be going down, but His hands held me and gave me the strength I needed to go on including the entire team that worked and helped during this period in the Dominican South Association, ADOSE. I am thankful to my local church and the members of the zone I belong to because they are proof that we can triumph when we trust in God. They showed in every step they took that unity exists and real leadership is to

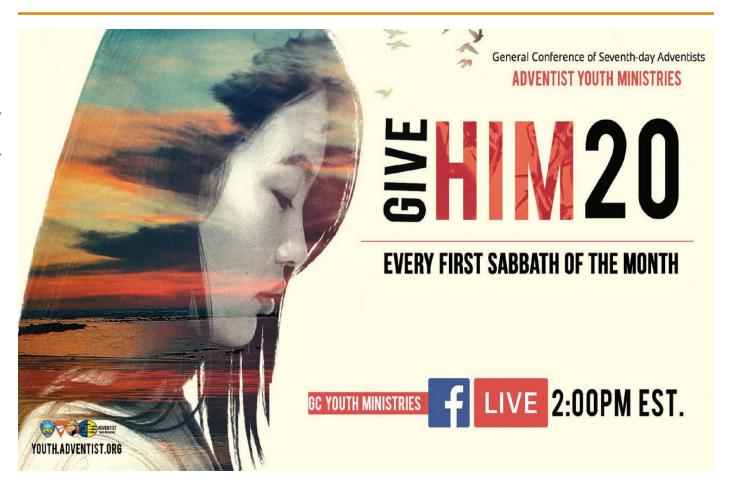
help. We can change the idea that adults should work alone and the youth should work alone too. The partnership between youth and adults is needed in our time. My mother has been instrumental in my spiritual and leadership development. Indeed, the role of the family and the local church cannot be undermined.

SYL guides the leaders through the complicated lives of the youth of today. The change of times, the focus on the

local church, the urgent need of leaders, the advent of new technologies and the creativity of the youth are strong winds that the church should ride on. I am glad SYL is based on these pillars.



Galbert Ant. Gutiérrez Fortuna El Alba Adventist Church



THE ROLE OF YOUTH IN THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

nvesting in today's youth is necessary for growing the body of Christ. "God wants the youth to become men of earnest mind, to be prepared for action in His noble work, and fitted to bear responsibilities (White 1930, p. 21). Teaching young people in the church to grow in their relationship with the Lord prepares them to serve Christ in all they do. As a result, it allows the church to flourish. The youth and their well-being have been neglected by the society which gives priority to false success images as opposed to the well-being of the youth. In today's Seventh-day Adventist church, of all the teenagers' diverse viewpoints, it cannot be ignored that the youth are the church both in the present and the future. The youth have a big role is the ministry which can only be

possible through adults demonstrating to them that a discipleship and love culture is embraced in the church (Dav & Kurtz, 2017). In our various churches, the youth have been deprived of proper assets for development from the church. parents, and school to help them grow and spread the gospel. Such assets will assist in preventing the youths from premarital sexual behavior, drug abuse and anti-social behavior which are rated high-risk behaviors. This way, the level of responsibility and pro-social behaviors among the youths will be encouraged and spread by youths to their fellows in the church hence promoting living standards that are healthy and spiritually effective to yield successful and responsible adult society. White (1901) emphasizes "We should educate the youth to help the youth; and as they

seek to do this work, they will gain an experience that will qualify them to become consecrated workers in a larger sphere" (p. 115).

To boost these efforts, the church must incorporate contemporary stratagems to the youth ministry in establishing the growth of youth leaders. The elders in charge of youths have a role to be flexible and adjust to the everchanging needs of the youth through updating and matching the youth energy and vitality while avoiding old models. The youth must therefore in the longrun not dilute the gospel message but discover how to live out the good news and encourage others to do so (Nielson, 2016).

The church is a community composed of members from diverse backgrounds who enjoin to share the

work of God. The youth must, therefore, be involved actively in drawing the congregation both old and young to participate responsibly in the work, life, and mission of the church and the community (Nielson, 2016). When the youth are drawn to the community it becomes easier for them to comprehend what it is to live in the Christian community.

God acts in the world, gathers and forms us through the family as the most basic and first community cite. The youth must demonstrate in the family the moral, spiritual as well as overall faith development and act as mentors to adolescents. With love and support from their parents, the youths are to enhance the family to live in faith and love for Christ which brings about novel understanding as well as skills in the family so as family life is enhanced (Day & Kurtz, 2017; Campbell, 2000). Therefore, the youth must lead other family members in building a community that precipitates Christianity and the love for Christ (Day & Kurtz, 2017; Chancey & Bruner, 2017).

In the church, the youth must play the same role as adults as the gospel mission calls all believers to glorify and spread the good news of God. Today, the youths in the church are learning many Christian faith concepts which are important but they should not be set aside by adults as the Christian calling is a calling to all (Campbell,

2000). Youth involvement in the church community is crucial since it is in the church that the people of God meet Christ through Holy Communion in a way that is concrete. Therefore, the churches must be friendly to youths in fostering their growth spiritually. When the youths are welcomed and allowed to serve alongside adults in the church community, they develop a full-fledged member feeling and can be easily identified as a community. The religious work which the Lord gives to young men, and to men of all ages, shows His respect for them as His children. He gives them the work of self-government. He calls them to be sharers with Him in the great work of redemption and uplifting (white 1930, p.47). The youth have a role to present their youthful vision and energy in the activities of the church since they have a great deal to offer as youth Christians to the church. Through meaningful roles, the youth can express their faith hence develop a commitment spirit to the church as a community.

The church, therefore, must tap the talents from the youth and be friendly to them through valuing the adolescents through adequate response to their needs and carefully giving them an audience. The church must facilitate youth activities by providing them with money and facilities that enable them to grow as disciplines (Thompson, 2017). As the youth commit to the church, the

church must also give back to the youth by committing to their development.

The church has the responsibility to reach out to the youth and establish an organization of young disciples, to go out and be witnesses in spreading the gospel truth. The youth can learn about joyful giving in service organization communities as they are challenged spiritually to love other people like Jesus does (Day & Kurtz, 2017). Through activities like rural development, the youth can spread the gospel. Ellen white argues "we cannot but look anxiously upon the youth of today as those who must take these burdens, and upon whom responsibilities must fall. These must take up the work where others leave it" (1923, p. 68)

The youth understand each other better than adult Christians could. Therefore, they must take part in the concern for the whole person's growth and address other youth's needs spiritually in their whole life context. The Christian youth must play a crucial role in promoting the holistic development and growth in the entire person of other youth (Nielson, 2016). They must be able to actively listen to the specific religious, development and social needs of other youth to enable them to mature accordingly. This can be facilitated through the aid of adult church members and leaders. Christian youth must work to eliminate the current notion that

young people are least interested in Godly things.

Youth whose hearts are drawn to God understand that not all that glitters is gold as many worldly pleasures will escape and only in God that everlasting hope, truth, and joy can be found. As young leaders, they must turn away from worldly culture and seek Godly adults to gives Biblical answers on life challenging questions that are hard to ordinarily be answered. In the Bible, God often used young people to do His will. For instance, when Mary conceived Jesus, she was just but a teenager while

the giant slayer David was still a youth. To add to the list, God called Samuel to minister in the Tabernacle as a prophet when he was only a young boy (Nielson, 2016). It is through the young people that God is working in these end times.

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Dr. Prince Ng'andu South Zambia Conference



Jesus in my City: How the Youth Became the Hands and Feet of Jesus

uring the Youth
Festivals of
2017, in front of
thousands of young
people gathered
in auditoriums and hundreds more
watching live via streaming, the Chiapas
Mexican Union introduced to the youth
the "Jesus in My City," an ambitious
initiative driven-by-youth evangelistic
plan that changed the way that the
young people in Chiapas testify about
the love of Jesus.

"Just imagine ten thousand young men and ladies sharing the love of God to other people. That's what Jesus in My City is," explained Daniel Torreblanca, Chiapas Mexican Union's Youth Ministries Director.

The initiative encouraged young

people around Chiapas to join the challenge and leave the comfort of the church building, take the streets and let the people see Jesus in every city of the state.

Thousands of young people took the challenge of becoming messengers of Jesus and testifiers of the cross. Thousands of young people made the compromise of changing the theory for the practice, to become the sermon. They became the hands and feet of Jesus. From that point, the youth of Chiapas has never been the same.

Jesus in My City is the youth missionary initiative of the Chiapas Mexican Union. Since its release in 2017 until its second phase in 2019, it has become a turning point for the young people of Chiapas.

Church members from the whole state have converted this initiative into a fresh and novel way of preaching the gospel.

On the ecclesiastic level, Jesus in My City has changed the way that young people do missionary work. But it has also radically changed his view of how God's love is shared.

For Jaaziel, a young man from Santa Cruz Buenavista, a small town from the west part of Chiapas, the experience of sharing Jesus began some years before, while reading the bible. He read in Romans 1:16 that Paul was never embarrassed by the gospel. And he was not ashamed either. Without any preaching experience, but with the desire of working for God, he challenged himself to bring people to Jesus.

"And then I remembered my friend Leandro," he explains. "I remembered that although we have met from years ago, I have never approached him with evangelistic purposes. I knew he was a catholic and he had been struggling with vices, but I have never dared to invite him to read the bible."

One of the fundamental elements of Jesus in My City is training. Young people get missionary preparation at the beginning of the year. They also get training in several areas like leadership, social media and technology and how to work with kids and teenagers. Once they get the tools and the training, they can apply them to the many projects that Jesus in My City promotes.

"One day," tells Jaaziel, I decided to invite Leandro to a church event. He liked it and started to attend regularly. After that, I invited him to read the Bible together." The friendship between the two is what made approaching the church something that felt natural for Leandro.

The young people of the church treated him well and he felt included.

Over time, he decided that he wanted to have a systematic study of the Bible and he began to receive Bible studies.

Jesus in My City it's a plan that covers the whole year and its most important moment is lived at the Missionary Youth Festival "Celebrate Jesus in My City." It takes place in a key city of the conference's territory and spiritual enrichment and testimony activities are carried out.

Massive concerts, public spaces cleaning, and reading promotion campaigns are just some of the hundreds of activities at those events. However, baptisms are the most important part of the festival.

It was at one of those festivals where Leandro decided to surrender his life to Jesus Christ. After the baptism, his friend Jaaziel was waiting for him, and he encouraged him to keep his eyes upon Jesus, no matter the struggles that come in life.

"What I want to do is preach and testify, but above all, bring souls to the kingdom until Jesus comes," says Leandro.

To this day, more than two thousand people have been baptized as a direct result of the missionary youth activities and testimony of the "Jesus in My City" program.

The Mexican Union of Chiapas houses in its eight territories more than 240 thousand baptized members, of which more than 50% are young people. Initiatives like Jesus in My City create platforms to keep them involved in spreading the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Savior.

This article was originally posted in: https://medium.com/@iasdchiapas/ jesús-en-mi-ciudad-cómo-los-jóvenes-seconvirtieron-en-las-manos-y-los-pies-decristo-f25323f6fa1f



Youth Congress "He is Alive": 700 participants, 30 ministry projects, 29 baptized

n July 2-7, 2019, 700
young people gathered
at the All-Ukrainian
Youth Congress of the
Adventist Church "He
is Alive," held at the Ukrainian Adventist
Center for Higher Education near Kiev.
They were motivated to devote their lives
to the service of God and mankind. The
reality of God's presence, the power of
the living God in prayer, the Bible and the
life of devotion — were the topics that
permeated the events of the congress.

Such congress is held in Ukraine every five years. This year participants came from Moldova, Belarus, Croatia, Serbia, Romania, and of course Ukraine. Below you can read the memories of one of the participants about this event.

Noise. Big screaming letters on billboards interrupt my train of thoughts. There are announcements of interesting films, plumbing advertisements, and discounts on beef everywhere. It is hard to breathe in this city. I run to the park, I hurry to find something alive, on the way I stumble over trampled bottles mixed with cigarette butts. Then I let my glance rest on a stand of green trees in a small public garden. However, a noisy redyellow tram, full of tired and confused people, takes my attention away.

City, I am tired, leave me alone.

You took all my strength. You are hung up on money and imaginary possibilities. Your pleasures are artificial, worth nothing. Trying to convince me that there is no life outside of you. You

promise adrenaline, memories, feelings and profitable investments. You covered my sky, my real home with your new buildings.

Bribe youth with wine, brilliant education, successful work, and a happy family with a new lawn and a golden retriever. Come on, aren't you tired of lying? All you can offer is steamed asphalt, homes 10 minutes from the subway and many frames, destroying plans and replacing them with your ridiculous ideas. You hit me on the hands as soon as I try to find out the truth.

So many people trusted and arched their backs under your giant stone heels and stayed in your power.

I agree this is a great step, Lucifer. It is a pity that deception is your

maximum. You flew out of the game two thousand years ago. There, on Calvary, you have been checkmated.

Are you ready to continue? July 2, 2019

Sitting in a half-empty bus, looking out the window at passing pines. The fresh smell from the outside is like a punch in my face. Grandmothers returning home from the city are sitting next to me; I cannot tear my eyes from the window, I cover my eyes with my palm because the evening sun blinds a little. I am still not used to it. In my city, the sunset is covered with high walls and replaced by light with lanterns. The driver takes us out of the routine for a long-awaited meeting.

The overwhelming feeling is not yet familiar to me. It seems like a thrill. I am going to meet with a Friend in this place, where I can open my eyes wider without covering them from annoying city dust. I knew He was really looking forward to this summer.

I hear the noise again. This time it is different: loud laughter and shaking hands, someone is checking the microphones with excitement; everyone is interested in which conference I came from and if I received a food voucher. Even the awkward high five from old friends makes me smile sincerely. They are preparing for a meeting with the main Guest everywhere. Eyes that flicker around me are not empty; I catch the glance of Jesus in some of them. Everyone is so different but united at the same time. United by something that the city cannot offer.

Each part of the program answers the questions. I see that we are not treated like a crowd; they see a personality in me. It touches me and reminds me of how much I value this society. How much I missed it. Each speaker shoots familiar ideas into my heart, but every time with new challenges. My God speaks to me, and as I sit, I do not feel the time. Every second I thank Him. I jump up on a common song to tear voice for my King. I am sure that the angels peer into the windows of the main hall building, melodies from 1756 voices. When the

curtain falls, I will ask Jesus to play this moment over again. I want to remember him at that Sabbath dinner for all eternity.

These few days gave me joy, wings, and will. All without discounts, deception, and illusions. The city cannot do it, just does not know how. Like a muddy puddle, it distorts the plan of my Jesus.

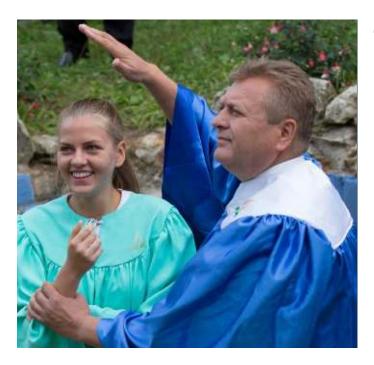
Now I see - You gave me feelings, but did not make them a criterion. You gave me memories but did not stop the movement. You do not use a person for the endless absorption of goods, You do not impose Your services, You give a genuine choice. You work in silence.

Patiently waiting for the answer to your whisper. When you receive it, you cannot hold back joy and delight.

Because You are alive.

Sorry, Lucifer, that is checkmate.

Lisa Vakulova





1 GLOBAL YOUTH DAY

ith the support of General Conference Administration, the 13 Division

youth directors, MENA Union and the Israel Field, Global Youth Day (GYD) was launched on March 13, 2013. GYD happens every third Sabbath in the month of March. It has become one of the biggest events of the church. In 2017 alone, GYD garnered over 150 million impressions on social media. The vision of GYD is to recapture the reality of Adventist youth as a global movement mobilized for service, contributing to the proclamation of the everlasting gospel and ushering in the second coming of Jesus Christ. There is a lot more to religious faith than simply going to church and listening to

sermons. The true practice of religion involves the revelation of God's love in living out Jesus's gospel commission as He commanded before He ascended to heaven. Grounded in the concluding Words of Jesus in the parable of the Good Samaritan, "Go and do likewise" (Luke 10:25-37), Jesus has made it possible for us to point everyone to the ultimate hope of the better world through selfless acts. Thus, the idea of GYD is to "Be the sermon."

After seeing all the news reports, testimony videos, and worldwide activities, we know God has been ministering to those in need through the tireless efforts of young people committed to being the hands and feet of Jesus. Global Youth Day has since become the largest single initiative of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

GYD is not an event—it is a lifestyle that should encourage the youth to perform acts of kindness on a daily basis and awaken in them an awareness of their responsibility to the church and the communities they are called to serve. It encourages the youth to perform acts of kindness on a daily basis. We appeal to all church leaders to get involved in all the activities of Youth Ministries, including GYD; involvement in church activities is a great way for leaders to connect with young people. GYD is connected to the Week of Prayer (WOP), Home Coming Sabbath (HCS) and Total Youth Involvement (TYI).

MISSIONARY BOOK OF THE YEAR

We encourage the youth to distribute the Missionary book of the year on Global Youth Day. The 11 million "hands and feet" that participate in this day are a force to reckon with. They can cover large ground in a short space of time. Each young person is encouraged to purchase at least ten books for distribution on this day.

THEMES

Each year the young people become the sermon through various activities. The youth are creative visionaries who come up with interesting ideas of how to be a sermon. Most of the young people express their creativity within a given theme. However, because many communities may have unique needs at any given time, divisions, unions, conferences, or churches may need to deviate from the global yearly theme and use a theme that is more suited to their immediate need.

The yearly themes unite the efforts of the youth and help to address the sabbath observance issue. The theme for 2020 is iCARE; during 2020 the youth will focus their efforts on caring for refugees, strangers and the homeless.

- 2017 Donate: Blood
- 2018 Give: Food and Water
- 2019 Adopt: Prisoners/Old aged/ Orphan/Patient
- 2020 iCare: Strangers/Homeless/ Refugees
- 2021 Share: Clothes/Money/Time/ Gifts

- 2022 Visit: Missing Members/ Neighbors/School or Work Mates
- 2023 Appreciate: Police/Military/ Fire Department/Medical Personnel

PROJECTS

Each local church is encouraged to register their project on www. globalyouthday.org. Through the website, it is easy to see the level of participation by each Division. In the near future, we will transition to an App – a more youth friendly platform than the website.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The hashtag for each is determined by the year. The hashtag for 2020 will be #GYD20. All social media posts should always include the hashtag. Through the use of the hashtag we are able to quantify the number of impressions on social media. One of the ways to be involved is to maximize the initiative by changing profile pictures to the GYD frame of that particular year. It helps to make awareness of GYD. The more people share posts from GC, Division, Union and Conference pages, the more the impressions. Without a doubt, the young people are excited to see their leaders involved and interested in their programs.

2 WEEK OF PRAYER

The annual Week of Prayer (WOP)

is more than just a week of sermons preached. It is a week to reconnect spiritually. It takes place the third week of March each year. The WOP helps us achieve the Reach Up and Reach In pillars of the strategic plan of the Adventist Church. A series of short sermons are prepared according to the theme of the year. For example, this year the theme is Local Church and the sermons addressed the operations of the local with church and the spiritual journey of young people.

So, why does the Youth Week of Prayer begin on Global Youth Day? Because we believe that everyone can reach someone through kindness, and what better way to begin an outreach program than with kindness toward the community. Kindness can be taught, and it can be learned, and that the 8 days of learning and reaching the community through sermons and acts of kindness will influence the local and global communities the Church is called to serve.

PRAYER

What is a Week of Prayer without prayer? In most cases a lot of sermonizing happens more than prayer sessions but let us remember that the focus should be on prayer and getting a closer connection to Jesus.

"Jesus felt the need to pray. This is why He taught His disciples how to pray. Jesus' life of prayer is a beautiful example for all young people. He found comfort and communion with His Father. Frequently He would steal away from the craze of His surroundings to connect with God. If the Savior of men, the Son of God, felt the need to pray, how much more should feeble, sinful mortals feel the necessity of fervent, constant prayer." (Ellen White, Steps to Christ, p. 93).

This year and in the years to come, a worldwide youth fasting day (Wednesday) will be part of this week of prayer and spiritual emphasis. It will begin on Tuesday (night) and end the next evening. The youth may decide to break the fast before or after the evening worship session. We recognize that some youth may be members of a church where fasting is not a regular occurrence. They may want to begin with a 12 hour fast. Collectively, the youth should also decide ahead of time to fast from a specific activity or phenomenon. For example, fasting from social media, television viewing, etc. There are three main types of fast:

- 1 Water Fast, where you abstain from all food and juices.
- Partial Fast, this is when you eliminate certain foods or specific meals.
- "Juice" Fast, this is when you drink only fruit or vegetable juices during meal times. Try to provide some light, healthy refreshment for those

who will be breaking the fast at church.

3 HOMECOMING SABBATH

During the last decade the erosion of religious faith, religious affiliation, confidence in the Bible, and belief in God has steadily moved from the older age to the younger youth and young adults. This decline has spread across our churches. So, what can we do to help stem this tidal erosion, retain our youth and young adults, and regain those who have already left or have one foot-inand-one-foot-out? Homecoming Day. If properly planned, it can be a celebration of a 6-3-month program designed to give Bible Study, encouragement, and prayer to those who have left the church or who still attend but are disengaged. It is a day in which young people celebrate the return of those who have backslidden or left the faith. Not all will come back with just one phone call or one visit, it sometimes takes painstaking effort to ensure that this happens. Therefore, the youth MUST BE INTENTIONAL in seeking their peers. The ideal Homecoming program will keep it simple and straight to the point and serves as a reminder to everyone that salvation is free and simple and is the result of living a life dedicated to Jesus. The love of God is at the center of Homecoming Sabbath and it is meant to demonstrate the love of God for both former members and church members though there is more

inclination towards former members.

The Homecoming Sabbath is held on the fourth Sabbath of March, the last day of the annual youth week of prayer. Please visit our website for more information on how to develop a Homecoming program.

4 TOTAL YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

Global Youth Day (GYD) is already the largest response to the Total Member Involvement call to action.

We encourage every Division to determine when Total Youth Involvement (TYI) can be done; a week in which Ambassadors and Young Adults stand in the pulpits or sit in groups to teach the Word of God or employ unique initiatives to passionately call other young people to Jesus.

Involvement call to action.
Immediately after the annual Week of Prayer comes another week in which Ambassadors and Young Adults stand on the pulpits or sit in groups to teach the Word of God and passionately call other young people to Jesus. This is an expression of Total Youth Involvement. While the world church is focusing its effort on the Total Member Involvement initiative, the Youth Ministries (department) has decided to make the mantra intentional and relevant for what we do by dubbing it Total Youth Involvement.

"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 His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then bade them, "Follow Me" (Ellen White, Ministry of Healing, p. 143).

GYD has been true to the first part of the method but very little has been accomplished for the "Follow Me" section. Intentionality breeds purpose. Purpose begets consistency. As following Jesus is the core of evangelism, we want to inspire every human being to be baptized as a disciple of Jesus. With such a great army as the YOUTH, rightly trained, GYD should not only be the biggest initiative of the Adventist Church but the biggest evangelistic endeavor also.

The Adventist church has over 150,000 local congregations. Our request is that at least one hundred thousand (100,000) churches become preaching or small group sites to proclaim the Three Angels' Message to the world. That's just two thirds of the number of local churches worldwide. Imagine the Impact!!

Some Divisions decided to do TYI during the week that followed the Week of Prayer. However, others may choose a different date because of schedule conflicts. We are happy to respect the flexibility in dates. It is our joy to see youth make their missional contribution. The earlier the leadership begins to

prepare, the better the output and quality of work. Through collaboration with ASI and AWR. Youth Ministries has produced slides and have already posted information and the roadmap for this annual program. The materials are available from https://vouth.adventist. org/Total-Youth-Involvement. God is calling on Pathfinders, Ambassadors, and Young Adults to be involved! Be engaged. Do something for the Lord. The youth are rightly placed to do this because we have confidence in the prophetical statement. "It is the Youth who shall finish the work." Surely, God trusts the creativity and energies of the youth. We, therefore, urge every Adventist Youth Ministries committee of the local church to rise to the occasion.

5 ONE YEAR IN MISSION (OYIM)

OYiM is a multi-faceted urban missionary movement with a vision for the youth to establish a transforming presence in the cities of the world. It is designed to give teams of young people (18+) an opportunity to magnify Jesus in the cities through the Three Angels Message! Missionaries need to be Ambassadors or Young Adults, at the very minimum, a high school graduate.

They should be:

- 1
- Committed Seventh-day Adventist
- Active in their local church

A good team player

- 4 Highly recommended by their pastor
- Willing and able take an entire year off from work/school to focus on this ministry.

For more information

https://youth.adventist.org/OYIM

6 eWEEK OF PRAYER

The electronic Week of Prayer (eWOP) is held on the second week of November and further addresses the theme of the year through short videos (1-2 minute). It happens on Facebook via the GC Youth Ministries page (https://www.facebook.com/GCYouthMinistries/). The videos can be downloaded from the GC Youth Ministries YouTube channel. The eWeek of Prayer videos invite commentary, reflection and reformation. Each day is punctuated with quotations from Ellen White and other writers, that speak to the theme.

7 GIVE HIM 20

In our quest to have more sessions among youth groups, Give Him Twenty (GH20) is a prayer circle that can be enlarged anytime and anywhere. Give Him 20, what? Give God twenty minutes of your time pouring out your heart to God for strength, requests, praises and a petition of the Holy Spirit to capture the minds and hearts of young people around the world for mission

purposes. GH20 takes place online via Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/groups/325298914731269/).

8 YOUTH ALIVE

Youth Alive is a program designed to build resilience among teens and young adults by equipping them to make healthy choices. Through the Youth Alive Program, the youth can better understand their gifts and their purpose. Many today are trapped, becoming enslaved by addictions such as alcohol, tobacco, drugs, pornography, gaming, media. Youth Alive focuses on nurturing relationships that build resilience against these at-risk behaviors that plague young people around the world. Youth Alive promotes a healthy, purposedriven life for any teen seeking to live a fulfilling life free from addictions and emotional pain. The youth leader at the local church is the contact person for implementation of this program. Youth Alive has been written by Health Ministries, Education Department, Family Ministries, Global Mission and Youth Ministries.

The Youth Alive theme is: MY CHOICE, FULLY ALIVE!!

The Youth Alive Motto is:

Healthy Youth Connected for Service

The Youth Alive offers:

Conference or Camps

- Service and mission opportunities
- Local Youth Alive Clubs where everyone is included, accepted and respected
- Friendship Group Meetings where youth can learn play and be inspired
- App and online access to classes, articles, books and blogs discussing topics related to physical, mental, emotional, social, financial, and spiritual health and well-being.

WORLD PATHFINDER DAY

World Pathfinder Day (WPD) is an annual day intended to celebrate and empower Pathfinders around the world. For almost 70 years the pathfinder ministry has been a conduit to impact the lives of millions of young people inside and outside the Adventist church.

With clubs all over the world concurrently celebrating Pathfinder day we hope to bring a heightened sense of awareness to this uniform ministry. We hope it will instill a sense of unity and belonging as Pathfinders are able to recognize they belong to a global community.

Pathfinder ministry serves as a school of training for both Christian principles and life in general for many young people around the world. At its core it's a solid method of evangelism where young people can invite their

friends to learn about Jesus and practical life skills. On WPD we celebrate the impact the Pathfinder ministry.

The Pathfinder ministry train young people to become leaders while pointing them Jesus. Spiritual growth is a natural result of the ministry. On WPD we empower Pathfinders to demonstrate the leadership skills learned. Pathfinders are responsible for the execution of the Sabbath program, beginning with Sabbath School. This gives them an opportunity to demonstrate responsibility and adults trust.

Both in-reach and outreach are designed into the WPD celebrations. Pathfinders serve their local church through the Sabbath service inside the church. Clubs are encouraged to hold baptisms for Pathfinders who have surrendered their lives to God as a result of the ministry. This is certainly a highlight in the day's program. Community outreach is an integral part of Pathfinder ministry as Pathfinders go on God's errands.

An afternoon outreach, Global Pathfinder Service (GPS) give Pathfinders an opportunity to be agents of God's love. Pathfinders are able to take the Advent message into their communities all around the world as they serve as the hands and feet of Jesus.

Overall WPD is a day of service. Pathfinders serve their church as well as their community! In 2019 our theme is created with purpose. As we remind every Pathfinder that God created them with a purpose, we hope they will demonstrate their gifts in service to their church and community.

SUMMARY

- GLOBAL YOUTH DAY A day in which the Youth and Young Adults miss out on hearing sermon to "be a sermon."
- **WEEK OF PRAYER** A series designed for Youth Biblical Spiritual Emphasis as it relates to theme of the year. involvement and participation at the Local Church.
- HOME COMING SABBATH A day to celebrate youth who have found their way back to the Lord as a result of being intentional in seeking them.
- **TOTAL YOUTH INVOLVEMENT** A seven-day series designed to win Youth and Young Adults to Jesus.
- world pathfinder/adventurer day once-ayear Sabbath officially set aside to give Pathfinders an opportunity to be seen, heard, and acknowledged in their local church.
- eWEEK OF PRAYER An online (Facebook: GC Youth Ministries) series designed for Youth and Young Adult Biblical Spiritual Emphasis as it relates to theme of the year
- **GIVE HIM 20 A LIVE** twenty-minute session of prayer by groups (2 or more) of young people at their most convenient time.
- **YOUTH ALIVE** a program designed to build resilience among teens and young adults by equipping them to make healthy choices.



Pako Mokgwane
Associate Youth Director
General Conference of the
Seventh-day Adventists



Leadership Resources



Generation in Crisis

r. Balvin B. Braham is currently a Field Secretary and Assistant to the President of the Inter-American Division. He carries responsibility for Evangelism and Leadership Development. He previously served as Youth Ministries Director of the West Jamaica Conference and West Indies Union Conference as well as Associate Youth Director of the Inter-American Division.

INTRODUCTION

We have already entered a new reality in relation to youth engagement with faith issues and their church. Ending high school is a major turning point for many, since it is the beginning of the end of what is considered "parental faith". This is to worship and attend the services and

activities of the church as they were groomed by their parents throughout the years. Additionally, as boomers and traditionalists in Christianity expect of them. The pervasive electronic communication or Social media and cyberspace have not been positive influences in the faith journey of some. Youth face untold temptations to resist existing social norms and status guos to find their own identities, make choices and be whom they want to be. Consequences of social action do not headline their agendas, if they do exist. Yet, many if not most of them, do make sober decisions about career and vocation choices. Church leaders must face the challenge of understanding today's young people and engage them in the development of emotional connections and commitment to what is more than just service or temporal issues, but their eternal destiny,

salvation at the Second Advent of Christ.

GENERATION Z AND Y

Generation "Z" are those born between 1995 and 2015 (ages 4-24) and Generation "Y" or Millennials are born between 1980 and 1994 (ages 25-39). Many millennials and especially the latter group of Generation "Z" do not attend the same local church from Sabbath School to the worship service and the afternoon programs on Sabbaths, as often as their parents and grandparents do. Their outlook, beliefs and values diverge, and they display a lower level of religious affiliation. A growing number consider themselves religious Nones. "Clearly 36% of young millennials (those between the ages of 18 and 24) are religiously unaffiliated as are 34% of older millennials (ages 24-33). Fewer than six in ten millennials identify with any branch of Christianity

compared with seven in ten or more of older generations" (Stark, 2016, p. 11).

Once they graduate from high school many of them are not at their local church. Where are they? Either in universities, somewhere out of their local community or at work. If they are still within the local community, they are busily engaged otherwise than being preoccupied with their homegrown religion. Of course, this is not the one hundred percent. Those who are no longer in church and even many of those who remain, consider the present practice of Christianity as hypocritical and have negative impressions and diminished expectations of church.

Recently, I engaged a group of professional millennials in discussion about their concept of faith and the church in which they grew up. Here are some of the responses: "The perception of the seniors in church is that our relationship with Christ boils down to just going to church. I am more accepting, and open minded of social issues and standards in society than the members of my church"; "I am independent. By that I mean I think for myself and am forward thinking. Our generation challenges the status quo. Our parents instilled fear in us while growing up, but I do not feel that we are going to be struck down by lightning if we do contrary to what we have been taught at home and church"; "While we are not true to the teachings of the

church we actually do enjoy who we are. We do not want to be all in with religion. There are other options to contend with in life. We want to go to church on our terms"; "We do accept the bible as a good foundation for people, but when you grow up you have to make it applicable to yourself, on that basis, to each his own".

The theory, Moralistic Therapeutic Deism (MTD) was first introduced by sociologists Christian Smith and Melinda Lundquist Denton. They studied the religious and spiritual lives of American teenagers, which led to the coinage of this theory. In his book The Benedict Option, Rod Dreher referenced the five principal tenets of this theory that explain the thought pattern of millennials who go to church:

- 1. A god exists who created and ordered the world and watches over human life on earth.
- 2. God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions.
- 3. The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.
- 4. God does not need to be particularly involved in one's life except when God is needed to resolve a problem.
- 5. Good people go to heaven when they die.

When characterizing generations Z and Y, they are stereotyped by actions. attitudes and behaviors that do not conform to the traditions of boomers and traditionalists. However, there are numerous actions, attitudes and behaviors that are characteristic of these generations that must also be noted. A large number of them in the church are convinced that the message their church believes and proclaims is authentic. They continue to be influenced by their Christian upbringing. They are conscious of their relationship with God and others and are intentional in their responses to be relevant in a positive manner. They possess resources, ranging from skills, networks of relationships, ability to articulate clearly and profoundly and are interested in the various ministries and doctrines of the church. They are committed to using their time, influence, talents and resources to assist the church in fulfilling its mission. Generation Z and Y make the church rich and relevant and through the aid and guidance of the Holy Spirit enhance the future of the church.

CHALLENGES AND THOUGHT PATTERN OF THE YOUTH

An education and health charity, Central YMCA, 2016, surveyed 1,600 young people aged between 16 and 25. They asked them to assess the nature of the challenges they face today. The challenges they mentioned were: lack of employment opportunities, failure to succeed in the educational system, issues related to body image, family problems, substance abuse, pressures of materialism, lack of affordable housing, negative stereotyping, pressures of 24-hour social networking, crime, lack of positive values, reckless sexual behavior, developing and maintaining wholesome social relationships, living up to parents' expectations – most notable, "go to church" and remaining faithful in a church that is traditionally too strict and too strong.

Many young people in the church find it a challenge that the involvement of most church leaders with youth programs and activities is limited, yet they are the ones who plan, design and execute activities for them. "They just "give it to us" rather than engage and participate in meaningful ways with us" said one of the respondents. Many do not see the wholeness of the organization which must be considered within the context of having a ministry to influence and retain them with their diverse interests within the church. They experience a church that is judgmental and sees everything as just black and white. They are de-motivated because they are not allowed to face their challenges without duress. "Leaders, boomers and traditionalists are hard on us; we are not experiencing the love we desire" is another response. Expressing disgust with the church, one

professional millennial said; "With our curious minds we are discomforted with the church because of the perceived concept that once you are a member of the church you have arrived. To do anything out of the realm of the traditional is like the world is coming to an end. The struggle with a church that is less than accommodating is the reality we face. We have to deal with the do's and don'ts of church every day. We are tired, is there a better way?".

Globally, church leaders are struggling to grapple with the reality of ministering to Generations Z and Y and how to involve them in the life and mission of the church. How quickly the church can become a self-organizing system that finds new methods to harness talents and utilize the strengths of these generations is a major challenge. Some methods that worked in the past to get attention, compliance and participation are now ineffective. Reality summons a new approach. How confounding, yet real, that many leaders, especially some of those who have decades of experience, must sit in the unfamiliar seat of "not knowing" and open themselves to radical new ideas of wisdom and willingness to learn through asking the right questions of generations Z and Y. listen to them and in the process, avoid contradictions. Margaret J. Wheatley said: "To be responsible inventors and discoverers, we need the courage to let go of the old world, to relinquish most of what we have cherished, to abandon our interpretations about what does and doesn't work. We must learn to see the world anew. As Einstein is often quoted as saying: No problem can be solved from the same consciousness that created it" (page 7).

How do church leaders understand Matthew 5:18 (KJV) "For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." Also, Matthew 24:35 (NIV) "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away". The laws of God and biblical principles are foundational to our Christian faith. These are as unchanging as the Lord who said; "For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore, ye sons of Jacob are not consumed" (Malachi 3:6 KJV). To conceive or classify the certainties of the faith as negotiable is irreconcilable, un-biblical and misguided. What are these unchangeables? How do we engage the young people to understand them and develop an appreciation for them? The scripture shapes faith. How effective is church leadership in going beyond providing materials for the youth, which is significant, to the esteemed position of helping them to truly understand scripture. Not just to understand it, but to make applications about its role and function in shaping attitudes and commitment toward the present life, dealing with others and

preparing for the life to come. When leaders and the youth arrive at such understanding, then everything else that we do and embrace within the body of believers should be subject to the principle or test of the "old world".

Many consider the present attitudes of Generations "Z" and "Y" respecting traditional norms, values and practices of the church as chaotic. When you listen to some boomers and traditionalists, the phrase of the poet Yeats, "Things fall apart; the center cannot hold, mere anarchy is loosed upon the world" (Wheatley, p.19) appears apt in describing the reality within the Church. It is collapsing they think and only a miracle can save it. Scripture does not support this view. Jesus said; "... upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18. Ellen White explains it this way: "Enfeebled and defective as it may appear, the church is the one object upon which God bestows in a special sense His supreme regard. It is the theatre of His grace, in which He delights to reveal His power to transform" (Acts of the Apostles p. 12).

According to Wheatley "A system is defined as chaotic when it becomes impossible to know what it will do next" (p.22). If chaos is a correct designation of the church involving the young people's reaction to standards and norms and the way the leaders address such, then Wheatley's next statement is germane, "Chaos summons self-organization. Not according to some idealized plan,

but because the environment demands it. Many leaders find it difficult to let go of the old form and figure how best to organize in a new way" (p. 24). In this 21st century, the church struggles to find leaders that best respond to the needs and desires of the youth. The youth are looking for what Max De Pree, former CEO of Herman Miller calls "roving leadership". This is the indispensable people in our lives who are there when we need them. Since the existing relationship between the young people and leadership, boomers and traditionalists within the church appears to be chaos, according to Wheatley, it is a new order that is not a bad status. It is a wake-up call, not fragmentation. It is time for leadership to take steps to create a new mode of operation because the existing is not functioning effectively. It is a call for change. The organization's biblical principles contain sufficient information about its intended "shape", what it needs to accomplish and how its members should be involved. When leadership and the youth work freely with those principles, to interpret them, learn from them and talk about them. then through many iterations, a pattern of spiritual and ethical behavior will emerge.

A LEADERSHIP APPROACH TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES OF THE YOUTH

Church leadership must embody the organization's principles and

guide the organization to experience the ideals it envisions. In other words, the leaders must genuinely practice what they preach because disabling consequences result from the opposite. Among such consequences, is that the vouth respond to the church and its mission with less commitment than is expected. According to Mort Meyerson in an interview with Wheatley (1996), "It is not the leaders' role to make people know exactly what to do and when to do it. Instead it is their role to ensure that there is strong and evolving clarity about who the organization is" (p.131). Church leaders need to help the youth live by values. They need to practice their understanding that it is shared concepts that invites participation and not policies and procedures, important as they are. Leaders that empower millennials through providing them opportunities to know the truth and by being transparent with them will be endeared to them. Youth need leaders and not bosses. Church leaders have the great privilege of presence and direct contact and access to the young people. This provides them a firsthand opportunity to listen to them and address their concerns as they arise. This proximity empowers them with relevant information regarding personal, family and organizational challenges that the youth face. Usually, because of the status and respectability of organizational leaders the youth

show deference to them. This opens possibilities for leaders to actually make a difference in their thought processes.

Finlayson and Zacher (Krasner, 1983) posited, "decision making procedures are the prevailing practices for making and implementing collective choices" (p. 275). One of the areas that church leaders need to address as they face the challenges with the young people is how decisions are taken. Precondition, process, and outcome should be intentionally employed. Precondition addresses core relationships between the youth and the organization in order to create understanding and motivate them to develop positive affinity towards the church. Process deals with conversations that lead to the development of shared values through which participation occur. Outcome is the shared understanding and practice that actually emerge. Deutsch, Coleman, et al., (2006, p. 197) argue that for common understanding to be achieved. the parties of common interest need to engage together. In that case, there needs to be a diagnosis of the issue at hand and then the development of alternative possibilities to arrive at an agreed position. This includes four general phases' "diagnose the issue, identify alternative solutions, evaluate and chose the mutually acceptable path and commit to the decision and implementation.

Obviously, there are numerous issues involving the youth that leaders must address in a Christ-like manner and a suggested approach has already been advanced. In the process, it may be helpful for leaders to avoid the temptation of spending much time arguing about their dress, their music, their deportment, their games, their movies, and their dates, and more effort on one to one mentoring and modeling situations. The youth are a part of God's army and they must be mobilized. This statement of Ellen White is still relevant; "With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the work of a crucified, risen and soon coming Savior might be carried to the whole world" (*Education*, p. 271). Jesus' leadership model in dealing with His disciples is relevant; Mark 3:13-15 (ESV) "and He went up on the mountain and called to Him those whom He desired, and they came to Him. And He appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with Him and He might send them out to preach and have authority to cast out demons"). Verses 16 – 19 identified the names of the persons He called to abide with Him. Verse 19 says; "and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him". Interestingly, while all the disciples of Jesus struggled with their personal issues, only Judas actually left the team. He had opportunity for repentance, however, he chose suicide. The others remained with their personal

struggles and contributed to fulfilling the mission. Jesus invited them, had conversations with them, trained them, involved them and gave them hope.

Today, those disciples await their eternal inheritance in the kingdom of God. There are three specific things that church leaders may consider doing as thy seek relevance with Generation Z and Y:

1 INVITE THE YOUTH

Invite the young people that are members or are associated with the church: that is to say, intentionally engage with them in heart, mind and body or with empathy, interest and energy. Go after them as God did with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and invest in their growth. Be present with them by exuding calm and control. This makes them want to be there and ultimately become accommodating. By inviting them, leaders give attention to the young people. The invitation is about building relationship with the youth. Intentional strategies: to eat meals together with them, do fun things with them, spend time doing things with them that they are interested in, get to know their stories, build a community with them.

Story telling is not one directional, it is all inclusive. Infect them with passion. Inspire and help them to find mentors. Enhance their sense of knowing that they are members of a global movement, something that's

radical and life changing, a part of something bigger. Remove the barriers that isolate. Traditions and ceremonies do have their place. However, as long as they are not salvation issues, they are only considered sacred by one generation yet irreconcilable and irrelevant to the youth. Do not allow these barriers to maintain their sting. Rigidity that is irrelevant to the gospel is not a wise course of action for nurturing young people in the faith. By invitation, leaders search for the youth, find them. address their issues and therein is fertile ground to retain and help them grow in Christ. Invite them and equip them.

2 EQUIP THE YOUTH

Equipping is a systematic process through which individuals are taught and this may be done by instruction and practical activities that result in improved adherence to values. Leaders must teach the youth by providing them knowledge and skills and help them to develop positive, wholesome attitudes. The supernatural dimension is critical in the equipping process. This is where the leaders of the church perform their spiritual roles by providing them guidance in the study of the Word, and other inspirational reading through varying forms. Prayer is an essential aspect of this dimension and innovative methods should be employed in executing this. Embrace every opportunity to share the gospel with

them and guide them in imparting to their friends, acquaintances and others.

Young people are the best tools or strategies for reaching other young people. They naturally know more young people than leaders do, and they know each other's' language. There are many social skills that they may be taught as well, which will empower them to become more relatable. Methods that have worked but which may be improved upon as new ones are developed and utilized are: camps, small group efforts, bible study teams, prayer sessions, spiritual counselling, faith journaling, spiritual retreats, workshops on faith building, and youth conferences.

The training should be short term, task oriented and targeted on achieving a change of attitude, skills and behavior in specific areas. It is important to choose wisely the method of training, as the retention rate from seminars and lectures is about five percent, as compared to seventy-five percent through practice by doing and ninety percent by teaching others.

3 INVOLVE THE YOUTH

God has a special mission for each one. He gifted us with abilities, personality, and certain qualities that will help accomplish His plan. God calls His people to all kinds of vocations. Leaders need to help the youth to look for ways to fulfill His unique purpose for their lives. It does not matter how spiritual

the parents of these generations are. or the elders, pastors or leaders of their Church. People are only saved by a personal relationship with Christ. When Jesus gave the disciples the Great Commission, He was in essence giving them a mission. Leaders must help the young people to feel valued, use their skills and to feel accepted while serving others. They must be helped to feel that there is something for them at church to enjoy and to do. Involve them. Create ministries and or projects and deploy them. Offer them recognition and highlight their successes. Talk about them and what they are doing. It is a growth process. The youth want to be recognized for their involvement. Do not disappoint them and do not discriminate. Yes, there are exceptions. A few prefer to remain incognito, and they should be given that benefit, as well. However, be in touch with them and offer affirmation.

CONCLUSION

Generation Z and Y do have genuine needs. In fact, it is not easy to be young today. When youth lose their sense of belonging in church, leaders become concerned and the organization at large loses a sense of its wholeness. However, when they feel that sense of belonging, they remain committed to the faith and mission of the church, and this is comforting. Their independent thinking and desire to challenge the status quo are unnerving and distance is created

between them and leaders of the church. While in most instances they behave as though unmindful of this distance, some actually do care and desire improved relations. The leadership of the church does have a responsibility to seek common ground because the church's mission is the salvation of all.

The challenges that young people face with church standards and their actual conduct, summon church leaders to act, as it cannot be business as usual. This is an enormous undertaking for leaders, but the task is not impossible. There are numerous possible options and approaches as they engage with the young people. The church is the Lord's and He continues to be in charge. He provides vision and wisdom to those whom He appoints in positions of leadership. Leaders and young people who find the path, remember that it

is not just about being in church, it is about, as Ellen White puts it, "the joys of service in this life and the higher joys of wider service in the life to come." For generation Z and Y, boomers and all others, the destination is not the church, it is the Kingdom of God. Together, let's make it!

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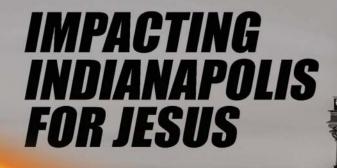


Dr. Balvin B. Braham

Associate Director Ministerial Association Inter-American Division







AGES 18 TO 35



is Dad for the keys
and his dad said
"Okay, but there are
three things you need
to do for me. First, you
need to read your Bible every day, second
you need to get your grades up in school
and thirdly you need to cut your hair."

Several weeks later the boy came to his father and asked again for the keys. The father asked if he had done what was required of him before receiving the keys. The boy said "yes." The father said, "I see you have been reading your Bible every day and your grades are much better, but I've noticed that your hair is still not cut." The boy smiled confidently and replied, "True dad, but Jesus had long hair!" The father looked his son in the eyes and replied, "You're right son, but remember Jesus had to walk everywhere he went."

Don't laugh too loud, since the boy in our story sounds a lot like Seventhday Adventists! We too are asking Jesus

for the keys to the kingdom. We preach and pray for His soon return but have we done the work we've been asked to do?

You be the judge!

"The work of the cities is the essential work for this time. When the cities are worked as God would have them, the result will be the setting in operation of a mighty movement such as we have not yet witnessed" (*Ministry to the Cities* p. 10).

"The message that I am bidden to bear to our people at this time is, work the cities without delay, for the time is short" (*Ministry to the Cities* p 26).

To a large extent, we have not done the work God has given us to do. Many cities around the world remain unreached and unimpacted by The Three Angels Message! Ellen White had the following words to say...

"The work that should long ago have been in active operation to win souls to Christ has not been done. The inhabitants of the ungodly cities so soon to be visited with calamities have been cruelly neglected. The time is near when large cities will be swept away, and all should be warned of these coming judgments. But who is giving to the accomplishment of this work the wholehearted service that God requires?" (Evangelism p. 29).

According to Spirit of Prophecy, Adventists have actually been sleeping on the job!

"Often, we have been told that our cities are to hear the message, but how slow we are to heed the instruction. I saw One standing on a high platform with arms extended. He turned and pointed in every direction, saying, "a world perishing in ignorance of God's holy law, and Seventh-day Adventists are asleep." The Lord is pleading for laborers,

for there is a great work to be done. There are conversions to be made that will add to the church such as shall be saved." (*Evangelism*, p. 32).

INSUBORDINATION

Perhaps the biggest issue facing our church today is "insubordination" to the great commission! Ellen White wrote in 1901 "We may have to remain in this world because of insubordination many more years, as did the children of Israel..." (Evangelism, p. 696). Like the young man in our story, we must decide how badly we want the keys to the Kingdom! We must decide how badly we want Jesus to come in our lifetime!

JESUS AND CITY EVANGELISM

Interestingly, Jesus prioritized preaching the gospel to the cities! He understood that in every city there are people like the woman at Jacob's well, who are thirsty to know the kind heart of God and His free gift of eternal life (John 4:10).

As multitudes came to Jesus from the city of Sychar, Jesus turned to his disciples (you and I included) and said some of the most encouraging words in regard to city evangelism! "Don't you have a saying, it's still four months until the harvest? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for the harvest. Even now the one who reaps

draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together" (John 4:35-36).

Notice that Jesus is so zealous for the lost people in the cities, especially those who are thirsty for the gospel, that he orders the church to pay the reapers a salary. Jesus understood a simple but profound truth. Ripe will rot if it's not reaped! Although "sowers" are just as important, Jesus needs reapers to be fast and focused on the harvest before it's lost.

For a couple years my family and I lived beside an orchard in Wenatchee, Washington. We noticed that when the farmer waited too long to harvest the apples they would fall from the tree and quickly rot on the ground. Every day in every city, there are hearts yearning for God and the hope that only He can offer. But every day there are also souls perishing "without God and without hope." We must move fast and focused on the orchards of the world. Without question, city evangelism is our most urgent work as a church! So, if this is our work, how should we go about reaching our local cities?

ONE YEAR IN MISSION

First, we strongly recommend that every church leader gets the book "Ministry to the Cities" a compilation written by Ellen White and produced by the Review and Herald. Although not exhaustive, this little book is jammed packed with timeless and God inspired methods that will work in your city especially if acted upon with prayer and the blessing of the Holy Spirit. I would also recommend Rico Hill and Jared Thurmon's practical book "The Blueprint: A Manual for Reaching the Cities."

Secondly, we must understand that our youth are the most effective agents for reaching the cities of the world. They are the "silver bullet" you might say! Ellen White writes "If the young men in our cities would unite their efforts to discountenance ungodliness and crime, their influence would greatly advance the cause of reform. It is the privilege and the duty of every youth, as an angel of mercy, to minister to the wants and woes of mankind. There is no class that can achieve greater results for God and humanity than the young" (Ministry to the Cities, p. 78). But how can we mobilize our youth to effectively reach the cities?

Thirdly implement a "One Year in Mission" in your conference or Union. OYiM as it is called is a global youth initiative started in 2013 with a singular focus... to reach the cities of the world with the Three Angels Message. Although Ellen White doesn't call it One Year in Mission, she describes it perfectly in the following quotation.

"Brother and sister (Stephen and Hetty) Haskell have rented a house in one of the best parts of the city (Nashville), and have gathered round them a family of helpers, who day by day go out giving Bible readings, selling our papers, and doing medical missionary work. During the hour of worship, the workers relate their experiences. Bible studies are regularly conducted in the home, and the young men and young women connected with the mission receive a practical, thorough training in holding Bible readings and in selling our publications The Lord has blessed their labors, a number have embraced the truth, and many others are deeply interested. It was in this way that fishermen who left their nets at the call of Christ were trained. A similar work should be done in many cities. The young people who go out to labor in these cities should be under the direction of experienced, consecrated leaders Let the workers be provided a good home, in which they may receive a thorough training. The Lord has a precious, sacred work of soul-saving to be done in the world, and it is to be done now" (Ministry To The Cities, p. 82).

There are at least six features of OYiM found in this passage. Let's briefly look at each.

1 One Year in Mission is a CITY initiative. There is no doubt from this quotation that the "city" is the primary focus. She mentions it three times. This make sense, since the majority of the

world's population lives in the cities,
OYIM is an initiative that works "smarter
not harder" by looking for lost souls in
the most population dense places. OYIM
is not for rural or country evangelism
(as valuable as this is), it is distinctly
designed to reach the "cities" of the
world!

2 One Year in Mission is launched from a center of influence located within the city. A center of influence is simply a rented or purchased facility where OYiM missionaries can live and launch their ministries. In this case, the center of influence was a "rented" home in a safe part of the city. In choosing a center of influence we must keep in mind the spiritual and physical health of our missionaries as well as their proximity to the harvest. To learn more about "centers of influence" and how to access funding be sure to go to missiontothecities.org.

3 One Year in Mission provides a buffet of ministry options for the local community. Did you notice in her quote that young people did a variety of things? They gave Bible studies, sold Adventist resources and did medical missionary work. The beauty of having a team is that it provides variety of talents and spiritual gifts that can make it more successful in meeting the various needs of the city. Interestingly, some of these ministries take place in the

center of influence itself, while others are done outside the center. Recently, I visited a very successful OYiM and was pleasantly surprised to find that many of our OYiMers were professionals in their field. There were doctors, educators. lawyers and carpenters etc. All of them were using their expertise to serve the community and warm hearts to hear the gospel message! What a wonderful testimony to the power of "Christ method alone" (Ministry to the cities, p. 59). There is synergetic power when teams of young people work together to socialize, sympathize, serve and save the lost in the cities of the world! How large should these teams be? Personally, we believe the teams should be large in order to have greater impact (perhaps 12) or more) but this is not always possible so smaller teams should be encouraged as well. Another question we often hear is "when should a young person join an OYiM?" Again, we personally recommend they join during one of their two "gap years". This would be either directly after high school or college. Having said that though, whenever a young person is being moved by The Spirit that is the best time!

4 One Year in Mission is for Adventist Young People. Notice how she mentions "young men and young women" as the key laborers. One Year in Mission is designed to involve committed

Adventist young people ages 18-35. You will also notice an element of intergenerational involvement since the young people are led by "experienced and consecrated leaders." Two of these older folks "brother and sister Haskell" are mentioned by name. Without question the secret to a successful OYiM is recruiting the right young adults to minister and selecting the right adults to lead the OYiM ministry. By the way, many young adults are very qualified to lead an OYiM and should be appointed to this work. Especially those who have served already as an OYiM Missionary. Some Unions or Conferences may wish to appoint a pastor to this responsibility, but it should be his/her primary focus. Church planting pastors are ideal.

5 One year in Mission is one of the most effective ways to train our young people for ministry! Jesus trained His disciples by actually doing ministry with them and then giving them opportunities to debrief. For an entire year, OYiM Missionaries (OYiMers) will also be putting into practice what they are learning. For example, they will learn to give Bibles studies effectively by actually giving Bible studies! In our quotation, Ellen White calls this "a practical, thorough training." But wait, there's more! These young missionaries will also have opportunities to "relate their experiences" (good and bad) and receive counsel and encouragement from their peers. This is the perfect environment to "rightly train" God's army of youth.

One Year in Mission has one particular objective. The goal of OYiM is to bring lost people into a saving relationship with Jesus and to help them embrace the Three Angel's Message. Therefore, OYiM is in complete alignment with our Evangelism and Church Planting Departments. In fact, One Year in Mission in some places has been used to plant or help facilitate a church plant in a city. Some may argue that we should lower our expectation regarding OYiM since it is a youth initiative, but these individuals should read carefully the following quotation and make a mental adjustment. "It is the privilege and duty of every youth, as an angel of mercy, to minister to the wants and woes of mankind. There is no class that can achieve greater results for god and humanity than the young" (Ministry to the Cities, p. 78). It's interesting that nowhere in scripture are we told to plant churches. The great commission is a call to preach the gospel and make disciples. Church planting then is not the mission but the result of faithfully making God's priorities ours! Therefore, OYiM teams that faithfully follow Jesus should not be surprised if the fruit of the efforts leads to a new church plant.

WHY EVERY UNION ONE YEAR IN MISSION?

It is the prayer of the General Conference Youth Department along with Division Youth Directors around the world, that every Union launch an OYIM yearly! In fact, to help facilitate this the General Conference has sent some financial resources to every Division.
Combined with Evangelism and Church planting dollars, these resources could make this worthy vision a reality!

Some argue that not every young person will want or even be able to take a year off to focus on OYIM. Although this is true, it is also true that in every Union and Conference there are young people who would jump at the opportunity! These young men and women are feeling an urgent call from God to reach the Rehab's, Nebuchadnezzar's, Priscillas and Aquila's living in the great cities of the world! How do we know? Because in our travels, we meet them all around the world!

The General Conference Youth
Department believes our young
people want to be challenged to live
dangerously for the Lord and OYIM is a
once in a lifetime opportunity. For OYIM
to be successful though, we must do
what we can to heavily promote the
ministry, recruit young missionaries and
equip them for soul winning success.

BENEFITS

By the way, it may be that from among them we will discover our church's greatest talent for evangelistic and pastoral work! All around the world we hear stories of young people who have decided to become pastors or Bible workers as a result of their OYiM experience. Many others have expressed their gratefulness for the opportunity since it birthed in them a

heart for mission service. One young lady joyfully shared with us that she now has evangelistic eyes and believes that "once a missionary always a missionary." Recently, I spoke to a couple who met during an OYiM and were married the following year. They now lead an OYiM in their Union. So, the benefits for our youth even beyond winning souls for Jesus are great!

Some wonder why young people need to dedicate an entire year to mission service. They wonder if it might be better for them to do short term missions instead. Short term mission initiatives like Mission Caleb are excellent opportunities for young people to dedicate vacation time to reaching the cities of the world. We wholeheartedly support short term mission initiatives! In fact, many voung people have been so turned on to missions after just three weeks of Mission Caleb that they have immediately signed up for One Year in Mission! So short term mission trips are good and in themselves can awaken a mission heart in the younger generation. To learn more about Mission Caleb download the manual at youth. adventist.org.

However, OYiM gives our young people more time to experience radical heart change and more opportunities to grow in their evangelistic skills and to ultimately see greater results not only in their own spiritual growth, but in the salvation of souls they have been praying for and actively reaching. We definitely

need short term mission trips, but we also need long term mission options for those who want to make an even greater impact.

Some have opted to be a student missionary for this reason and we highly recommend this as well. But again, OYiM is unique in that it is for all our youth even those who do not attend our schools, moreover it is team-based so they have constant comradery and peer support. Is OYiM better than short mission trips or any other long term mission initiatives? Not at all, it's just different.

Finally, some wonder if the city near them is even open to our message. To this concern, Ellen White writes "In every city, filled though it may be with violence and crime, there are many who with proper teaching may learn to become followers of Jesus. Thousands may thus be reached with the saving truth and be led to receive Christ as a personal Saviour" (Mission to the cities p. 31). God himself put it like this to the Apostle Paul in Corinth "...I have much people in this city" (Acts 18:9-10).

The encouraging news regarding city evangelism is the fact that cities like Sychar and Jericho are reached one person at a time! Jesus reached just one woman by a well and through her multitudes came to believe in Him. Joshua's two spies reached the prostitute Rahab with the gospel (scarlet cord) and as a result she and all her loved one's in the city were saved as well. So rather than become discouraged

by the evil we see in our cities or overwhelmed by their size and the work that needs to get done, let's remember that everyone can be supernaturally reached one person at a time.

RESOURCES

To learn more about One Year in Mission and how to get one started in your Conference or Union be sure to download a free copy of the manual at youth.adventist.org. You can also go to our OYiM group page on Facebook, join it and see pictures and videos of young people around the world celebrating what God has done and is doing through their year of city outreach. Also, check out our prerecorded OYiM University online at youth.adventist.org and learn the what, when, where, how, why and who of OYiM.

May God move in your heart to start a One Year in Mission in your Union. Just imagine the impact not only on our youth but on the men, women, boys and girls they will most certainly win to Jesus!

Can you say it with us?
"EVERY UNION...ONE YEAR IN
MISSION!"



Gary BlanchardWorld Youth Director
General Conference of the
Seventh-day Adventists



"Strength lies in differences, not in similarities"

Stephen Covey

eamwork is a divine idea and of great importance, which is centralized in the same triad essence of God. The Trinity constitutes the perfect divine team. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit have always worked together to provide and sustain the universal creation. Under the divine government, nothing stays free by chance. The creation of man is a result of the divine team, that said: "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness" (Genesis 1:26). The idea of working in a team, then, originates in God and fulfills the reason by which we were created. As a result, since its origin we see that human beings gather together, and they do so in

great societies as well as in the smallest circle of the home. It's fundamental to value the joint work so that our societies, governments and religious entities can survive and reach success.

MEANING OF TEAMWORK

According to the Spanish Language General Dictionary, a team is a "group of people organized to carry out an activity or task." According to Wilkes, it's "a group of people connected for the mission of reaching a shared goal." Based on his own experience, the investigator says that a team is "a group of people with common and clear objectives and purposes, organized to reach a defined goal." Katzenbach and Smith use the definition of the team from Harvard

University Business School: "A small group of people with complementary skills that are committed with purpose, common capacities of which each one is equally responsible." For his part, Glenn Parker says with wisdom that not every group of people is a team and that not every team performs effectively, and that is because a team is a group of people with a high sense of interdependence oriented towards an achievement, goal or fulfillment of a task."

According to Mead and Stowell, no organization can function well without the participation of a group of people, because people are more efficient when they unite their efforts to achieve common objectives."⁴ On the other hand, for Stephanie and Steven, teamwork in

a coordinated way is the most valuable asset an organization has. The motive is simple: it's much easier to carry out responsibilities, ideas and services, which contributes to the quarantee of success.⁵ In addition, they point out that when a person does something spectacular it's because he had the support and the commitment of others.6 Another author, Maxwell, considers that it's important to know that we are too small to do great things; a person cannot do anything transcendental except they do in a group and all important act in history always has a team of people involved.⁷ Lastly, Malphurs says that a good team is integrated by individuals with distinct personalities and capacities, and that these differences are what makes a significant contribution to ministry.8

We all know that we live in an individualistic world, in a world in which "I" penetrates in all the spheres of life, home, society, business and government. Maxwell comments that the "individualism wins trophies, but teamwork wins the approval of others." Dungy also says something very interesting in that regard: "As a team, the ensemble has to be better than the sum of each individual part." For his part, Butterworth believes that we should sacrifice personal glory for the collective good and support the team.

This remains clear with what happened to us during superstorm Sandy, when the Adventist Community Services Department along with the vouth of the City of New York met at their respective churches and formed teams to support the effort sustained during innumerable hours of voluntary work, fundraising, distribution of articles of clothing, food and personal care packages and the most important: helping victims of the storm move out of the affected houses. That is how we met Maria, who had lost her house, her belongings and, as she herself said, even hope. Maria's house was close to the coast, and that was a very big risk. She told us that she thought that the storm wasn't going to be too big and decided to stay, but the water started to enter the house and immediately she found refuge in the second floor. As the water entered her house, it destroyed all she had. Maria thought it was the end for her family. Days after the storm, a team of young people came to her house and she tended to them: in spite of her loss. she felt grateful to God because she was alive along with her two children. Her hope was revived when she saw the team of young people willing to help her. The team took out everything that was destroyed, and the house was cleaned. In this story we can see how a team with a clear vision, mission and objective could do great things for God. Maria was impacted by the act of a group that knew why they were on earth: to be a blessing to others.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF A HEALTHY TEAM

Now we have seen how important

it is to work as a team and how it prepares us to be more effective, to learn more and guarantee success, which brings various additional benefits for our development. We also learn to live in a community, to support each other, to minimize pride and to reach great success. The investigators propose seven essential elements that motive a team: values, mission, vision, purpose, objectives, and defined strategies. Let's see a brief summary of each one.

HAVING VALUES

Values are like a compass that guides the team and helps in decision-making. Having values is united to the question: in what do we believe? Values, as Butterworth says, identifies the norms and the path to follow to achieve harmonious work¹²; in this sense, it functions as the helm of the behavior of the team since it governs the behavior of an organization and besides, it is, according to Blanchard, the nonnegotiable principles that define a leader.¹³

Maxwell observes that "the organizational values influence and guide the behavior of the team in the same manner in which the personal values influence and guide the behavior of an individual." Consequently, it is recommended to practice our values, institutionalize them and praise them publicly. The values of ministry, in particular, dictate the what and the why of things. In other words, the values determine the vision.

Before continuing, here is a brief anecdote: at an event to which I was invited to preach, a church family got together to serve the homeless during the weekend. They said that our mission is to serve people who had nothing and that roam the streets. That Saturday and Sunday they prepared more than three thousand plates of food to give to the homeless. Hundreds of brethren went to different points of the city; we organized ourselves by zone and by team, and the result was phenomenal: finally, the needy were touched by an act of love. Some of them expressed that they were forgotten but now they had life and hope.

Also, I remember Kim, a businessman who because of circumstances of life had lost everything. His wife had abandoned him, and he had found refuge in alcohol in such a way that he ended up in bankruptcy. When we found him, he was on the floor, ruined. We offered food but he didn't want it. He disregarded us and said that he didn't need us. Kim's heart was hardened: there was pain and resentment on his face. Then one of the youths said: "Let's sing to him", and another started to play the guitar. In one second, Kim started to cry bitterly without control. One of the youths gave him a hug and he cried even more. After some time. Kim started to tell us his story and we all sat at his feet to listen to him attentively. First, he thanked us for the songs and the hugs, and then, in a funny way, he told us that he was hungry, and that he would accept the food. Today, we can say that

the team's act of going out and touching lives made an extraordinary change in Kim, that now is a manager of a large company thanks to the reestablishment of his life. He loves God greatly and also the members of the same church that helped him.

Together in mission we can change the world.

HAVING A MISSION

Having a mission is to know where we are heading to. It affects the future planning of the team or organization; it defines what is our labor or activity and it helps us know what we are dedicated to. Also, it is very important to know who our audience is. The mission is, in short, what the ministry should fulfill.

HAVING A VISION

A team without vision is destined to disappear. A ministry without vision is like a carpenter without a hammer. Barna wrote that only two percent of the pastors "can articulate the vision of their churches." And he added: "This is the reason for which many pastors aren't efficient; they don't know where they are headed."16 The vision defines the future. describes it, feels it and anticipates it. It also helps answer the following questions: Where are we going? Why are we doing what we are doing?¹⁷ Vision is the photography of the future that will give purpose and direction to the group, 18 that is, it relates to our dreams and aspirations, who we can become.

In a similar fashion to the other authors, Malphurs says that having a vision brings unity and not having it brings disunity. This means that when there is a common vision, in general, there also is harmony in the team.¹⁹ A ministry without vision doesn't know where it's going, it's disorganized; but having a vision, on the contrary, keeps the team united because it stimulates passion, gives energy, alters the status quo and disrupts the mediocre mentalities and decadent ministries. The same Mulphurs affirms that "warm and definite vision has the potential of melting the most frozen heart."20 Whereas, the vision responds to the what, purpose, as we will now see, responds to the why.

HAVING A PURPOSE

Maxwell comments that "although the vision tells people where they need to go, purpose tells them why they should go there."21 Purpose helps maintain us in the right path, make adjustments, improvise and innovate, even when we find obstacles or difficulties.²² Blanchard and Stoner point out that the organizations exist for a purpose and that, above all, the large organizations give it much importance, since it inspires compromise and emotion.²³ Rick Warren, for his part, thinks that purposes should be simple, clear and specific, since in that way energies are focused and time is saved²⁴; and in addition it allows for everyone to

remember it, which is important so that they are able to transmit it later.²⁵

Purpose, in short, describes the reason for the mission and, in the words of Stowell and Mead, guides and motivates teamwork.²⁶

HAVING GOALS

Goals help the team reach a final objective because they are processes that should be followed and completed. According to the Real Academy of the Spanish Language, goal is the "end toward which someone's actions and desires are directed to." Maxwell is clear when talking about goals: "Without goals, nor a strategy to reach them, vision isn't attainable nor measurable."²⁷

HAVING OBJECTIVES

Objectives are declarations used to outline in a quantitative and qualitative manner the proposed achievement in the short and long term. Objectives help us to eliminate the deficiencies that can exist and help crystalize the action or work plan, which in turn is formed by goals.

HAVING STRATEGIES

A healthy team should have defined strategies according to its values. The same clarifies how the team will fulfill its purpose and objectives, that is, how the ministry will implement its mission and vision. It's formed by planned actions to achieve a purpose, meaning that it answers the question: How are we going to achieve it? In addition, it details the results that the team should fulfill in the long term. In other words, strategy solidifies the path and the place. In the same should fulfill in the long term. In other words, strategy solidifies the path and the place.

These seven essential elements will cause the team to reach great results. With strength and conviction, nothing can stop the team in the fulfillment of the mission.

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Andrés J. Peralta, D. Min. Associate Youth Director General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventists



Leader Spotlight



Gennady Kasap, Director *Euro-Asia Division*

Gennady born February 8, 1974, into a pastor's family. In 1992 he was invited to minister and since then he worked with youth at the conference and union levels. He was elected as the Euro-Asia Division Youth Director in 2010. He is married and

has a wonderful wife and two daughters. All his family love Jesus and love each other. Gennady G. Kasap loves our Lord and our youth. He dreams to meet Jesus with young people and praise Him in the New Jerusalem.



Al Powell, Director Inter-America Division

Pastor Al Powell was elected to serve as the Youth Ministries Director of the Inter-America Division of Seventh-Day Adventists on July 9, 2015. Pastor Powell will now be responsible for supervising the youth activities of the Seventh-Day

Adventist Church in the 42 countries that comprise the Inter-American Division, which has 3.7 million members. Pastor Al Powell was born in the beautiful Cayman Islands. He is a third generation Seventh-day Adventist. He has been married for over 24 happy years to a nurse and teacher, the former Zoraida Giraldo, who greatly supports his ministry, especially in the areas of health and evangelism. The Lord has blessed this union with two sons, Daniel and Felipe.

Pastor Powell attended Northern Caribbean University located in Mandeville, Jamaica for three years and studied Business Administration. However, he responded to the call of gospel ministry and shortly after transferred to the Central

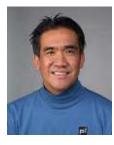
American Adventist University located in Alajuela, Costa Rica. There he learned Spanish and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theology. He went on to earn an MBA with an emphasis in Leadership from the University of Liverpool in England. He is currently a candidate for the Master's in Science Degree with an emphasis in Family Therapy from the Adventist University in Peru.



Tracy Wood, Director *North American Division*

Pastor Tracy has a passion for helping young people become leaders for Jesus. Over the years he has served as a pastor, a lay-youth leader, a conference youth and young adult ministries director. He now serves as Director for Youth &

Young Adult Ministries, Public Campus Ministries, and Teen Leadership Training at the North American Division. Pastor Tracy is married to Angelina and they have young adult children with grandchildren.



Jobbie Yabut, Director Southern Asia-Pacific Division

Youth Ministries is very important to Pastor Yabut because the future of our church lies within our youth. He believes that if we love, care, mold, and train them we will surely have a bright tomorrow, the church will indeed be lively, working

for the salvation of many souls.



GC YOUTH DIGITAL AND SOCIAL MEDIA INFORMATION



WEBSITE

URL: https://youth.adventist.org

Global Youth Day

URL: https://www.globalyouthday.org



FACEBOOK

URL: https://www.facebook.com/GCYouthMinistries

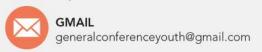
GIVE HIM 20 GROUP: https://www.facebook.com/ groups/325298914731269/members

GYD: https://www.facebook.com/GCYouth-MinistriesGYD

OYiM: https://www.facebook.com/OneYearIn-

Mission

Impact South Africa: https://www.facebook.com/ ImpactSA2013





INSTAGRAM: gcythmin

URL: https://www.instagram.com/gcythmin



TWITTER

Username: gcythmin

URL: https://twitter.com/gcythmin



NEWSLETTER

URL: https://youth.adventist.org/Media-Publications/ Youth-Connect-Newsletter



VIMEO

Username: generalconferenceyouth@gmail.com **URL:** https://vimeo.com/gcythmin



YOUTUBE

Username: generalconferenceyouth@gmail.com

URL: https://www.youtube.com/user/GCYouthMinistries