



Adventist Youth Leader Magazine

Spiritual Youth Leaders Resource



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General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®
Adventist Youth Ministries

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EDITORIAL

APRIL – JUNE, 2021

This past quinquennium, our theme was “Pass It On.” For five years we emphasized the importance of mentorship and true discipleship by passing on knowledge as well as passing on leadership to those who are prepared to take the mantle just as Elisha was. Our new theme, “I Will Go” hopes to motivate our young people to take up that mantle and continuing moving forward completing the work the Lord has commissioned to them. We are seeing young people everywhere working tirelessly for God’s church and their communities as well as places abroad, whether it be Global Youth Day, or through PCM, Pathfinders or OYiM, young people all over the globe are active and inspired.

One thing we must always remember is to never let up. Sometimes as leaders we

may think that once we pass it on, our time is done. There are no more things to do, no more checklists, no more growth, no more goals. If that has crossed your mind or even if it hasn’t, remember that we must never let up and continue working for our young people in various way. In this issue we are called to support our young people by our South American Division youth director, Carlos Campitelli. He reminds us we must support our youth as they navigate new positions of leadership and different experiences within the walls of the church as well as in their communities. Some of those communities might include Public Campuses which we discuss in this issue through an article written by our Public Campus Ministry director himself, Pako Mokgwane.

There are different spheres where our young people will serve efficiently if we have passed on the knowledge acquired and given them the confidence in God and in themselves to accept the call, where it may lead. We must remember to keep our hearts on fire for Jesus and for our children, teens and youth. We must always let the Holy Spirit fill us, work through us and lead us to where we are to serve Him and remembering to NEVER LET UP. Eyes always forward towards the goal.



Andrés J. Peralta
Associate Youth Director
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THE HOLY SPIRIT AND LEADERSHIP

The greatest need in the church today is Spirit-filled leadership! Leaders who are empowered to lead God's people effectively in mission. Leaders who can lead with competency, character, and combustible power. From Genesis to the maps, we see God linking leadership and the Holy Spirit together as an explosive combination. We see this with the calling of Sampson (Judges 14:6), Saul (1 Samuel 10:6), David (1 Samuel 16:13), Jesus (Matthew 3:16) and the early church leaders at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4). In fact, in Romans 12:8 the spiritual gift of leadership is connected directly to the Holy Spirit. This is not to say that people cannot function as leaders without the Holy Spirit, they can and sadly many do. However, to be a supernatural leader, who makes eternal impact in the lives of those who follow them, one must be baptized (filled, immersed) with the Holy Spirit. There is no substitute for this!

The truth is that everyone is a leader. If you have a social media platform and therefore followers, you are a leader. The same is true if you have siblings, children, grandchildren, employees, members, patients, siblings, students, peers, friends etc. Yes, everyone to some degree is a leader whether they realize it or not. For this reason, it is vital that we all understand the connection between The Holy Spirit and Leadership.

JESUS

It's interesting that before Jesus was baptized with the Holy Spirit, there is little record of His ministry. Only after the Spirit descended on him "like a dove" did He leave a legacy of leadership that has inspired billions for generations now. Before we are baptized with the Holy Spirit, we also

have minimal impact on the world as leaders. In fact, without a tombstone reminding passersby's that we once existed, our impact without the Spirit will go largely unremembered and unremarkable. We may still be able to impress like Apollos did in Acts 18, but we will lack the Spirit's power to make lasting impact for God in this world.

APOLLO

It's insightful to contrast the preacher Apollo with The Apostle Paul. Like many Christian leaders today, Apollo was a silver-tongued orator. He knew how to move people to repentance and right doing (Acts 19:3-4). There are many leaders today who can do the same. They have no problem pointing out the sins of others and telling them what they should and should not do. As important as this is (and we need more of it today) one apparently doesn't need the Holy to accomplish this!

Although Apollo was accurate theologically and very knowledgeable, he left his church in Ephesus in a gospel barren place. They had no knowledge of the gospel and didn't even know of the Spirit's existence (19:4-5, 19:2). As a result, the church experienced little growth and the city of Ephesus remained almost entirely unreached (19:7). Without the Spirit empowering us with competency, character, and combustible power we too will find ourselves unable to lead kingdom growth and even more tragically, unable to effectively preach the gospel. That's right! Apparently preaching the gospel effectively is only possible when one has received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Jesus Himself drilled down on this point when He said "But ye shall receive power AFTER the Holy Ghost has come upon you, and you will be witnesses for me..."

PAUL

After Apollo left his church in Ephesus, The Apostle Paul took his place and brought massive changes not only to the church but to the entire city of Ephesus. He brought Spirit ignited revival and evangelism (Acts 19:6-10). He did this even though he was not a great orator like Apollos and struggled with timidity at times (1 Cor 2:1-3). What set these two men apart from each other, was not talent but Spirit endowed competency, character, and combustible power. You see, Paul was a Spirit-filled leader, Apollos was not (Acts 9:17, 18:25).

While it is important for us to read books, attend seminars and listen to podcasts that equip us to be effective leaders for Jesus, we must bow to the reality that without the daily infilling of the Holy Spirit we will never be dynamic (powerful) leaders for His cause! If you must choose between being eloquent or Spirit filled, ditch the eloquence. Ironically, as in the case of Paul, the Spirit will give us just the right words needed to move hearts, minds, and feet in mission for The Master! Now like never before leaders must recognize the connection between The Holy Spirit and effective Church Leadership and seek to merge the two.

SATAN'S WORST NIGHTMARE

Sadly, many leaders today are echoing the words of the disciples in Ephesus (former members of Apollos) who when asked if they had been filled with the Holy Spirit responded, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit" (19:2). The Devil is not afraid of leaders (even talented ones) like this! Ellen White wrote on March 22, 1887 "There is nothing Satan fears so much as that that the people of God shall clear the way by removing every hinderance, so that the Lord can pour out His Spirit upon a languishing church and an impenitent

congregation. When the way is prepared for the Spirit of God the blessing will come” (Review and Herald).

Every spiritual Leaders must make a daily decision regarding their leadership potential---do they want to be normal or paranormal, natural or supernatural? Do they want to tease or terrorize the Devil? Interestingly, after Sampson was filled with the Holy Spirit, he tore a lion in half (Judges 14:6). This was a clear message to The Devil, who the bible describes “as a roaring lion,” that he can be divided and defeated by mere humans who are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. The Devil knows that those who have been filled with the Holy Spirit are indwelt by the “Spirit of Jesus” and nobody scares Satan more than Christ (Acts 16:7). To be filled with The Holy Spirit then is to have the Abilities (Spiritual Gifts) and Attributes (Fruit of the Spirit) of Jesus Himself! This indeed must be Satan’s worst nightmare.

So how can leaders be filled daily with the Holy Spirit? In the above passage by Ellen White, we are told that the Spirit will be poured out upon us when we “remove every hinderance.” The good news is that since Pentecost the Holy Spirit has already been poured out upon the earth (Act 2). He is right now available to every leader who wants to be indwelt and filled. The bad news is that we often have allowed certain things to hinder the flow of the Spirit in our lives. Thus, limiting our potential and power for spiritual leadership. What are these hinderances and how do we remove them?

CLUELESSNESS

Perhaps the biggest obstacles to receiving the Holy Spirit is cluelessness! Like the members of the church in Ephesus (and Apollos for that matter) many leaders today are clueless regarding the Holy Spirit. Rather than being submissive to his guidance and direction in their

lives, they attempt to use Him to accomplish their goals, visions, and strategies.

In so doing, they treat the Holy Spirit like the “force” in the Star Wars rather than the Divine Person He really is! Repeatedly in John 14-16, Jesus uses a personal pronoun to identify the Holy Spirit and in Acts 5 the Apostle Peter calls Him God on earth (vs 4). When Jesus went to heaven and poured out His Spirit, he did not leave us with an impersonal force but with a divine guide, comforter, and friend (John 14:26, 16:13).

In order to receive the Holy Spirit then, we as leaders must be willing to let Him lead through us or in other words “to walk by the Spirit” (Galatians 5:16). As one well known preacher put it, instead of asking the Spirit to bless what we are doing, we need to earnestly ask Him to help us do what He is blessing. Yes, we need goals, visions, and strategies but unless they are from The Spirit, they will either come to nothing or will end up being problematic to the cause of Christ.

It’s no accident that the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus “like a dove” (Matthew 3:16). Unlike pigeons, doves cannot be trained! Although they are gentle creatures, they are wild and untrainable. When it comes to the Holy Spirit, you cannot train Him either, He must train you! You cannot lead him; He must lead you! Complete submission then is needed before one can receive the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Sadly, both Saul and Sampson were clueless regarding the Holy Spirit and how He works through leaders. Although both were filled, they chose to walk in the flesh instead of giving the Spirit complete control. Sampson chose sexual immorality and Saul selfish pride. Both their stories end tragically and remind us that “walking in the Spirit” is essential for spiritual leaders

(Galatians 5:16).

PRAYERLESSNESS

Perhaps one of the saddest verses in all of scripture is found in Matthew 17:16. A father had brought his demon possessed son to Christ's disciples in hopes they could cast it out, but they were powerless to do so. Not only did this cause embarrassment to the cause of Christ, it left a young person in cruel demonic bondage!

Apparently, these leaders lacked the power of the Holy Spirit who according to scriptures is the great exorcist (Matthew 12:28). Later when they asked Jesus why they could not cast the demon out of the boy "he replied, this can come out only by prayer" (Mark 9:29). So, we see that another big hinderance to receiving the Holy Spirit is prayerlessness. Leaders must live "between" the mountain of prayer and the multitude of ministry. Ellen White wrote, "The life must be like Christ's life—between the mountain and the multitude" (*Steps to Christ* p. 101). Interestingly, before casting the demon out of the

boy, Jesus had been on the mountain of prayer and as a result was on fire with the Spirit!

Have you ever noticed that people drink tea differently? Some repetitiously dip the tea bag in the hot water while others drop it in and leave it there. There is a reason for this. The longer the tea bag is immersed in the water the stronger the tea gets. Some like their tea weak and others like it strong. When it comes to Spiritual leadership every true leader wants to be strong not weak! This happens when we completely immerse ourselves in the Holy Spirit—through prayer, bibles study and wait expectantly for His presence, power and direction in our lives and ministries. As leaders our top priority every morning must be full immersion in the Spirit! This was our Lord's practice, and it should be ours as well. "Daily He received a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit. In the early hours of the new day the Lord awakened Him from His slumbers, and His soul and His lips were anointed with grace, that he might impart to others" (*Christ Object Lessons* p. 140).



Notice this incredible promise found in Luke 11:13, “If you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask.” Giving commentary on this passage, Ellen White wrote “We are not willing enough to trouble the Lord with our petitions, and to ask Him for the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Lord wants us to trouble Him in this matter. He wants us to press our petitions to the throne” (*Fundamentals of Christian Education* p. 537).

All around the world we are challenging young people to spend 20 minutes a day on the “mountain” praying for the infilling of The Holy Spirit. We call this initiative “Give Him 20.” It thrills our hearts to see young people praying together in small groups either online or in person. Many are claiming the promises of Acts 1:8 and Luke 11:13 and asking God to use them mightily in their local churches and communities. You can learn more about this initiative at gcyouthministries.org.

FAITHLESSNESS

Many leaders doubt whether they are qualified to receive the Holy Spirit. This is also a big hinderance to being Spirit-filled. But the good news is that Jesus died on the Roman Cross so that every leader might have access to the power of the Holy Spirit. So often we see the cross of Christ only as a source of pardon, but we forget that it is also a source of Holy Spirit power! The Bible says in Galatians 3:13, Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, “CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE”—in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.” In other words, Jesus died so that you might receive the Holy

“We are not willing enough to trouble the Lord with our petitions, and to ask Him for the gift of the Holy Spirit...He wants us to press our petitions to the throne”.

Spirit by faith! Notice the Holy Spirit is to be received not achieved! All of God’s promises are “yes in Christ” and the promise of the Holy Spirit is no exception (2 Corinthians 1:20).

Dear Leaders, Christ invites you to draw near to the cross and approach His pierced side by faith. Notice that flowing from Him is both blood and water (John 19:34). This means that at the foot of the cross, Jesus is right now offering you forgiveness for your sins (blood) and the power of the Holy Spirit (water). In fact, John 7:38-39 compares the Holy Spirit to water. Everything you need to lead God’s people effectively in mission is yours. By the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit, you can become a supernatural leader of character, competency, and combustible power!

Gary Blanchard
GC Youth Director





PUBLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY BECOMES PART OF YOUTH MINISTRY*

In a recent adjustment of its departmental structure, the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists moved Public Campus Ministry (PCM) from Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries Department back to the Youth Department. Administratively, from now on, PCM falls under Senior Youth Ministry, which houses three ministries: Ambassadors, Young Adults, and Public Campus Ministry (PCM). The reason for the shift is to optimize resources, personnel, and services to public campus ministry.

A VISION FOR PUBLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY

The General Conference's Public Campus Ministry is charged with the task of ensuring that young people are grounded in the mission of Jesus Christ and the Adventist Church, with the focus of reaching and engaging their fellow students in a lifelong relationship with Jesus. In addition to this spiritual concern for students, Public Campus Ministry also supports Adventist professors and others who work on public campuses. The work is done in collaboration with divisions, unions, conferences, and attached fields to assist the church as a whole to be united in its endeavors to keep youth and young adults fully committed to the faith and the mission of the church

I WILL
GO

even as they pursue their studies in a public institution, and to train and involve them in ministry wherever they are. Young people are valuable participants in the ministry and mission of the local church. They are irreplaceable resources for public campus ministry.

THE LOCAL CHURCH

Around the world, every day, at hundreds of public university/college campuses, PCM members are involved in gospel ministry and in leading their fellow students to Jesus. Working together with the local church, PCM reaches young people on public campuses with the gospel and develops lifelong followers of Jesus who grow in Christian discipleship and authentic Christian lifestyle. These new disciples are devoted to the Word of God, prayer, ministry, and redemptive social involvement. Thus, public campuses provide enormous opportunities for Adventist young people and professors to become effective co-laborers with Jesus in the work of redemption.

General Conference Youth Ministries (GCIYM) views the responsibilities of the local church as being pivotal to the spiritual growth of both the individual and the

corporate church and considers the local church to be the primary base for youth ministry. For this reason, one core function of GCIYM is to produce resources that will build this special ministry to students on public campuses linked to local churches. Youth ministry is most effective when it is responsive to local needs, guided by local convictions, and placed in the hands of local people. This level of caring, nurturing, and collaboration will provide spiritual growth and a sense of community and unity, while helping participants develop leadership skills.



With the return of the Public Campus Ministry to Youth Department, the care and ministry of Adventist young people on both public campuses and on Adventist campuses are closely linked and cared for by the department of the church whose primary function is to foster the spiritual growth, nurture, and witness of all the youth of the church. The General Conference Youth Department offers help and assistance to ensure that the leaders of the local church—pastors and elders—support youth ministry to its optimum level, as they reach out to students in both Adventist and public institutions in as many ways as possible to help them attain spiritual

nurture and growth and to encourage them to engage in evangelism and witnessing.

It can be lonely on a public campus. Each local church should connect with PCM chapters, associations, or fellowships in their area to provide mentoring and promote a sense of belonging so that students see themselves as being part of a global community of believers. In other words, public campus ministry should become an extension of the local church, allowing the youth of the church to work along with those on the public campus in outreach, while at the same time being mentored by the older, more mature members in the local church. This close relationship will not happen overnight. With PCM ambassadors and supporters and the local church working together, bound by the same goal of reaching and retaining, this ministry can grow into a creative and dynamic outreach of the local church, although individual students may come and go as they complete their studies.

RESOLUTIONS

In order to facilitate and reach these objectives, the 2020 World Youth Advisory voted the following recommendations:

1. PCM Day celebration at the local church be held each year on the third Sabbath of  October. What was known as PCM Weekend that happened on a global scale, will now be celebrated in the local church to promote local church connection with Adventist students on public campuses. Materials for this special day program will be available on the youth ministries website (<http://gcyouthministries.org>).
2. PCM students will be included in the local church planning and implementation of  the annual Youth Week of Prayer to students, youth, and young adults.

WHAT WE CAN DO

Ministry and outreach to public colleges and universities will always benefit more when the PCM fellowship has strong roots in the local church. The General Conference will continue to provide leadership and resources for such global initiatives. In implementing such proposals, it is hoped that all levels of church organization—from the local church to the divisions—will adapt the programs provided by GCYM for meaningful and efficient

implementation in their regions. With this in mind, the General Conference Youth Department will reduce its online PCM (webinars) programs to give division, unions, and particularly conferences, more flexibility to mobilize, train, and equip young people in their territory. With this in view, every local church needs to ensure that it elects and supports a PCM leader/coordinator.

Young people on public campuses study and socialize all week in a non-Adventist environment, often for a number of years. Think of what will happen when they find the members of their local church a resource that meets their needs and helps them deal with the challenges they experience during the week in their public institution. Imagine what will happen when they find in the local church a meaningful and lasting relationship with God and their fellow believers. When Adventists on these public campuses are supported, the likelihood is much greater that they will faithfully follow Jesus, warmly embrace His mission, and ultimately be instruments that change the world for the better.

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WORLD PATHFINDER DAY



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General Conference
Adventist Youth Ministries

SEP. 18 2021 psalm 127:4

GCYOUTHMINISTRIES.ORG



HEART ON FIRE FOR ADVENTURERS

This year 2021 the Panamanian Union was looking forward to celebrating World Adventurer Day and organized its first National Adventurer Camporee with special programs and events. The Adventurer club “*Nuevo Amanecer*” from the community of “*Cerro Iglesias*” located in the *Ngäbe Buglé* celebrated by participating in this their first National Camporee. This club specifically, with the help of leaders like sister Victoria Guerra and Pastors from the area, dedicate their time to be a missionary club and help new churches and groups build up their own club settings, supporting with programs, teaching leaders and children the skills they must acquire to be a strong and consolidated group.

During the National camporee this club and many others from the region celebrated through zoom, YouTube and Facebook with many other children from all around their country. They were able to participate in events like biblical connection, preaching, biblical rally and many others. One of the greatest challenges that the “*Nuevo Amanecer*” club faced for this World Adventurer Day celebration was being able to connect to the Camporee. Indigenous areas in Panama do not count with good internet reception. Having this virtual Camporee was a challenge not only for the Union but for the leaders in this region.

Having to see children discouraged, worried and anxious to be able to see themselves meanwhile their participations were showing up in the live transmission. Even through these difficulties, they were



able to connect and participate all together of this event that was very important for them: their first ever Adventurer Day celebration.

An essential part of the celebration in the region is sister Victoria Guerra, a pioneer for the Pathfinders, Master Guides and Adventurers in Panama, specifically in *Ngäbe Buglé*, one of the indigenous regions in Panama. It all started when leaders from other areas took the risk to dive into these regions and cater to the children, youth, and adults.

Through programs of evangelism and the Pathfinder and Master Guide clubs, Victoria felt

the fire to continue this work for the Lord and join others to take the word of the Gospel of Jesus to a very conflicted area of the country due to their beliefs and teachings. She was not worried of the possible persecution she might face but looked forward to a greater goal which is spreading the word of the Gospel in all the world.

Years went by and leaders came and went with no further result due to the lack of support from the parents in sending their children to the meetings. Once Victoria decided to participate in a Camporee in Nicaragua, representing her area and something unimaginable happened,

the same day she was leaving to the capital of the country her house was on fire.

Now thinking of going or staying home to fix everything she knew that this was part of what the enemy had planned to make her stop and feel discouraged. She went, she participated and came back with even more courage to build an Adventurer club in her own small group.

Years passed and Victoria face the abandonment of her husband due to her work in the club. She was sad, devastated but noting stopped her from working with the youth movement.

In 2020 the pandemic hit Panama and the world but in *Ngäbe Buglé* this was not a reason to stop working small groups grew, churches grew, and more adults and children came to receive the word of the Gospel not only through church services but also through the Adventurers club.

In Panama the Adventurers movement is relatively new and even more so in this region, in comparison with other youth movements. Here is

where sister Victoria mentions that it is a great satisfaction for her to see that now the church is dedicating their efforts also to supply and cater the needs of the little ones.

She encourages all the leaders and all the children from all around to world to never forget that it doesn't matter what the world tells you just what the Lord wants for you and all the blessings he has in store for your live. "We are adventurers, we're learning every day, to be honest kind

and truth, to be like Jesus through and through, that's my motto and until the Lord allows me, I'll share this with the children in my region" ends Victoria.

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SUPPORTING OUR YOUTH

How to understand, guide, and work with young university students of our church so that they have a more rational faith

When we work with young people, we must understand them. We need to know where they are in every stage of life. Sadly, the university years conform the stage when children of the church abandon it the most. That is why I will approach four fundamental aspects we need to understand when working with young university students.

1. UNDERSTAND THE CHANGE OF RHYTHM AND THE EXPECTATIONS

We cannot treat a university student the same way we treat an adolescent. There is a transition of stages and, more often than not, we do not understand that, in this phase, the use of time and the commitments are different. Sometimes, we make the young person feel guilty by assigning the double task of studying and working. We tend to push them so that they show commitment to their own maintenance, given that they are over fifteen or sixteen. We have to understand the reality of the differences in the life of the young person and change our expectations as they go through the different stages.

We have to evaluate our job by asking ourselves the following questions: Why is it that do we do what we do? How often do we have meetings? Why do we have them? Should university students attend the weekly meetings as frequently as the other groups of the church? Do they necessarily have to fulfill our expectations? Why? Why should they follow our pace?

Young people are in a different stage. Neuroscience explains that a little after adolescence, human beings enter a stage of neuronal and hormonal deacceleration, besides undergoing a shortfall of memory. This encompasses their whole academic period at university, since, physiologically, youth ends at 25.

Even if the consumer society and the cosmetic industry want to sell us “eternal youth”, knowing that we go from youth to adulthood is never bad news. In this stage, our identity is defined, and maturity enables us to have intimate and healthy relationships. When working with young people, our task is to anticipate ourselves and to prepare them for this moment, in order to help them lead better adult lives. We must be facilitators, not obstacles, in this process of growth. Sometimes, young people do not want to be mature adults because they see us as being inflexible. We could say that maturity is optional but growing old is mandatory. As spiritual leaders, we must aim at helping young people arrive to and old age in a healthy way. In this context, it is fundamental that the church has the right concept of the different life stages. As a church elder, review the expectations and adjust the offers; review the rhythm of the activities and the actions of your church members.

2. REEVALUATE THE TEACHING METHOD FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

We live in a time when young people are not afraid of saying they do not like church. Usually, they already have two excuses: studies

and work. Thus, they speak to their parents and say: “Church is not for me”. Sometimes, this happens because they turn 18 with the idea that they “endured” church, instead of having felt as a part of it. Very often, we lose the attention of some not because of our message, but because of the way we transmit it.

When the question of why so many young people lack biblical preparation rises, the answer tends to be that they are not engaged; they do not want to know anything when it comes to in-depth study. When we work with brains that are being formed, we must have patience regarding many aspects. It is true that some young people do not pay attention to the message because they are easily distracted, but many others complain about the lack of depth and creativity in the transmission of this message.

The reevaluation of the methods is important. We have a truth to pass on, and we hope it has a good reception and that it awakens the interest of the audience. However, given that the methods are directly related to the style of the presenter of the message, his or her performance will also have an influence on how the content is received. If we are more conservative, we will explain

more than inspire; if we are more charismatic, we will inspire more than explain. One way or another, if we want people to apply to their lives what we preach, we must take the teaching approach into account.

The question is: Do our young people apply the message to their lives? Maybe they do; maybe they do not. It will depend on whether that message really gets to them; therefore, the importance of using the appropriate method for this age range. Do our young people have opportunities to interact with the content, or do we simply give speeches with the hope that they will assimilate them? Many times, we pretend that after a 45-minute message they will internalize everything and put it into practice, but the truth is that we usually dedicate little time to the interaction with young people, getting them involved in the discussion of these transforming contents.

There has to be a moment for the right questions. We have to get to the point in which they question their own faith. They are exposed to this all the time during their university life and, many times, we lose them because from day one, philosophy classes make them think, while in church we “domesticate” their

behavior. Animals repeat behaviors and they are domesticated through rewards or punishments. We tend to do this with our children in church and it works well until adolescence. We need to evaluate our way of educating.

We must create a space so that young people express their doubts, and they are heard. We say that doubt is the enemy of faith. Let us realize that, before we believe in something we doubt it, and that is how we find the answers that convince us. Otherwise, if we have no foundation, we only believe and repeat the faith of others. Our young people must exercise their faith in a more rational way.

In the teaching and learning process, creativity is a key element. Imagination and creative power are fundamental in the process of assimilating concepts and experiences. When we do not get the young people involved in the discussion and in the teaching, we lose ground. After all, how do we learn more: just by listening or also by discussing the issue? When the messenger is creative at the moment of communicating a truth, the brain organizes and assimilates the information better. This way, the purpose of the message is

“In the teaching and learning process, creativity is a key element... When we do not get the young people involved in the discussion and in the teaching, we lose ground”.

accomplished.

We need to evaluate our way of transmitting the gospel. It is necessary that we go back to the origins. The method used by the Hebrews was conversational and founded in community. We must be more inductive than expository.

3. FACILITATE THE SUCCESS OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Possibly, our problem as church leaders lies in the fact that we think about meetings, services and programs instead of thinking about the needs of people. How do you help young people under your care? In

what way does the church help with university studies? Our challenge is not to have successful meetings, but to make disciples of Jesus. Meetings will be a means to that end. For young people to become mature members, we have to make sure that they develop their gifts and talents. Another factor is: How do we help young people in choosing their life partner? And what do we do about their professional career?

Is it important to have an aesthetic renovation of our events? Of course it is! But it is not the main aspect. The axiom of our mission is to make disciples. Young people are not looking for a good weekly show; they are looking for someone who truly loves them, who listens to them, supports them and helps them in their needs.

4. INSPIRE AND TRANSFORM YOUNG PEOPLE INTO MODELS

Every young person has a calling to fulfill the mission. That is why it is fundamental to insert them in church leadership so that they may be models for the next generations. Many problems today occur because we do not have these models. Challenging young people to be mentors of the next generations should be our goal.

We must be an inspiration to them. When we are in the pre-school period, we admire our parents. When we begin school, our admiration is focused on some of our tutors or teachers. We will always look for someone to admire and to have as a role model, even if it is a negative one. This is how we immerse ourselves in an eternal adolescence, following a model of reverse maturity.

We must encourage young university students to become closer to mentors of previous generations, to cultivate good relationships and to share what is behind the decisions, and this is how they will be strengthened and how they will learn to make their own decisions correctly. This way, they will feel responsible, which is an open door to adulthood and mature life, granting opportunities for a more wholesome growth. This process is very important. The interaction with older adults in Christ creates mature young people in Christ. This will bring security to the church and hope to society in general.

Parents still play a key role in the growth of young people. The paternal role consists of delegating, giving some freedoms and helping in the integral growth, by fulfilling, above all else, the legacy of inspiring them

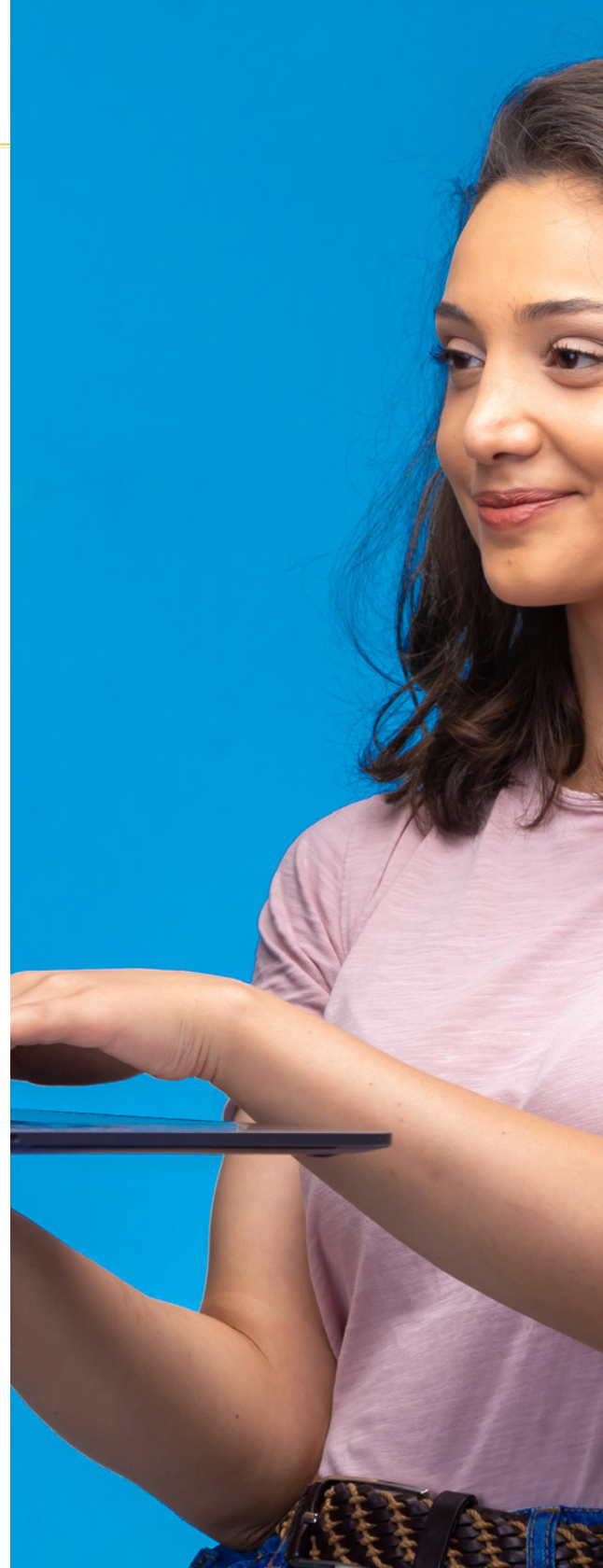
through personal example.

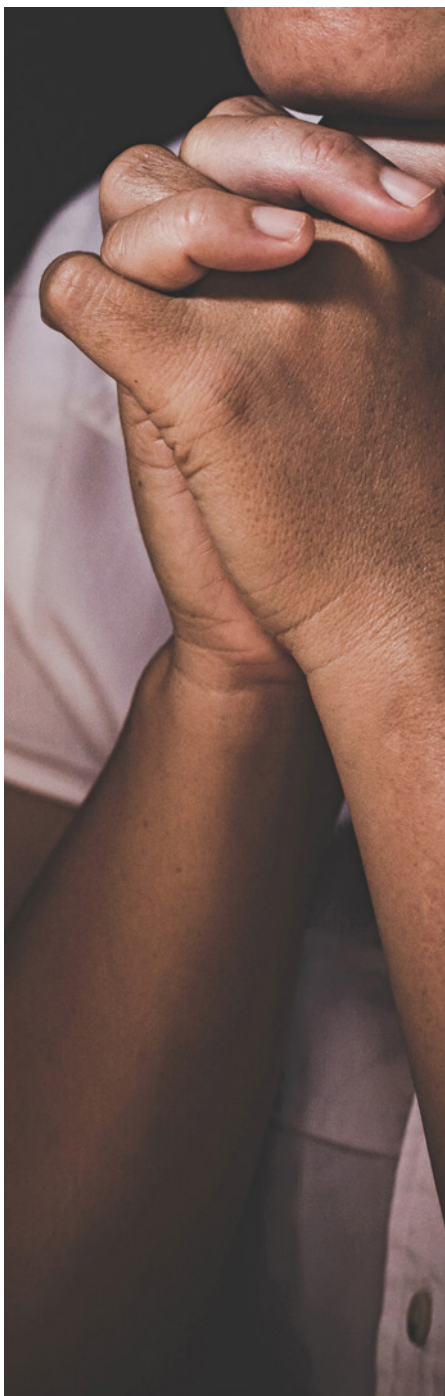
CONCLUSION

A change of rhythm and expectations: Basically, try not to expect young university students under your care to react the same way they did when they were adolescents, and do not propose the same meeting scheme. The process of adaptation to the new academic rhythm is already time-consuming enough. Church must never stop involving them, but it has to understand that they will not have time to participate in some programs. Inviting them to share their experiences and their new knowledge with other young people in timely occasions would be a good idea. This would make them feel valued.

Reevaluate the teaching method: If all we do is preach sermons, we are stalling the missionary strength of young people. Let us reflect on how our brain works and let us develop talents, being more inductive and interactive in the process. In due course, ask them to do an evaluation on the methods of the church to reach the youth, and which is their role. Then, ask for ideas about how to improve the perspective and boost the results.

We need to think about the





success of young people and not about our meetings and objectives. When we focus on the programs, we give them a well-organized event, with lights and colors, nice music and impeccable dynamism. Then we do an evaluation of the event, and we measure its success. However, when young people are our central axis, instead of making a program for them, we invite them to create it and conduct it. We ask them about their ideas and encourage their actions and efforts. The brightness of the program will come from the participation of the young people themselves. We may not vibrate with the colors but with the ideas they gave us. The result will be a church with a bright future, because the ideas of today come from someone who will still be there tomorrow. Lastly, what is evaluated is not the event but the development of the young people.

We need to focus on preparing young people for what is coming, for adulthood and maturity. They will get help, and, at the same time,

they will help future generations; and our churches will be better. Promote debates about the future of young people as professionals; about how the world will be thanks to having them as teachers, doctors, lawyers and, above all, parents. Make them reflect on how the church of the last days will be with them as leaders; and in what way they will exercise the role of elders, deacons and pastors. Encourage them to project themselves in their future at university, in their jobs, in their church and in society, envisioning their personal contribution to the world.

Carlos Humberto Campitelli is currently serving as the Director of Youth, Music and PCM in the South American Division.

“We need to focus on preparing young people for what is coming, for adulthood and maturity”.

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Meet our New Division Youth Directors

TED – Trans European Division

Dejan Stojkovic was born in Kragujevac, Serbia. He finished his primary and secondary education in post-communist Serbia, interrupted a few times with the ugliness of wars that struck this region. He came to England in 2001 to study theology and he completed his undergraduate and postgraduate degrees at Newbold College. Here he started a student-led worship service 'Experience'. Dejan has served as a youth pastor at Stanborough Park Church where he established the Parallel Service as an outreach and reclamation ministry for youth and young adults. Before being called to serve as Trans-European Division as youth director he was serving as a Director for Teen's Ministry, AVS and Chaplaincy at the South England Conference and as a Youth and Pathfinder director in British Union Conference. Dejan got married to Deana in 2010. Dejan's mission in life is very simple and that is preparing young people for the second coming of Jesus.

Instagram:

@TEDpathfinder

Facebook:

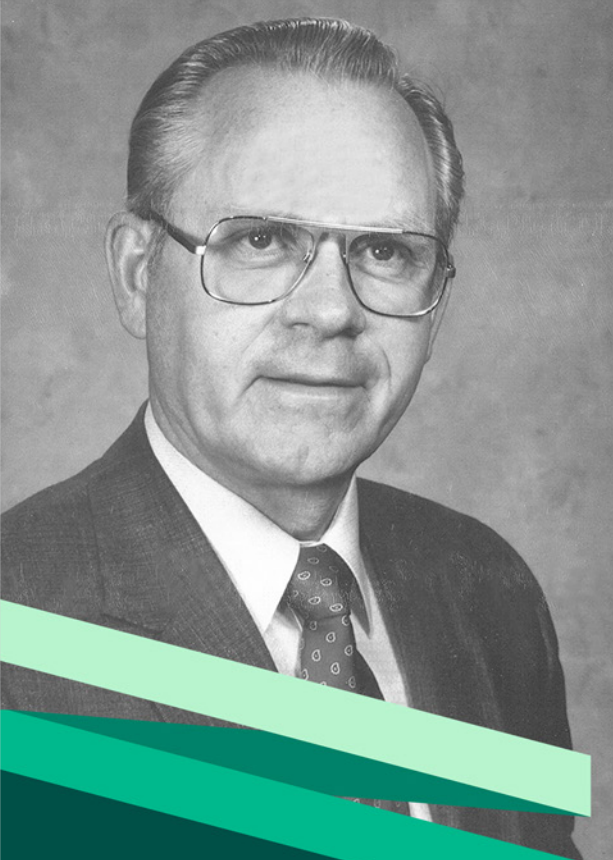
@TEDyouthdept



ESD – Euro-Asia Division

Roman M. Chisakov was born on November 30, 1984, in the south of Moldova. Together with his wife Tatiana, he is raising three daughters: Vlada, Eva, and Eliana. After graduating from the Theological Institute in Romania, he began his active pastoral ministry, continuing his studies in the master's (2012) and doctoral programs (2020). Roman values education, the Church, and believes that the Adventist worldview is a vector of hope intended by God for modern man.





NORM MIDDAG, FORMER NAD PATHFINDER, ADVENTURER, AND CAMP MINISTRIES DIRECTOR, **PASSES TO HIS REST***

Norm Middag, former North American Division Pathfinder, Adventurer, and Camp Ministries director, died suddenly on June 23, 2021, in Florida, where he and his wife, Barbara, retired in 2001. He was 91.

Middag was an educator, pastor, and youth director in a career spanning more than four decades of ministry at all levels of the church, from the local church to the General Conference, where he served as Youth Ministries assistant director in 1980. He served in Michigan, Southern California, Northern California, Florida, and Potomac conferences before joining the NAD in 1982.

While at the NAD, Middag spearheaded the development of the ministry manuals for Adventurers, Pathfinders, Teen Leadership Training, and many other resources and curricula. He also developed the Association of Adventist Camp Professionals (AACCP), which is now a network of 300-plus camp ministry staff throughout the 60 camps of the NAD. In addition, he was instrumental in the creation of National Camps for Blind Children; and he also coordinated the 1991, 1992, and 1993 Witness Through Rose Parade floats sponsored and decorated by Pathfinders.

As chairperson of the camporee coordinating committee, Norm spearheaded the North American Division camporee program, including its first national gathering of Pathfinders in 1985 at Camp Hale near Leadville, Colorado. This later grew into the International Pathfinder Camporee held in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, since 1999, until



its scheduled move to Gillette, Wyoming in 2024.

Middag firmly believed that every church needed to have some type of youth ministry. Integral to starting the Pathfinder Teen Leadership Training program (TLT) at Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church in Takoma Park, Maryland, he was quoted as saying, “If your church isn’t doing anything for youth, start with the 13-year-olds.”

“Norm was such a blessing to our church, not only in the North American Division but throughout the world. His kind, Christ-centered spirit was an inspiration to all,” said Elden Ramirez, NAD undersecretary. “When I became a youth director he took me under his wings, sharing a wealth of knowledge with me. Mentoring was his passion. Many church leaders today who, at one point served as youth directors as I did, will forever be grateful for his mentorship and inspiration.”

“Norm Middag was a mentor. He was a passionate youth ministries leader, a visionary. Many of us in youth ministry are standing on the structures and programs he dreamt and implemented,” said Armando Miranda Jr., NAD associate director for Youth and Young Adult Ministries and NAD club ministries director.

“As a trailblazer, we can only be inspired by his commitment to God and helping young people know Him better. Truly, he was an inspiring man with an inspiring life.”

FROM A FARM IN MINNESOTA

Middag was born into a family of seven siblings on March 15, 1930, living on an 85-acre vegetable farm with seven greenhouses to support a family nursery business in Duluth, Minnesota. He liked to recall a very special experience his mother often shared with him in his childhood years. “It was Sabbath on a bitter cold Minnesota winter day, windy and snowing, halting all transportation. My mother, an active children’s Sabbath School leader, was sitting over a floor heater, holding [me] in her arms of love, when she dedicated me to the ministry of Jesus.” At the age of 12, Middag was baptized.

During World War II, the family moved back to Michigan, home of his parents. He attended Cedar Lake Academy and graduated as president of his senior class. In 1954, he graduated from Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University) in Berrien Springs, Michigan, with religion, education and history majors. Middag also met Barbara Popp while they were

students at the college in 1950. The two married in the summer of 1952.

He began his ministry as the grade 7-8 teacher at Battle Creek Academy. Supportive in ministry, Barbara, who would later take a break from classroom instruction to help raise their family, also worked at the academy, teaching French, music, and secretarial science subjects. Middag taught for two years before being invited to serve as youth pastor of Battle Creek Tabernacle.

Following his Battle Creek experience, Middag accepted a call to Adelpian Academy to serve as boys’ dean. Two years later, he had the opportunity to pastor a 170-member church and a grades 1-8 church school. Within two and one-half years, the church school and church were remodeled, and the church experienced a 39 percent membership growth.

CAMP MINISTRY

In 1960, Southern California Conference invited Middag to serve as youth pastor at Eagle Rock Church where the Pathfinder Club had 26 members. Within two years, a junior club and a teen club were organized with a total membership of 150. On a Sabbath afternoon at a Southern California Conference-

sponsored youth rally in Long Beach, 200 members of the Eagle Rock Master Club were invested as Master Guides. In 1964, Middag served as associate youth director for Northern California Conference under James Harris. This was also the Middags' first camp assignment at Pinecrest Camp.

In 1965, Middag was called to be the youth/camp director for Florida Conference. In 1967 Camp Kulaqua sponsored its first Camp for the Blind with 27 campers. Four years later, blind camp attendance grew to 200. National Camps for the Blind is now sponsored by Christian Record Services based in Lincoln, Nebraska.

In the fall of 1974, Middag was invited to join Potomac Conference as youth director and director of Camp Blue Ridge. All in all, with Barbara by his side, Norm had more than 20 years of inspiring camp leadership, mentoring camp staff, and ministering to campers.

In 1980, Norm accepted the opportunity to become assistant youth director for the General Conference Youth Department under the leadership of Leo Ranzolin. In 1981, the couple both worked at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. In 1982, he assisted Les Pitton, NAD director of senior youth.

In the same year, Norm was assigned director of Pathfinder and camp ministries. In addition, he developed the Association of Adventist Camp Professionals of the North American Division.

While with the NAD Pathfinder ministries, a committee was commissioned to develop the Adventurer Club, a ministry for children in grades 1-4 and family network for parents. Middag designed the NAD Pathfinder logo and updated the Pathfinder uniform patches, outlining them in black. In addition, a committee of lay members and youth directors was formed to develop a curriculum for the Eager Beaver (Kindergarten) ministry, Pathfinder ministry, Teen Leadership Training (TLT) Master Guide ministry, Pathfinder Leadership Award, and Pathfinder Instructor's Award. He also developed the governance concept of the conference Pathfinder Coordinator, Senior Youth Leadership Council, NAD Camp Committee and the AACP.

OF CAMPOREES AND ROSE PARADES

Middag pioneered the concept of the division-wide Pathfinder camporee. In 1985, the first NAD camporee was held at Camp Hale, Colorado, followed by

the 1989 Friendship Camporee, sponsored by the Columbia Union Conference, and the 1994 Dare to Care Camporee sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Conference. Every five years thereafter, the Pathfinder International Camporee was held at the EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. (In 2024, the International Camporee will be held at Cam Plex in Gillette, Wyoming.)

His dream and leadership in the Witness Through Roses project for the three Tournament of Roses Parade floats sponsored and decorated by Pathfinders in 1991, 1992, and 1993 was a highpoint in his career. The 1991 float won the Lathrop Award, "Most Beautiful Non-Commercial Float," while the 1992 float won the National Award, "Best Depiction of Life in the United States."

While the Middags lived in Florida, Barbara returned to the workforce in the early 1970s to teach at Forest Lake Academy. Later, she served as a secretary at Potomac Conference and as an administrative secretary in the General Conference presidential office.

The Middags moved to Florida in 2001 to be near family. In retirement, Middag continued to be involved in club ministry, helping to



grow the Winter Springs Pathfinder Club, as a Pathfinder consultant, from 12 members to 58, plus 14 active TLT Pathfinders.

For 20 years, the “retired” Middags remained involved in ministry. They became the heartbeat of the North American camp ministry, and, functioning as a unit, worked tirelessly to stay connected to the camp directors via the AACCP.

THE LEGACY LIVES ON

For the past year and a half Middag worked with author Bruce Coston to write the book *Far From the Norm: Norm Middag’s Life in Ministry*, which will be released by AdventSource in the next few months. Proceeds from the book sales will go to the Camp Kulaqua Middag Nature Center.

“What a blessing he was to so many,” shared Lisa Bruce Gary,

a home health aide and volunteer Adventurer administrator at the Florida Conference, in a Facebook post. “I’m proud to have been a summer camper at Kulaqua when he was youth director. And to have him as a friend and mentor as we grew in Adventurers — He and his knowledge will be missed.”

“Norm would always start his yearly phone call to me with ‘greetings, Vandeon, from Norm Middag, your camping friend.’ I will

forever know him as that kind of friend,” said Vandeon Griffin, NAD Youth and Young Adult Ministries associate director.

“Norm was a personal mentor to me over the past 15 years. He always had words of affirmation and visionary ideas to share,” Tracy Wood, NAD Youth and Young Adult Ministries director. “There are literally hundreds of children, youth, and young adult ministry professionals around the world that he has mentored throughout his lifespan. He was highly respected, deeply loved, and will be greatly missed by us all.”

Middag is preceded in death by Barbara, who died on July 7, 2020, a few days after her 90th birthday on July 4.

He is survived by three children: David (wife Tricia), Loren (wife Joy), and Renee Brownlow (husband John); six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. A memorial service, “Celebration of Life – Norm Middag, A Servant of God and a Friend to Man,” is planned for 3:30 p.m. EDT, Sabbath, Aug. 28, 2021, at the Spring Meadows Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Orlando, Florida area.

** This article was originally published by NAD Adventist News. You can find this article and more at: nadadventist.org/news*

Kimberly Luste Maran

Dixie Plata, NAD Youth Ministry historian, and **Renee Brownlow** contributed to this report; information also gathered from a [Florida Conference article](#) and [North Pacific Union Conference article](#).

“Norm Middag was a mentor. He was a passionate youth ministries leader, a visionary. Many of us in youth ministry are standing on the structures and programs he dreamt and implemented”.





DEATH OF **PETER BO BOHSEN**

We are extremely sad to announce the death of Peter Bo Bohsen, age 50. After many months of struggling with a serious heart condition, Peter Bo's heart gave up the struggle on Thursday, 8 July 2021. He slipped quietly and painlessly away and is now at peace.

Bohsen made a unique contribution to the Trans-European Division (TED) as Pathfinder director between 2015 and July 2020 when he left to take up a full-time position at the Danish Junior College, Vejlefjordskolen.

He was an innovator, providing strong inspiration and motivation for many Pathfinders and leaders across the Division. His many visits locally across the countries of the Division were always much appreciated.

"Peter Bo was selected as Pathfinder director for his expertise, track record, creativity and energy," remembers TED President Raafat Kamal. "He certainly did not disappoint and led a strong drive in training leaders, in organizing camps and training Master Guide leaders."

During his period of service Bohsen was instrumental in starting Pathfinder work in four new countries as well as organizing the largest ever Pathfinder camporee in TED history.

Before coming to the Division, Bohsen served as Pathfinder director for the Danish Union (2001–2016). He developed a strong and fun-filled Pathfinder program with growing numbers attending both local and national summer camps.

Always looking to improve and impress, Danish Union President Thomas Müller states, "Peter-Bo constantly had ten new plans and crazy ideas in his head to implement. He was very creative and will be remembered for many innovative programs and incident hikes."

"I do get a lot of ideas, and I do get them working," Bohsen told Victor Hulbert, TED Communication director, in a 2016 interview. "My idea is that I can share them with others, and they can get even better ideas," he said.



REST IN

Peace

“By making Pathfinding more interesting, then we can get more youngsters start to be Pathfinders, hopefully bringing them closer to God.”

Pathfinding may well be his strongest legacy, but Bohsen was also a strong supporter of ADRA. A qualified carpenter and construction architect, he spent two years as Assistant Project manager with ADRA Tanzania (1996–1998). His role included renovating two secondary schools, developing new building methods, and building and running furniture workshops. Later, he volunteered at construction projects in Kenya, Tanzania, South Sudan, and Nicaragua.

Bohsen loved being together with people and had always a good story to share, often of his escapades with ADRA. He thrived at large events, and while he will be remembered for his last Camporee at Ardingly, UK in 2019, he had made an impact at previous international

camporees as well as at regional events in Scandinavia.

His funeral will be held at Vejlefjordskolen on July 19. Bohsen loved nature and was an outdoor man, so it is appropriate that the service will be held outdoors on the grass in front of the main hall.

TED officers express their heartfelt condolences to Bohsen’s wife, Birgitte, his son Liam, and his extended family. “We are comforted that he is now resting in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to life everlasting at the glorious appearing of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,” they said.

The original version of this story was posted on the Trans-European Division news site.

*ted*NEWS Staff: Victor Hulbert, editor; Deana Stojković, associate editor

Website: www.ted.adventist.org
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“Bohsen was an innovator, providing strong inspiration and motivation for many Pathfinders and leaders across the Division”.



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