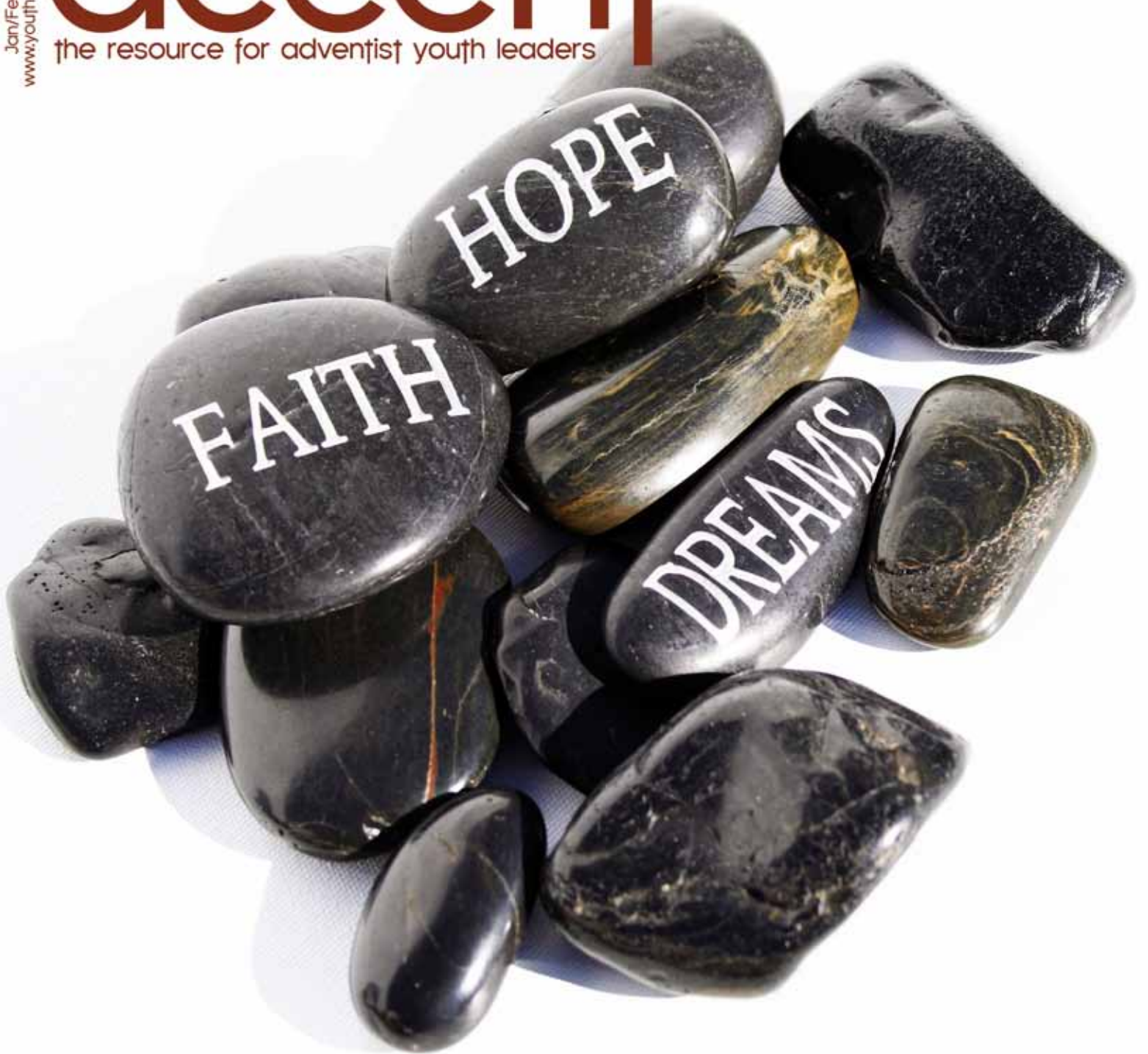


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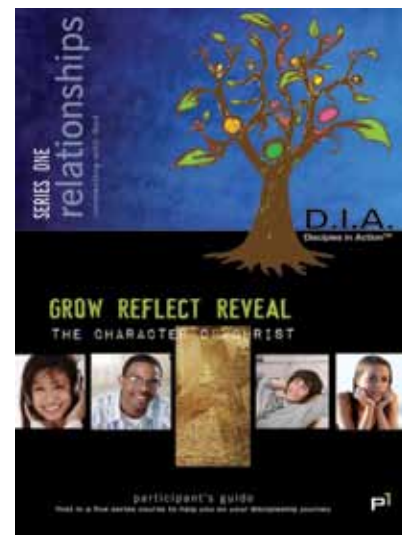
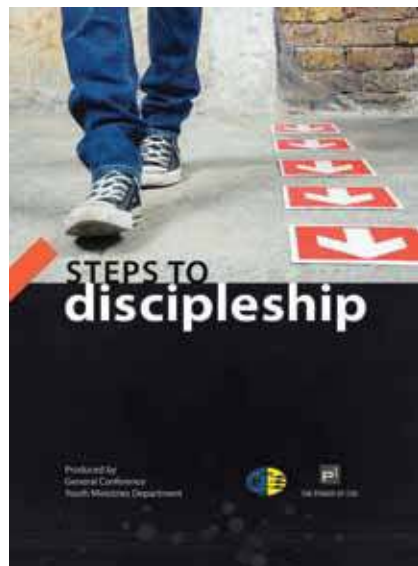
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GUEST EDITORIAL

BY TED N. C. WILSON

dreaming bigger dreams

Imagine hundreds of thousands, even millions, of Seventh-day Adventist youth and young adults involved in the mission of the church. Already many participate in mission, outreach, and service opportunities around the world, and I believe we now have a wonderful opportunity to involve even more through the upcoming *Mission to the Cities* initiative. With their energy, creativity, and tech-savviness, youth and young adults are poised to play vital roles in reaching the world's urbanites.



Ted N.C. Wilson was elected as president of the Seventh-day Adventist world church in 2010. An ordained minister, Pastor Wilson holds a doctoral degree in religious education from New York University, a master of divinity degree from Andrews University, and a master of science degree in public health from Loma Linda University.

More than half of the world's population is made up of city dwellers—at least 400 cities have a population over one million, and twenty host a population greater than ten million.

I've lived or worked in some of the world's great cities including Cairo, Washington, D.C., metropolitan Los Angeles, New York City, Abidjan, and Moscow. As I studied the faces of the thousands caught in the urgency of city life, I developed a particular burden for the church's mission to big cities. This concern is an important part of how I follow Jesus—who wept over Jerusalem. Following Jesus in the modern world means having His heart of compassion for those who live in the crowded metropolises of today.

One of the clearest teachings of the New Testament is that Jesus gives gifts to everyone who follows Him in baptism and becomes a part of His faithful church. That giftedness isn't restricted to those of a certain age or educational level.

God has given our young people tremendous gifts to help His church finish the work. All we need to do is tap into the enormous creativity and energy that God has already placed in them.

As they experience personal revival and reformation, young people will realize that God has given them gifts and talents for which He holds them responsible. Jesus isn't asking them to give up on all the dreams He's given them. Instead, He's asking that they dream bigger dreams than simply getting a good education and raising a strong family. There's a world to win for Christ, and God's church needs every gift He's put in those young adults to reach lost people.

Mission to the Cities offers numerous ways to get involved—social media advertising and innovative media evangelism, literature evangelism, door-to-door mission work, social work that follows Christ's methods, personal and small-group Bible studies, public evangelism, comprehensive health ministry, and a myriad of other creative outreach initiatives still to be developed through the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Being involved with the mission of the church makes a lasting impact on a young person. Often, service becomes a way of life. And Jesus tells us that the way of service is the way of joy and lasting happiness.

Let's do all we can to encourage our youth and young adults to study, plan, pray, and engage in God's great plans for comprehensive urban evangelism and health ministry. God is calling them, and each of us, to be part of His blended team of pastors, health professionals, church workers, and church members in showing compassion to those who are weary, scattered, and broken in body and spirit, and bringing them into a relationship with Christ. ●

Editor Jonatán Tejel
tejelj@gc.adventist.org

Copy Editor Erica Richards
richardse@gc.adventist.org

Editorial Assistant/Production Manager
Maria A. Dunchie
dunchiem@gc.adventist.org

Advisors Hiskia Missah, Armando Miranda,
Silvia Sicalo

INFORMATION

Subscription

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Editorial Matters

Unsolicited manuscripts are welcome, as well as letters to the editor, youth ministry tips, youth volunteer service reports, programming and story ideas. Send manuscripts to YMA Editor at the address below.

Contact Information

Phone: 301-680-6170 • Fax: 301-680-6155
Email: dunchiem@gc.adventist.org
Website: gcyouthministries.org

Mailing Address

GC Youth Ministries Department,
12501 Old Columbia Pike,
Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600, USA.

Publisher

General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist®
Youth Ministries Department.

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cover: Istockphoto.com/Jonatán Tejel



Kimberley Tagert-Paul is an internationally published author whose passion is writing for young people. She has been married to the love of her life for more than thirty years. Her life goal is to make it to heaven and take as many people with her as she can.

**Social Justice
A Christian Duty?**

By Kimberley Tagert-Paul

“Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow” (Isaiah 1:17, NIV).

George Muller took this Bible verse to heart. As a result, more than 10,000 orphans in Bristol, England no longer had to call the street their home.

Muller didn't start out following what the Bible had to say. By the time he was 14, he was known as a thief, a liar, a gambler, and a drunk. But all of that changed when he was invited to a religious meeting and there, seeing the power of Jesus Christ, opened his heart to the Savior.

Muller took the Bible's words quite literally. Many lives were changed as a result. He and his wife, Mary, started a work that transformed the times in which they lived (mid 1800's). He never went into debt to pay for their orphanage or the needs that the children had. He depended on a solid prayer life and believed every prayer would be answered. They were. Sometimes, remarkably, at the last possible minute.

Muller took social justice as a serious part of his Christian life. Should we?

The Bible tells us the answer, the only answer we need. Verse after verse tells us we have a duty to protect others, to defend the poor, to take care of the needy. The Old Testament is full of instructions on how exactly we are to meet the needs of others. Jesus made sure the message was continued in the New Testament, summing up the law in Mathew 7:12: "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets" (NIV).

Man's greatest need is to be reconciled with his Savior. In trying to do that, we often want to beat them over the head with the Gospel. We try to run our agenda up flagpoles for all to see. We even print our message on bumper stickers for all to read. Sometimes those things might

actually work, but often they have the opposite effect than the one we are trying to reach them with.

So how do we fight for social justice without hurting our cause?

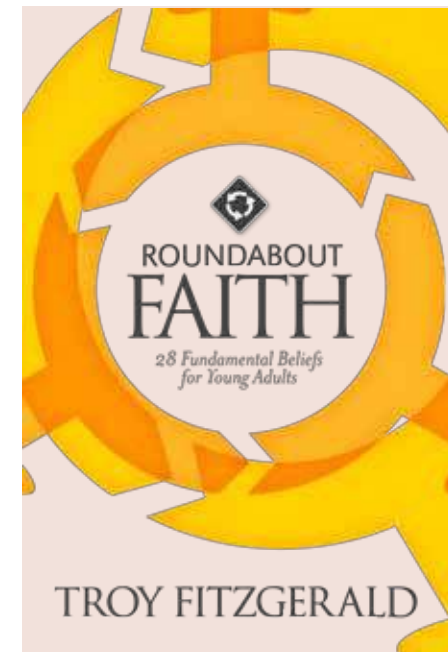
The simplest way is to love. Love was the reason Jesus came to restore God's character to man. What had we misunderstood about His character? Simply that God is love. We can analyze it, dissect it, study it for hours on end, but the result will be the same: God is love. And if love is at the very root of His character, shouldn't it be at the root of ours?

Love is not a noun; it is a verb. It is an action word. Being a Christian calls for action, not overreaction. It calls us to be faithful and diligent about caring for the needs and rights of others. Social justice is simply that—realizing that all people have rights and that each human deserves dignity, the same as we desire for ourselves. Isn't that what Mathew 7:12 tells us?

Helen Keller may have been blind in sight, but she was wise with words when she said, "Until the great mass of the people shall be filled with the sense of responsibility for each other's welfare, social justice can never be attained."

Can we trust God to take care of injustice? Will His coming make everything right? Of course

the answer is yes. Until then, we, as Christians, have a responsibility to care for our brothers, even though they may not yet see their need for a Savior. Because if we do, they may just see that need and find everything they will ever need in Him. ●



ROUNDABOUT FAITH

is a journey through 28 fundamental beliefs for young adults. Each chapter is framed in a format that celebrates the young adult search for meaning while challenging them to connect what they believe to how they live. In the same way that a roundabout flows in one direction around a center point, each lesson urges participants to yield their mind to Christ and merge their life with the word of God. This study can be used for personal study as well as with small groups.



A life-changing experience:

Growth Groups for Post-Moderns



Denis Sand is married to Ingrid and God has given them three boys, Adriel, Mattias, and Josiah. They now live in Kyrgyzstan where he serves as Director of Adventist Mission and Evangelism for the Southern Union Mission of the Euro-Asian Division. Previously he was the youth pastor of the Westchester Adventist Church in Miami where he started the first Growth Group. Denis has worked as a pastor in three world divisions: South America, North America, and Euro-Asian Division. If you wish to contact him, write to dsand@growthgroups.net or visit www.GrowthGroups.net.

It was 2010 when Carlos stepped into a Growth Group (GG) for the first time. He had been invited by a close friend who was agnostic. As soon as Carlos came to the GG he found a family to which to belong and a place where he could grow. He participated enthusiastically in the group discussions and it became evident that he wanted more. Very soon he was taking Bible studies with the leaders of the GG and avidly reading the Bible on his own, searching for purpose and direction. One day he surprised his GG leaders by asking "where can I give my tithe?" I had the privilege of baptizing Carlos some time later. Then the GG leaders invited him to take the GG leader's training course at church so he could grow spiritually and also become a GG leader. With great enthusiasm he took the ten sessions, completed the practical assignments, and soon became a leader of a new and multiplied GG. Carlos went from visitor to leader of a GG in only one year!

In order to reach post-moderns for the kingdom of God, we need to adapt our methods. Bruce Norman argues that we need to use post-modern methods of evangelism, which need to include the following key elements: **relational persuasion, joined experience and spirituality, practical living giving credibility to truth, a lifestyle approach, personal fellowship groups with need sharing in dialogue, the church as a community center that provides a sense of family closeness, and an interest in relationships with long term integration before and after baptism.**¹

I truly believe Growth Groups is one of the best ways to do just that! Why? I have seen how the youth in the church where I was pastoring (Westchester, Miami) grew as they took the training and then lead their groups.

Theory by itself doesn't change people, but when they have the opportunity to actually work for the salvation of their friends, co-workers, and acquaintances, they used the principles, applied the theory, and they are changed in the process. I have seen how young adults, teens, and early teens grow deeper by discipleship, larger by evangelism, closer by fellowship, broader by ministry, and higher by worship.

Before we go any further, let me give you my definition of Growth Groups. A GG is a group of three to twelve people who have decided to experience life together in the kingdom of God and meet regularly with the purposes of community, spiritual edification, missional outreach, and multiplication, and is the most basic building block of the local church.

Our story: After failing to motivate our youth to come to our prayer meetings on Wednesday nights, I decided to ask my senior pastor and the church board to excuse me from coming and to allow me to begin a group for the youth in my house. After praying and planning, I selected a group of twelve people (but only nine accepted the call) whom I invited to join me in the vision

of having groups for the youth. I trained them with the theory that I developed and ten practice sessions. Our prototype Growth Group began in August 2008 and after the training ended in October 2008, we multiplied into three groups, each one lead by three people. The groups worked and more training was done, and by January 2009 we had multiplied into six GG's. We continued to pray and work even more with the goal of doubling our groups by September 2009. God gave us twelve GG's by September and we celebrated with a GG birthday party (cake included)! We talked and dreamed of the twenty-four GG's we wanted to have by September 2011. After more hard work and training of new people like Carlos, by September 2011 God had multiplied our groups into twenty-four. After that I was called to serve in Central Asia to form groups to reach indigenous people.

In GG's we base our philosophy and work on three key Bible passages:

- 1 Thessalonians 2:8: "We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us" (NIV). In

this passage we are called to live our lives in missional communities, to become families where God is lived out 24/7. For this reason, GG's exist to help make more real disciples of Jesus Christ. And we believe that GG's are a delight and fill our lives with joy.

- 2 Timothy 2:2: "And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others" (NIV). Did you realize that there are four generations of Christians mentioned here? Our GG's are committed to sharing the full message given by God; each GG that is born lives to multiply itself. For this reason every GG works hard to train every participant to become a GG leader.
- Hebrews 10:25: "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (NIV). In this verse Paul calls believers to meet; it's a divine mandate (remember that Christians at that time met in homes, and that Christians had no temples until the end of the 2nd Century A.D). When we do it, GG's will provide encouragement and much needed support. Lastly,

we need to meet even more because Christ's return is close. So GG is an end time movement that aims to finish the work entrusted by Christ.

You might be asking, why are Growth Groups necessary? The following are reasons why I believe GG's are so crucial for everyone:

- We were created for community (Gen 2:18)
- Growth takes place better in community (Prov. 27:17)
- Relationships are naturally built (Mark 5:19)
- The proven potential of groups is seen throughout history (Herbert Butterfield)
- It worked throughout church history (NT, apostles, Martin Luther, John Wesley...)
- It's a natural way of doing evangelism ('oikos' and SDA)
- The doctrine of the priesthood of all believers (1 Peter 4:10)
- It is part of the history of the pioneers of Seventh-Day Adventists (E.G.White)
- The eschatological significance

- Church growth research confirms its value (Natural Church Development, Christian A. Schwarz)
- The example of successful contemporary churches (David Cho, Cesar Castellanos)
- They greatly help in the assimilation and retention of new believers
- Leadership development (Examples in Ann Arbor and Westchester Youth)
- A divinely inspired counsel: "The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort has been presented to me by One who cannot err."²

THE TRAINING OF GG LEADERS

Ellen White emphasized the need of training our youth when she wrote: "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!"³

Because I wanted to provide solid training for our youth so they can become that great army for God, and because I believe that 'you can't give what you don't have,' I developed a training

manual that is divided into three sections with a total of ten sessions. The first section is: What we want you to KNOW (1 session), the second section is: What we want you to BE (2 sessions), and the third session is: What we want you to DO (7 sessions).

THE VISION, YOU AND ME

By God's grace I would like to help create a movement of GG's across the globe that will purposely choose to experience life together and make disciples for the kingdom of God. I would love to see the great army of youth workers that Ellen White talked about who will finish the work entrusted to us in our generation.

If you want to see your spiritual life and church grow, and if you want to take part in a last day movement to finish God's work, then join the GG vision!

To find out more, visit us at www.growthgroups.net (currently available in English, Russian, and Spanish) and begin what could be the best part of your life. ●

(Endnotes)

1. Norman, B. (2003). Bridging the gap: reaching the internet generation : an evangelistic strategy for reaching the postmodern generation, Lincoln, NE: AdventSource, p. 43.
2. White, E. G. (1902). Testimonies for the church. Vol. 7. Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Publishing Association, p. 21, 22.
3. White, E. G. (1903/1952). Education. Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Publishing Association, p. 271.



**Exiting the building to be the Church
Leaving the barracks to be the Army**

Global Youth Day recaptures the destiny of Seventh-day Adventist youth as a global army mobilized for service. We come together as ONE to be Jesus on the streets of our needy cities and villages. Join us as we reposition mission at the very heart of who we are and what we stand for. Join us as we bring hope to our world and to our Church. On March 16, 2013, like the Good Samaritan, we exit the building to be Church, we leave the barracks to be God's army. Today, you are the Sermon.



Step out of church: BE the sermon!

On Sabbath, the 16th of March, 2013, eight million young people around the world will attend one less Sabbath school class and hear one less sermon—they will be the Sabbath school lesson and the sermon. They will step out of church to reach out in the name of Jesus.

The focus of the day will be "One in Compassion" and will be grounded in one of the most well-known parables of Jesus, namely the parable of the Good Samaritan found in Luke 10:25-37. It will be an intergenerational day of compassion whereby the wider church community will be invited to join their youth in service.

There will be six elements to the Global Youth Day:

1. Young people from local churches, regions, or Conferences/Missions will meet and spend part of Sabbath on the streets and local communities.
2. They will be involved in an act of compassion that will have been chosen and planned for in advance.
3. At the end of their compassion activity, 8 million youth around the world will donate or pledge to donate blood as the supreme life-saving act of compassion.
4. At sunset, the young people will congregate back in their local churches, regions, or Conferences/Missions for a time of celebration and the commencement of the Week of Prayer, wherever applicable.
5. Youths around the world will be connected through technology as we share stories and light up our world progressively through the different time zones.
6. A specially designed T-shirt will identify our global initiative.

Global Youth Day will be an annual event with a different emphasis each year. Visit www.gcyouthministries.org for more information. ●

Small Groups Do Not Work in Seventh-day Adventist Churches

by Johnny and Tina Wong

"...the presentation of Christ in the family ... and in small gatherings in private homes is often more successful in winning souls to Jesus than are sermons ... in halls or churches." -EGW



Johnny and Tina Wong have conducted training on discipleship and CARE groups in twenty countries including Australia, New Zealand, Asia, and USA. They are both co-founders of Gateway Adventist Centre, an outreach center in Melbourne City that has seen 130 baptisms with a 93 percent retention rate.

The author can be contacted by email: fast.australia@gmail.com or watch Discipleship and CARE Group Training online at www.rightlytrained.org

Several years ago I was presenting at the Theological Seminary of Andrews University and a young pastor said "small groups work only in Sunday churches but not in SDA churches." Perhaps this is not only his sentiment but also the sentiment of many church members who have been unsuccessful in running soul-winning small groups. There is also a stereotypical mindset that small groups work in less industrialized nations but not in the developed nations.

One of the common questions I have been asked is: "Why does it work at your church when I had tried and tried but it failed?" Gateway Adventist Centre (GAC) is a youth-led ministry based in the secular, difficult, and postmodern city of Melbourne, Australia. Starting with two CARE¹ groups in 2000, today there are more than 240 people attending CARE Groups each week with 40 percent non-SDA youth. GAC has seen close to 130 baptisms of which 95 percent are inner city youth and has planted three inner city churches. Elder Mark Finley describes GAC as "a unique church because it has targeted not a worship style to attract but to be an authentic New Testament biblical community."²

Biblical Mandate

Evangelistic small groups are modeled after the biblical mandate in the New Testament and especially Acts 20:20. Here Paul called the elders together and said that he held nothing back for them to be an effective and growing church. He said "how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house." House to house or home-based ministry is critical to growing a church. Too often SDA churches are only engaged in public evangelism but have forgotten home-based evangelism.

Supporting home-based evangelism, we are told by inspired counsel that "the presentation of Christ in the family ... and in small gatherings in private homes is often more successful in winning souls to Jesus than are sermons ... in halls or churches."³ We have a biblical and prophetic mandate to make our small groups evangelistic.

Five Key Ingredients

To answer the earlier question, our experience shows that there are five key ingredients to making a successful, soul-winning CARE group.

1. Revival

Young people are the army of the church. They are the leaders of today, not tomorrow. The key is revival by the Word and the Spirit. When this army understands the present-truth message placed on every SDA as found in Revelation 14, they will be excited to share their hope in Jesus for these uncertain times. If we neglect this step in preparation and launch straight into small groups, they will not have a sense of urgency or a desire to bring hope to their friends. This is a non-negotiable first ingredient.

2. Discipleship

Discipleship is mainly caught, not taught.

We have heard this before, but how often have we implemented it? Discipleship is taking young people under our care, modeling what it means to memorize and meditate on Scripture and apply it consistently in our own lives, teaching them to pass it on to others. We often thrust zealous young people to serve without grounding them first. This can be a tragedy as young people often equate serving to being spiritual—and this is not always the case!

3. Systematic Training

At GAC we have a systematic training plan for Discipleship and CARE Groups. When a person is newly baptized or desires to learn to serve, we have a clear discipleship path for their spiritual development. We use SDA-based discipleship tools⁴ that have the same SDA eschatological world-view, rather

than generic evangelical discipleship tools. We have consistently seen newly baptized youth who have been rightly trained win another youth for Jesus. We have been blessed to share this training with hundreds of churches and today there are many CARE groups around Asia Pacific, Oceania, and USA.

4. Visionary Leadership

The world often challenges professional SDA young adults to strive and excel in their profession. They receive challenging and compelling vision from the world but hardly see any vision in the church. At GAC we challenge each young adult to not only form CARE groups but to build more until a new church is planted. All of the three recent inner city church plants led by young people started with CARE

groups that eventually lead to a congregation. GAC's compelling vision is to be 'a soul-winning and training centre that multiplies churches every three years.' Proverbs 29:18 says, "without a vision, the people perish."

5. "Fishing Pond" All the best training for discipleship and small groups will go nowhere unless young people can apply the training in their own mission field or "fishing pond." Young people can apply it at work or at their place of study. When they see that through CARE Groups they can invite their non-SDA friends to come, it gives them motivation to do what Jesus does – to seek and save the lost. For example, at GAC public university students make up 55 percent of the baptisms. Why public university campuses? They are where SDA young people are called to witness. It is a large "fishing pond" where young minds are open to ideas.

Integrated Evangelism Required

CARE group ministry alone is not sufficient. To be effective, it must be integrated with a church that operates using a cycle of evangelism in their yearly calendar.

The church's yearly programs are carefully planned and are geared up to find, win, and keep souls for the kingdom. A harvest-type program, e.g. evangelistic series, is necessary in working with CARE groups. CARE groups create environments of belonging where people can come and seek the Lord Jesus. Once friendship and trust is made, it is a lot easier to invite them to the evangelistic series.

"I am so glad that you invited me to CARE group. Otherwise on Friday nights I would be partying with my friends and drinking myself silly. CARE group is like my second family," said Sue, a young adult who came out of drugs and drinking. She shared the above in her baptism testimony and today is actively setting up CARE groups to reach others. Indeed, that is what CARE group is all about—showing that God is Love! ●

Endnotes:

1. CARE Group stands for Christ Attitude Reflected in Everybody (CARE). These are small group of 10-12 people in the homes of members.
2. As shown on HopeTV, July 2007. www.vimeo.com/24062073
3. *Christian Service* by Ellen White, p.122
4. www.fast.st and www.rightlytrained.org our online training school.

ONE year to change the world

WWW.GCYOUTHMINISTRIES.ORG



In the beginning of October 2011, the General Conference President commissioned the Youth Ministries Department, in partnership with the General Conference Adventist Volunteer Services, to cast a vision with the view of injecting the concept of 'One Year in Mission' (OYIM) into the DNA of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This initiative would be developed essentially for evangelistic purposes for young adults and it calls for the development of a strategy designed for the short, medium, and long-term implementation of the vision.

The rationale for this initiative was based on the need within the Seventh-day Adventist Church to:

1. Maximize the interest and passion of the Seventh-day Adventist youth for mission and to graduate from short-term to long-term mission.
2. Provide greater opportunities for our youth to directly engage in leadership, decision-making, and in the proclamation of the Everlasting Gospel.
3. Integrate youth projects within the framework of the church's wider initiatives.
4. Redirect the best energies of the church away from peripheral issues onto the real reason for its existence: Mission.
5. Respond appropriately to the growing disengagement of alarming numbers of young adults from the life and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

In order to address these needs, every world Division, the Greater Middle East Union, and Israel will be invited to choose a representative to form part of the first pilot volunteer task force in New York City during 2013. Their essential tasks will comprise leadership in community service, evangelism, and communication.

When the volunteers return to their respective divisions, their inspiration and insight will be wisely and strategically utilized to motivate all other entities of the church to create OYIM opportunities for their young people.

Please pray for this exciting and important initiative. Together, we can change the world! ●

Christianity in Working Clothes

The Church's Contribution to the World By Charles P. Blythe

We've heard the phrase "Christianity in working clothes" many times.

From Nazareth to Galilee, from Bethesda to Capernaum, He walked the streets, teaching, healing, and doing good deeds. His name is Jesus of Nazareth. Testifying of Him, the servant of the Lord says,

"Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me.'"

There is need of coming close to the people by personal effort. If less time were given to sermonizing, and more time were spent in personal ministry, greater results would be seen. The poor are to be relieved, the sick cared for, the sorrowing and the bereaved comforted, the ignorant instructed, the inexperienced counseled. We are to weep with those that weep, and rejoice with those that rejoice. Accompanied by the power of persuasion, the power of prayer, the power of the love of God, this work will not, cannot, be without fruit" (Ministry of Healing, p. 143, 144.)



Pastor Charles Blythe is the former Youth Director of the West Indies Union. He has a passion for youth ministries and evangelism. In August 2012 he accepted the call to serve as the senior pastor of the Pikesville International Church in Baltimore, Maryland.

The Seventh-day Adventist church takes its role in improving lives very seriously. We have successfully organized and implemented many social programs at all levels of the socio-economic scale that have made a very lasting and positive impact on millions of people around the world. One of the core values of Christianity is addressing the felt needs of humanity. Our belief in the development of human capital and resources is fundamental to our philosophy and teaching.

Some of the programs operated by the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist church are:

- Educational Institutions (from Kindergarten to University)
- Hospitals and clinics
- Humanitarian Agencies
- Community Services
- Mission Projects (local and international)
- Pathfinder Clubs
- And a host of unique outreach initiatives by local churches in thousands of villages and communities.

But has the church done enough?

Is there more the church can do?

I would be the first to admit that the church can definitely do more—and we should always strive to do more—however, considering the resources available to it and the many demands on these limited resources, I believe the church has done an excellent job in addressing the felt needs of many people.

I thank God for the faithful support and commitment of the members all around the world who continue to impact lives daily in their little corners and encourage them to continue to do so. I implore and encourage those who have not yet done so to get on board and help us impact our world one life at a time. ●

readIT: book review



YOU LOST ME by David Kinnaman Close to 60 percent of young people who went to church as teens drop out after high school. Now the bestselling author of unChristian trains his researcher's eye on these young believers. Where

Kinnaman's first book unChristian showed the world what outsiders aged 16-29 think of Christianity, **YOU LOST ME** shows why younger Christians aged 16-29 are leaving the church and rethinking their faith.

Based on new research, **YOU LOST ME** shows pastors, church leaders, and parents how we have failed to equip young people to live "in but not of" the world and how this has serious long-term consequences. More importantly, Kinnaman offers ideas on how to help young people develop and maintain a vibrant faith that they embrace over a lifetime.

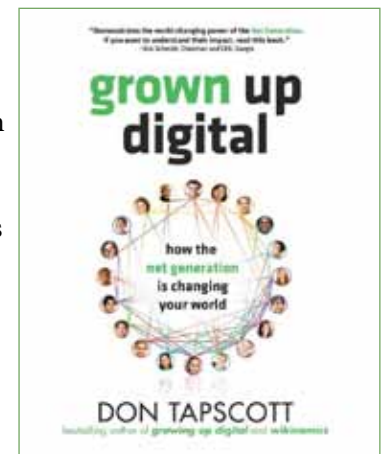
Available online at amazon.com

GROWN UP DIGITAL by Don Tapscott was selected as a 2008 Best Business Book of the Year by the *Economist*.

Chances are you know a person between the ages of 11 and 30. You've seen them doing five things at once: texting friends, downloading music, uploading videos, watching a movie on a two-inch screen, and doing who-knows-what on Facebook or MySpace. They're the first generation to have literally grown up digital--and they're part of a global cultural phenomenon that's here to stay.

GROWN UP DIGITAL paints a generally encouraging picture . . . an optimistic view of how humans are evolving to engage with technology. Literally evolving: Mr. Tapscott cites scientific research that people who use digital media from a young age have different brain development than those who don't.

Available online at amazon.com



Techniques for Youth Evangelism in the Social Network Era

by Balvin Braham



Dr. Balvin B. Braham has served as Youth Director of the West Jamaica Conference, and West Indies Union and as Associate Youth Director of the Inter-American Division. Presently, he serves at the IAD as Assistant to the Division President, Director of Human Resources, Leadership Development Coordinator and Associate Ministerial Secretary, responsible for Evangelism and Church Growth.

The fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:6-8) created alienation that has affected human beings throughout the ages. In order to counter the effects of this fall, God sent His son Jesus (Genesis 3:15; John 3:16) into this world to ransom the human race through His sacrificial death (Matthew 27:32-51). The plan of salvation effected by the sacrifice of Jesus (John 3:17; Philippians 2:6-11) enables the restoration of human beings to the image of their maker (*Education*, pp. 29, 30). The mentality of post-moderns gives priority to secularism and materialism, which manifests in at-risk-behaviors, delinquencies, addictions, and other forms of pleasurable endeavors at the expense of the Christian lifestyle initiated by Jesus. Seventh-day Adventist youth who accepted Jesus as their personal Savior have a responsibility to reach their peers and others with the gospel of Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15,16). Ellen White said, "Every true disciple is born into the kingdom of God as a missionary. He who drinks of the living water becomes a fountain of life. The receiver becomes a giver. The grace of Christ in the soul is like a spring in the desert, welling up to refresh all, and making those who are ready to perish eager to drink of the water of life" (*Christian Service*, p.9).

Attracting the attention and interest of today's generation requires the use of all the best practices as well as untried methods. In this age where the social media is very pervasive and virtually irresistible to post-moderns, it should be intentionally engaged in any evangelistic strategy that seeks to be effective in spreading the gospel. Ellen White said, "New methods must be introduced. God's people must awake to the necessities of the time in which they are living. God has men whom He will call into His service,-men who will not carry forward the work in the lifeless way in which it has been carried forward in the past. . . ." (*Evangelism*, p. 70). Social media provides an ideal opportunity for Seventh-day Adventist young people to present the gospel in this 21st century.

Ellen White said, "The one work more precious than any other is the work of soul-saving. The same intensity of desire for the saving of souls that marked the life of the Saviour marks the life of His true followers. The Christian has no desire to live for self. He delights to consecrate all he has and is to the Master's service. He is moved with an inexpressible desire to win souls to Christ. Those who have nothing of this desire might better be concerned for their own salvation. Let them pray for the Spirit of service" (Ellen G. White, *Australasian Union Conference Record*, August 15, 1902).

Technology, Approaches, and Applications of Social Media

Social media provides the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and the young people in particular, a plethora of technologies, approaches, and applications that may be effectively used to extend the gospel commission. Some of the heritages of social media are: a) the world wide web where gospel events may be streamed live; b) You Tube portal where videos of sermons, dramas, and various types of gospel presentations may be posted; c) the development of web portal for posting of sermons and other Christ centered activities as well as the creation of interactive chat rooms for Christian conversations; d) youth connection outreach groups on the world wide web; e) MySpace Christian interactive forums f) Facebook wall space on evangelism; g) e-mail marathons for Christ; h) Spiritual gifts or talent oriented social media ministry, where through the use of social media, individuals use their spiritual gifts or talents to minister to others; i) cell phone outreach, where text messaging is a fundamental means of imparting short messages of encouragement. Network buddies, blogs, Twitter, Tagged, and Podcasting of audio files are other methods that may also be used to share the gospel.

Teleseminars

Teleseminars are an inexpensive way in which the youth may gather a group of people, regardless of their location, to present the gospel of Jesus. This is an ideal approach to promote the teachings of Jesus and educate people about the Christian lifestyle. Teleseminars may also be known as audio conferences, teleconferences, teleclinics, and telecalls. To make this approach effective, the youth may combine their efforts in witnessing groups to conduct these conferences. They should establish a date to commence the seminar, the subjects to be dealt with, the number of sessions to be conducted, the duration of each session, and the number of persons to be invited to participate. A list of the names of desired seminar participants should be made, then the individuals should be contacted and invited to the teleseminar. Each participant should be given specific instruction as to how to sign in to the seminar.

Webinars

By adding the video component, the program may become a webinar. Similar approaches may be utilized in the webinars as in the teleseminars. While in the teleseminars there is only an audio feature, in the webinars there are both audio and video

features. Physical location is not a challenge and people are able to spend time on the electronic gadget that arrests their interests to learn of the significance of faith issues.

➔ Tips on How to Conduct Effective Social Media Outreach Programs

Tip #1: Establish a series

Determine a theme for the initiative and develop a 5-day (or week-long) course. Package it like the chapters of a book so that not one session can be missed, and then promote it as an online course.

Tip #2: Mention related events or activities

Throughout your social media series, drop in some shameless promotion of related church or gospel activities that will expose the participants to other Adventist programs. If the content relates to something that you participate in, then you may offer more in-depth information.

Tip #3: Use your social media as a marketing tool

If you have a membership website, or even a related gospel program, you can use this media outreach program as a trial offer to your site or gospel program. For example, when they attend this outreach program, you can offer them a 10-day trial to your membership website or related

gospel program. When the trial is over, they may renew based on the established membership requirement.

Tip #4: Be alert

Know what is happening in the world around you—what are people talking about? Address those matters. It may be in the area of sports, politics, economics, religion, technology, etc.

Tip #5: Be thoughtful

People are not seeking more e-mails or programs to participate in; they have enough. Do not send e-mails that are thoughtless and inappropriate or invite individuals to participate in forums just because the technology or the tool is available and encouraging. Have a purpose for the engagement.

Tip #6: Think about yourself

Before inviting someone to participate in a forum or an outreach program, think about what would impress you. Let that guide your judgment and the initiative that you invite others to participate in.

Tip #7: Make it meaningful

Aspire to create an initiative that is meaningful. Endeavor to make people remember you, your website, the program, and the good experience they have during the interaction.

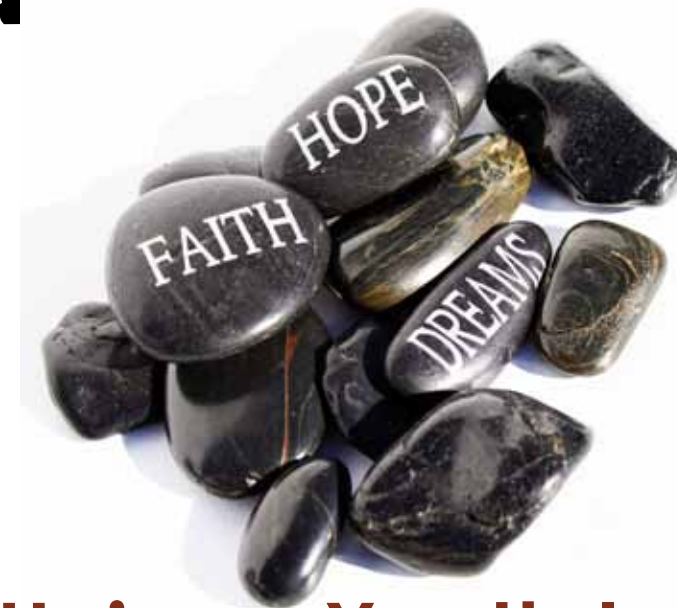
Tip #8: Become invested in the activity

If you get an unpleasant reaction, do not ignore it, neither become discouraged. Respond in a very kind and Christ-like manner. Let your network partners know that you value their feedback and seek their suggestions for improvement. Invite them to take part in improving their experience. Give due recognition to network partners as this goes a long way in helping you to achieve your gospel outreach goals.

CONCLUSION

Being a Seventh-day Adventist youth is a divine privilege. To be involved in evangelistic outreach activities is inspiring and mission fulfilling. Mission outreach is about helping people to deal with their spiritual longings and establishing positive relationships as well as satisfying daily needs. Building your presence on the Web, interacting with the online community, and social networking through all the available technologies and mediums are important assets in the process of fulfilling the gospel commission. Let the youth of the Seventh-day Adventist Church arise and move forward – NOW IS THE TIME! ●

UNIQUE INITIATIVES



Unique Youth Initiatives
run by youth for youth around the world.

GLOBAL

Unique Initiatives AROUND THE WORLD

On March 16, 2013 millions of Seventh-day Adventist youth around the world will be participating in acts of kindness in their communities including, where possible, donating blood. This Global Youth Day is set to launch a campaign to help recapture the destiny of the Seventh-day Adventist youth as a global army mobilized for service. On the next few pages we will take a look at some of the unique things that are happening in our world with and through youth and young adults.

1. EAST CENTRAL AFRICA

Adventist Youth attending public universities do not enjoy freedom of worship, but they do not stop sharing their faith.

- In Rwanda an evangelistic campaign is taking place on a public university premise. In attendance are many students and faculty.
- In Tanzania students have raised funds and are running an evangelistic campaign in one of the towns.
- In Ethiopia young people who serve as youth missionaries in un-entered areas reclaimed 140 former Christians and won 49 new converts for baptism.

2. EURO ASIA

The youth camp, "With All of My Heart" was held July 10-15 on the Baltic Sea. The motto was taken from Jeremiah 29:13. Each day began with physical activities followed by a spiritual recharge. There were daily group discussions with camp mentor Ivashchenko Julian. Through this camp many now have a better understanding of how to have stronger relationships with others as Christians.

Many youth gave their hearts to Jesus and eight were baptized.

3. INTER-AMERICA

- IN WITH JESUS is a youth evangelism program. Materials are prepared each year including printed sermons, sermons in PowerPoint, songs on video, and a special pin for all the youth evangelists involved.
- NOW stands for "Network Online Witnesses." This initiative, in coordination with the Communications Department, instructs the youth to go from being social media consumers to social media producers who reach other youth with the message of salvation through social networks, web pages, Internet radio, and other technology options.

- GPSS stands for "Groups Pulsating Salvation and Service." This initiative supports and strengthens the work that is done in our Division through small groups. Our commitment is to produce quarterly materials for the youth leaders of the small groups. The material is available in our publication *Youth Vision*, which is the link magazine for the youth leadership in Inter-America.

- AY MISSION FORCE is the initiative to plan new churches through community outreach brigades that are established for two weeks during the summer in places where there is little or no Seventh-day Adventist presence. There are doctors, nurses, ophthalmologists, dental surgeons, nutritionists, barbers, teachers for vacation Bible school, pastors, and youth in the brigades who collaborate in the different areas with the professionals.

4. NORTH AMERICA

The Youth (doing) Ministry Formula has become a true evangelistic blessing for youth and young adults in the North American Division. Not only have they used this resource to turn their interests into ministries, but

these new ministries have now become a method of attracting people to attend evangelistic meetings.

5. SOUTH PACIFIC

The World Changers Bible Project is our major push for the next two years, with 125,000 Bibles just ordered and Bible studies to match. We also have just hosted a convention for our camp managers in Australia and New Zealand. We conduct these conventions every two years as a form of professional development for camp managers who work with groups on a continual basis.

We are also planning the next Division wide youth congress where we expect 3,000 young adults from across the Pacific to be inspired to the World Changers Challenge.

6. SOUTHERN ASIA PACIFIC

- F-CAMP (Friendship Camp) is a youth camping program in South Philippines designed to assist young people to reach other young people for Christ, to expose youth to Jesus in a positive way, and to see them either accept Jesus Christ or come closer to accepting Him.

As designed, every Adventist youth will bring a non-Adventist friend to these camps where the fundamental beliefs

is preached in place of the morning and evening devotional messages. A time is given for every friendship or family group for discussion and meditation, eventually leading to decision making for Christ. This is done by the Adventist campers who have been trained as facilitators in *Youth Alive* style.

- In November 2011 Northeastern Mindanao Mission carried out the first FCAMP program in seven areas. Eight hundred sixty young people were baptized.
- This year in April, through God's providence, NeMM and the Covina International SDA Church, California, sponsored eight FCAMPs in different places and, as a result, 1,499 precious souls accepted Jesus in baptism.

7. SOUTHERN AFRICA INDIAN OCEAN

Youth Evangelism

The Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division Youth Ministries Department has the following objectives in the realm of youth evangelism:

1. To have at least 70 percent of the one million souls envisaged by the division during this term be youth.
2. To seek partnership and dialogue with non-SDA and

SDA youth movements as means of furthering the gospel.

3. To envision at least 80 percent of our youth involved in soul winning activities.
4. To encourage each church to establish youth small groups.
5. To encourage at least 50 percent of our youth embarking on volunteer mission trips—both short and long term.

The following brief report from two of our unions gives the highlights of the youth evangelism activities in the SID:

Botswana Union

- Botswana Union youth have set aside September 2012 as the month of Youth Evangelism. The youth plan and contribute money from their pockets to conduct personal/public evangelism. They usually conduct cottage efforts, small group ministry, friendship ministry, and public evangelism. Just recently, in the area called Ghanzi in Botswana, the youth engaged in public evangelism. Public Evangelism included door-to-door evangelism and special prayers. The youth also identified needy families as they went about the village and distributed clothes and

food. The youth also donated toiletries to inmates. The senior superintendent of the prison, Mr. Maseko, commented, "We are happy to partner with the Seventh-Day Adventist in the rehabilitation process of inmates and we are glad that the church does not only give HOPE through the word of God but also ministers to the needs of the prisoners." The Youth of Ghanzi have since "adopted an inmate." The youth shall provide for the needs of the inmate and also celebrate the inmate's birthday as well as foster spiritual growth of the inmate. "Adopt an inmate" is a program we wish to nationalize. The youth evangelism endeavors culminated in 76 souls being baptized in September. Fifty-four of the souls are from the community and twenty-two are from the prison.

Southern Africa Union Conference

- On the 5th of August 2012, young people distributed 1000 copies of *Steps to Christ*, 700 copies of *When God says remember*, and 2500 pamphlets on "how to maintain inner peace and stability in a restless world." The previous day on Sabbath during a youth convention, 42 young souls committed themselves to the Lord for baptism.

8. SOUTHERN ASIA

Project "Friend to Friends"

This is an evangelism tool designed for the young people. The main concept of this tool is **Friendship Evangelism**. The young people are encouraged to win other young people through their friends.

Objectives:

1. To involve youth in friendship evangelism
2. To encourage youth to win other young people to the kingdom of God through their friends
3. To encourage youth to use their free time and vacation in a right way

Salient Features

1. The young people are asked to make a list of their friends who are living in nearby towns.
2. The friends of these young people are asked to make a list of their friends who are living in the same town.
3. The young people are asked to make a trip to one of the nearby towns and get in touch with his/her friend who is living in the same town.
4. The young people will make an attempt to get to know the friends of his/her friend who are living in the same town.

5. The young people will build fellowship and friendship with them and slowly and steadily share the Adventist truth and beliefs with them.

If there are ten committed young people in a church and each of them becomes friends to at least five other young people of ten different towns through their friends who are living in the same town and convey the love of Christ to them, in total they could win fifty young people to the kingdom of God; that is, Christ from friend to friends.

Project "Mission Nehemiah" is an evangelism tool specially designed for the youth of the Church. It is a project designed to rebuild the broken churches physically and revive the members of the church spiritually. Here the youth of the church give their time, talents, and physical labor free of cost to revive the churches.

Objectives:

1. To involve youth for the mission of the Church
2. To provide an opportunity to the youth to develop leadership and evangelism skills
3. To foster fellowship and friendship among the youth
4. To gain new people for the kingdom of God

Project "EYE" EYE stands for "EVERY YOUTH AN EVANGELIST." This project is specially designed to train the youth to become youth evangelists during their free time.

Objectives:

1. To encourage the youth to involve themselves in evangelism during their free time and vacation
2. To train & equip the youth in various types of evangelism
3. To encourage youth to use their free time and vacation for God's work
4. To popularize this project in every union, conference, and mission

Salient Features

The youth from various unions, conferences, and missions will be enrolled for this project. The delegate number could be around 100-150. The curriculum will be comprised of subjects like:

- a. Personal Evangelism
- b. Health Evangelism
- c. Web Evangelism (Social Media Ministry)
- d. Friendship Evangelism
- e. Community Service Evangelism

At the concluding session the youth will be urged to use their free time and vacation to win people for the kingdom of God by adopting the evangelism style of their choice.

Right now this project is launched at the division level once a year. The first Project EYE was held during February of 2012 and trained 120 young people. These young people are very much involved in conveying the love of Christ in their free time using one the types of evangelism that they have learned during the training session.

It is our desire to popularize this project in every union, conference, and mission in Southern Asia Division.

9. SOUTH AMERICA

The **Caleb Mission project** was named after the Bible character, Caleb. The Hebrew leader, together with Joshua, was a spy who did reconnaissance in Canaan before the people of Israel were to continue their pilgrimage. His story stands out for the courage he had to help guide the numerous groups without knowing exactly what dangers they would face but, according to the Bible, with profound faith in God.

The same concept is transmitted to the youth who participate. During their school vacations they are encouraged to donate some of their time to giving to society and using their gifts to improve community life, both from the social and spiritual point of view. Caleb Mission is an initiative

that mobilizes Adventist youth in various areas of Brazil and transforms the holidays into an opportunity to provide community and social help. The Caleb Mission takes place in January and July each year, when the youth aren't in classes and can leave their homes for several days, generally heading to cities in the interior of their states.

Northeast Brazil

- In the northern area of Brazil, at least ten thousand youth volunteers made a difference in the community. In states like Amazonas, Rondonia, Roraima, and Acre, seven thousand Caleb Mission participants worked in thirty cities through activities such as providing medical, dental, and psychological attention. The youth gave lectures on health and basic healing and distributed food and clothing.

- **Para, Amapa, and Maranhao**
In turn, in Para, Amapa, and Maranhao, eight thousand youth went to the streets in more than 300 locations. In capitals such as Belem and Macapa, they cleaned the plazas. In the state of Maranhao, especially in cities like Arajoses, 1,377 "Calebs" served in the city and surrounding area. Together with students from Brazil Adventist University Sao Paulo, professors, and doctors, the

participants provided free health consultations to the population.

- **West Central** – In the states of Goiás, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Tocantins, and the Federal District, three thousand youth signed-up for the Caleb Mission. A large portion worked with what are called Christian holiday schools together with what is known as child and adolescent support ministries. At these holiday schools, the youth help children and adolescents to develop their talents through crafts and other activities. The “Calebs” also assisted in carrying out courses such as how to quit smoking and developing manual labor projects in order to generate jobs and income.

- **Recife** – In this half of the year, the youth involved in the project went to Recife, the capital of Pernambuco. Normally in northeast Brazil, the greater project emphasis is in January, but in July youth dressed in Caleb Mission uniforms went out to the streets to make small changes. They cleaned and repaired plazas and provided community service fairs, haircuts, and fluoride applications, and lectures targeted at the community.

In the South, Southeast, and Northeast regions of Brazil, the Caleb Mission project gained strength particularly in the month of January. According to the national project coordinator, Areli Barbosa, this type of initiative helps the youth to understand that they can make a difference in the lives of many people, especially in small regions and cities. “Beyond that, the biblical motivation of these youth is what leads them to practicing solidarity even when they could be doing other relaxing and entertaining activities. Volunteer work is something that is highly valued today, even among businesses,” he remarks.

11. TRANS-EUROPEAN

The Trans-European Division holds yearly Relay Institute of Youth Evangelism programs at different venues throughout its territory. These include both on-site training and practical outreach initiatives. One of the Relay programs this year took place in the strategically positioned tourist resort of Split, on the Adriatic coast in Croatia and had a great impact on participants and visitors alike.

A unique feature of this program was the outreach that took place with the youth participants deciding to hold a Relay Café next to the church building and

to invite people back for free pancakes, drinks, and good conversation. This became the first Relay café in Europe and was an outstanding success with 85 visitors coming the first night and 150 on the second occasion.

The young people eagerly went into the city to hold a number of creative witnessing initiatives and to invite people back to the café. These included giving out water (it was very hot) with adverts attached, balloons for children, and an excellent singing group with gospel books and leaflets. When the visitors came back to the café the youth sat and talked with them and shared their faith, waited on the tables, and gave good musical accompaniment. They were readily visible at all times wearing the distinctive “Jesus Loves Split” T-shirts and Relay caps.

Commenting on the Relay program, Croatian Union Youth Director, Bobo Marcheta, stated, “We were very glad that we have had a Relay program in Split this summer for young people from Slovenia and Croatia. This project is very important and we can still feel positive emotions and good memories.” A further outreach program will be held in the city again next summer as more Adventist youth will have the opportunity to share their faith in creative and effective ways.”

10. WEST CENTRAL AFRICA

The Ejesi Project. As part of the ADRA/YOUTH Community development training for youth leaders, a field work was done at Ejesi, near Ile-Ife town Western Nigeria. The purpose of this project was to ‘trigger’ this community to build latrines for proper disposal of waste. With the success of this project, the community wanted to know more about the church, so an evangelistic series and health program was held. Fifty people were baptized, and a new church was planted – the only church in that community! ●

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FOR YOU...
FREE!**



Dialogue is a 36-page journal published three times a year in four parallel language editions (English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish) under the sponsorship of the General Conference Committee on Adventist Ministry to College and University Students (AMiCUS). For more information send email to 105541.3200@compuserve.com or if you are in North America call 301-680-5060/66

IDEAPAC

TOOLBOX



► readers theatre: **Mercy and Love**

FOCUS: Jesus has called us to distribute His mercy to the world.

CENTRAL BIBLE TRUTH: God wants us to be His ambassadors to the world—that can mean near where we live or far away. Mercy is an action of love.

SCRIPTURE: “Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow” (Isaiah 1:17, NIV).

PROGRAM TARGET: To help young people think about how God is calling them to take part in the world around them and to remind them that they are God’s ambassadors.

SETTING: Stools or chairs for each cast member. This skit is in “Reader’s Theatre Style,” where the cast members read their parts, keeping the action and words of the skit moving along.

PROPS: Folders for each cast member to hold their papers to read from.

CAST: Three readers (These can be anyone available; they are not differentiated into male or female.)



Reader One: Social justice.

Reader Two: It's not just a theme for discussion,

Reader Three: It's a call to action.

Reader One: Like saving the whales?

Reader Two: That certainly is an important part of our world,

Reader Three: But it is not what we are talking about today.

Reader One: Then whose cause are we taking up today?

Reader One: What does the Bible tell us about taking up causes?

Reader Two: It tells us in Isaiah 1:17 that we are to do right,

Reader Three: And to seek justice, to defend the oppressed.

Reader One: What about the orphans and widows?

Reader Two: Both in the Old and

New Testament we are told to care for them.

Reader Three: So how do we do it? How do we seek justice? How do we defend the oppressed?

Reader One: We take action. That means we do more than say pretty words.

Reader Two: We pray. We take action. Raise money. Go where needed. Give of our time, our money.

Reader Three: We look at the scars of Jesus' hands and remember what He did for us. We give mercy.

Reader Two: Mercy. We distribute mercy. Mercy to the hurting, to the oppressed.

Reader One: Yes. Just as we would want others to do to us, we distribute mercy.

Reader Three: Do we have to go far away to distribute mercy? Do we have to have a lot of money?

Reader Two: Are there people hurting near you? Distribute mercy. Does a hug, a prayer, a kind word cost money? Does holding a hand cost anything? Does sharing what you have been given cost much?

Reader One: Distribute mercy.

Reader Three: Distribute mercy.

Reader Two: Mercy. God's mercy. Mercy that kept Him on the cross. Mercy shown through love.

Reader One: The greatest gift.

Reader Two: Not for reward. No. Not for duty. No. For love.

Reader Three: Just as we have been loved.

Reader One: From the inside of our hearts to the outside.

Reader Three: Yes. Yes. Yes.

Reader Two: Distribute mercy,

****ALL READERS:** *For it is love, God's love. It is our duty.*

▶ Waiting

FOCUS: To help young people think about their duties as they wait for Christ's soon return.

CENTRAL BIBLE TRUTH: Jesus has shown us that He is coming soon. He also tells us to keep working for Him until He comes.

SCRIPTURE: Romans 12:15-18

"Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

PROGRAM TARGET: To help young people think and talk about their duties as they wait for Jesus to come again.

CAST: Dustin and Carlos, two young friends.

PROPS: Two chairs

SETTING: Empty stage except for two chairs.

Dustin: (Enters the room from offstage and walks over to where Carlos is sitting.) What are you doing?

Carlos: (He looks up at Dustin, then looks down again.) Waiting.

Dustin: (Sits in the chair beside Carlos.) O.K. Mind if I wait with you?

Carlos: Suit yourself, man.

Dustin: (They sit for a few seconds in silence.) Mind if I ask what we are waiting for?

Carlos: Jesus.

Dustin: We are waiting for Jesus?

Carlos: Yep.

Dustin: What are we waiting for Jesus to do?

Carlos: Come again.

Dustin: Are you kidding me?

Carlos: Nope.

Dustin: We can't just sit here and wait for Jesus to come again. We don't know how long that will take.

Carlos: Soon, man.

Dustin: Yeah, I agree with you. It will probably be very soon, but I can't just sit here. There are things to do.

Carlos: Like?

Dustin: Well, supper sounds pretty good. I didn't get any lunch, so I'm kind of hungry.

Carlos: Me too.

Dustin: So, are you going to supper?

Carlos: Yeah, I guess.

Dustin: You know, tonight the

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How important is the role of mercy in social justice?
2. Why do you think God cared so much for the oppressed, the widowed, the orphans? What does that say about His true character?
3. What are the possible outcomes of showing mercy to others? Is there any cost? Is the cost worth the outcome?
4. Why is it important to show the inside of our hearts and not just the outside of them?

youth group is collecting food to help fill the pantry. And we still need to help raise money for the orphanage we support. We can't allow the children to suffer any more than they are already.

Carlos: I guess not. (He gets up and pushes his chair back.)

Dustin: (Rising too.) What are you doing now?

Carlos: Waiting.

Dustin: Huh?

Carlos: (He smiles at his friend and puts his arm on his shoulder.) I'm still waiting. But you are right. There are things to do and we can be doing them while we are waiting. I think that is probably what Jesus wants us to do.



Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Carlos was doing nothing but waiting for Jesus to come? Do you think it was a good use of time?
2. Why did Dustin say that there were things that needed to be done? Shouldn't we just wait for Jesus to take care of everything since His coming appears to be soon? Why or why not?
3. Should we wait for Jesus to make things right in other parts of the world, or should we get involved to help those we don't even know? What will that involvement look like?

From the author of the 2013 Junior Youth Week of Prayer

28 STORIES



Exploring the Adventist Faith

If you enjoy studying the Bible through stories, you will love Pastor Dave's approach to the 28 Fundamentals in "28 Stories." Using Bible stories and open-ended questions, 28 STORIES leads you or your small group through the teachings Adventists hold dear.

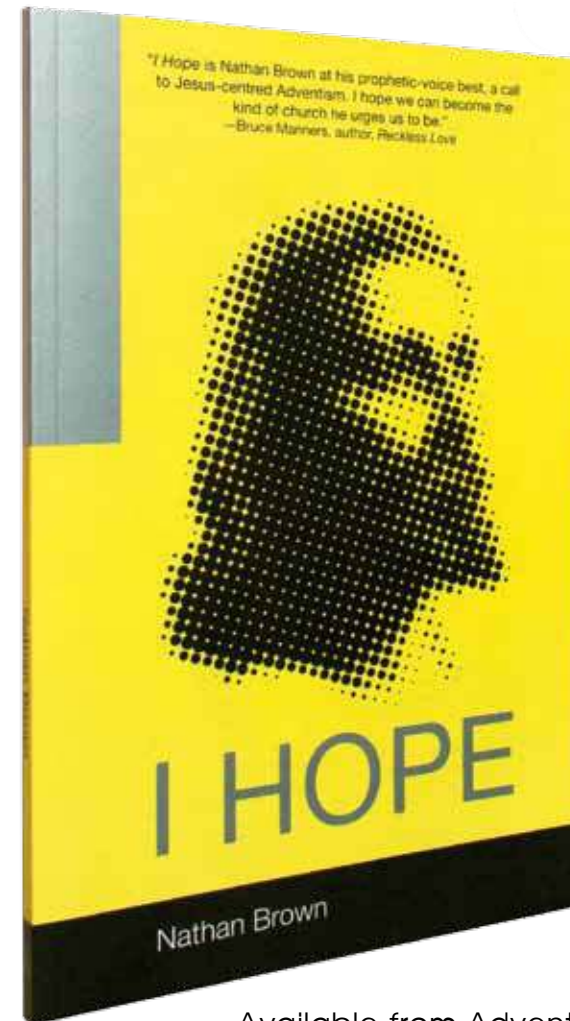
Pastor Dave loves teaching Bible truth through stories, both spoken and written. He has written numerous books. He also maintains a blog that he adds to regularly and has been writing for nearly a decade! You can check out his blog at prdaveonline.blogspot.com.

Available from Adventist Book Centers or www.adventistbookcenter.com

From the author of the 2013 Young Adults Week of Prayer

I HOPE

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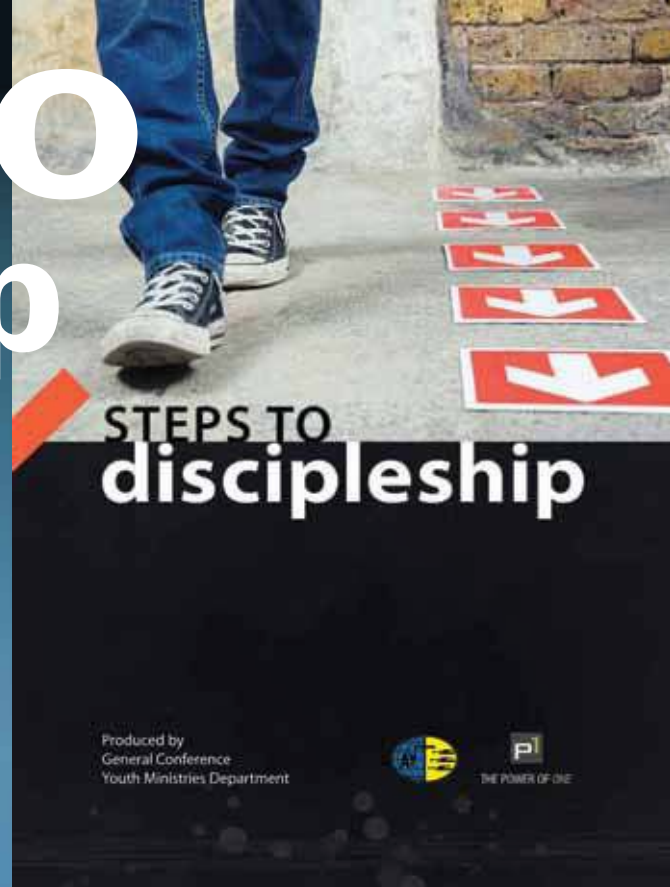
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