



Adventist **Youth Leader** Magazine

Spiritual Youth Leaders Resource



► ***Mission as
Seventh-day Adventists***

► ***Winning with Young People:
Five Things Every Pastor
Should ~~Know~~ Do***

► ***Journey to Forgiveness***

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Editorial

We are so excited to welcome our first issue of the "Adventist Youth Leader Magazine." As you may recall, *Accent Magazine* previously published by the General Conference Youth Ministries Department was a blessing to the world. However due to unforeseen circumstances *Accent Magazine* has not been in print for a few years. This is the inaugural issue of the next generation of the *Accent Magazine*, the "Adventist Youth Leaders Magazine!" With the new name comes a new perspective, as we dedicate this magazine to you, the leaders. It is our prayer that through this medium God will guide and direct youth leaders around the world. May this be a means of imparting knowledge, encouraging leaders, equipping leaders for service, engaging leaders in meaningful spiritual development and empowering leaders to build an army of youth rightly trained.

This special edition was printed for distribution at the Global

Youth Leaders Congress in Kassel, Germany. However, this magazine will primarily be distributed digitally. You can expect to see quarterly issues of this magazine beginning January 2019.

Some may ask why the name change? As a department our main focus is to develop resources for "Adventist Youth Leaders," who will effectively disciple youth around the world. The resources in this magazine are intended to provide and equip youth leaders to become spiritual servant-leaders and mentors that are ready to empower this generation of children, youth and young adults for service and a lifesaving relationship with Jesus Christ. We expect this magazine will foster connections with youth leaders around the world. We aim to be current, relevant and deliberate in keeping our youth leaders ahead of the curve in ministering to youth in this generation. We are adapting to the needs of our youth leaders while affirming our faith and maintaining our identity as Seventh-day Adventist.

There is much to expect from the *Adventist Youth Leader Magazine*, but above all expect that God will be evident in every issue and we will be attentive to your feedback and needs. You will find resources that will help you develop as a spiritual leader, articles on relevant topics, ministry ideas, best practices, testimonies, polls, recent studies, sermons and theological topics. We hope you will find a blessing in every issue so that you can "Pass It On."



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Mission as Seventh-day Adventists

Seventh-day Adventists know their mission and message! It is simply to invite the lost world to receive “the righteousness of Christ, which is made manifest in obedience to all the commandments of God” (*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 91.2). This is the heart and soul of the Three Angels Message, God’s famous last words before He returns to the earth. Ellen White writes “This is the message that God commanded to be given to the world. It is the third angels message, which is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, and attended with the outpouring of His Spirit in a large measure” (p. 91.2).

How do you tame a lion? They say you do it through distraction! Apparently when a lion tamer holds a three legged stool between himself and the wild beast something phenomenal happens. The lion becomes distracted by the three legs and is somehow rendered tamable. How do you tame the Seventh-day Adventist Church?

The same way. Get us distracted and busy doing everything but what we were uniquely set apart by God to do!

No doubt you have noticed that imbedded in the Three Angels Message (Revelation 14) are some of the core Christ-centered doctrines of the Adventist movement. Salvation (verse 6), Sabbath (verse 7), Sanctuary (verse 7), State of the Dead (verse 13), Second Coming (verse 14) to mention a few. There is also a strong reminder that we are Protestants and trace our roots back to the reformation (verses 8-11). However have you noticed that the Three Angels Message, and in particular the third angels message is God’s very last words before He returns? You will notice that following verses 6-12 is a dramatic description of the coming of Jesus, the salvation of His people and the destruction of those who have rejected Jesus as Savior and Lord (verses 13-20).

Like Noah and like Jonah the Seventh-day Adventist Church has been given a relevant and urgent

message but unlike Noah and Jonah our message is final...there are no second chances! Listen to how Ellen White puts it, “In a special sense Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as watchmen and light bearers. To them has been entrusted the last warning for a perishing world. On them is shining wonderful light from the word of God. They have been given a work of the most solemn import—the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels’ messages. There is no other work of so great importance. They are to allow nothing else to absorb their attention (9 *Testimonies*, p. 19.1). She goes on “The most solemn truths ever entrusted to mortals have been given us to proclaim to the world” (p. 19:2).

So, what does this have to do with youth leaders?

First, we as youth leaders must lead from the front especially in regard to our mission and message as Seventh-day Adventists. It’s interesting that Noah kept his sons in the faith because he faithfully

proclaimed the message he was given. Ellen White puts it like this "Noah's warnings had been rejected by the world, but his influence and example resulted in blessings to his family. As a reward for his faithfulness and integrity, God saved all the members of his family with him. What encouragement to parental fidelity!" (*Patriarchs and Prophets* p. 98.1). This should teach us volumes about how to reach and retain our Adventist youth! Our church desperately needs youth leaders who are not only proud of being youth leaders but are especially energized by being ADVENTIST youth leaders! I love how one Adventist professor puts it, "its ok to be SDA!"

Secondly, we must "rightly train" our young people to share Jesus and His righteousness which is the core and context of Revelation 14. In fact, if we rightly train them, God will rightly entertain them by using them mightily to convert hearts, heal the sick, cast out demons and blaze the "everlasting gospel" around the world. Passages like Romans 1:16-18 which highlight the what, how and why of the gospel need to be taught regularly and at every opportunity to our young people. May we never have a youth

meeting where the gospel is not shared, invitations not made, and where our youth are not trained to share it. Isn't it good news that the Three Angels Message begins with the good news? (Revelation 4:6)

Finally, as youth leaders, we need to take a more strategic role in creating opportunities for our young people to share the Three Angels Message. Churches need to be planted, Evangelistic Meetings Conducted, Public campuses reached, and young missionaries sent into all the world. Let us never forget that young people of all ages were designed by God to live dangerously for Him. In Psalms 127:4 young people are described as "arrows in the hands of a warrior." If this is true, young people will naturally be attracted to youth leaders who equip, engage and empower them to live dangerously for Jesus! I am so excited to see how God is working through global initiatives like One Year in Mission (OYiM) and Mission Caleb to reach the cities of the world. To learn more about these initiatives and others like Global Youth Day (GYD) and Pathfinder Day Sabbath be sure to check out our GC website at: youth.adventist.org

The Seventh-day Adventist church is in need of speed. Since we were given God's last message of hope and warning to the world we must move fast. I believe with all my heart that Adventist Young People are the wings of the Three Angels Movement and you as Adventist Youth leaders have been called to "rightly train" them for efficiency. No doubt you have read Ellen White's quote regarding an "army of youth," but have you noticed how three times in this very quote she repeats the words "how soon?" (*Counsels to Teachers, Parents, and Students*, p. 555.2).

I believe this is no accident since we as a church are tasked with the responsibility of taking the THREE Angels Message to the world.

God bless you, youth leader as you faithfully pass on IDENTITY (in Christ), MISSION (as Seventh-day Adventists) and LEADERSHIP (for the Church) to the younger generation. Our hearts and prayer go with you!



Pastor Gary Blanchard
World Youth Director
General Conference of the
Seventh-day Adventists.

A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a person with long dark hair, wearing a grey shirt, holding and reading a book. The background is a soft, warm yellow light.

Winning with Young People: Five Things Every Pastor Should ~~Know~~ Do

I grew up playing soccer. In every open space, my budding soccer star friends beckoned me to play the sport we loved. Even a five-minute break at school saw us kicking the ball. Some of my friends had all the gear needed to play, while others did not. Ironically, those who could afford the right cleats, shin guards, and the leather ball did not possess the skills. In soccer, the only thing that matters at the end of the day was the score—can you put the ball in the goal? A team may have dribbling wizards and skillful players who dominate possession of the ball, but if they do not put the ball in the net, it all counts for nothing.

In soccer, players score in a myriad of ways. Some score by volleying the ball into the net; others head-butt it in; some direct it with their chest; some use the back of their heel; while yet others opt for the spectacular, acrobatic finish that leaves the crowd in disbelief. It really does not matter how the ball

reaches the back of the net. All that matters is that it gets there.

OF YOUTH MINISTRY AND SOCCER

Ministering to youth in today's constantly changing world is a lot like improvising on the soccer field. The goal is clear: "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come" ([Matt. 24:14, NIV](#)). Ever-morphing sociological trends require those who work with youth and young adults to continually assess and evaluate the strategies used to minister to them. The principles that guide the effort are changeless, but methods can and must be changed and improved. Youth ministry is dynamic. Societal values, and cultural norms acutely impact the pace and manner in which youth ministry can be done in a given area. While each context varies, the local church presents a perfect opportunity for nurturing young

people. The local church is the spiritual home of our young people, their membership is there.

Three institutions responsible for nurturing the youth are the family, the Christian school, and the local church. The family forms the primary sphere of spiritual nurturing (personal and internal), and the school and church provide a secondary sphere (communal and external). Through these institutions youth learn to follow Jesus, embrace His call to discipleship, and find their place in God's service. While many of our youth make decisions to follow Christ during wider church events, the location where they are mentored to become devoted followers of Jesus and live out their Christian experience is the local church. With regard to local church leadership, I concur with the group "Growing Young Adventists" that our duty is not to just make the youth survive but to make them thrive.¹

FOCUSING ON THE CORE

We have all heard the studies chronicling the great depletion of youth from Adventist churches, especially young adults. These young people are not leaving the General Conference, divisions, unions, or conferences; they leave the local church. So pastors in the local church, and the teams they lead, play a pivotal role in shaping how the church ministers to youth.

Therefore, in 2016 the General Conference Youth Ministries Advisory took an action that was long overdue: *to make the local church the hub of youth ministry*. "As part of its ongoing re-visioning of youth ministry, [it] wishes to recognize the Local Church as the primary location and target of its ministry for young people around the world. While it affirms the significance of large corporate events such as summer camps, rallies, camporees and congresses to foster fellowship with the wider youth community and to provide opportunities for decision-making, it chooses to place ministry to young people in local churches at the center of its priorities and process."²

The decision to focus on youth in the local church context dovetails perfectly with the Total Member Involvement (TMI) wave

currently sweeping the globe. TMI has brought energy and synergy to youth ministry. TMI translates to total youth involvement (TYI) when we focus specifically on the contribution that youth can make. Therefore, the pastor, elders, youth sponsors, and youth leaders are not the only ones who are integral to the success of youth ministry. All departments, all adults, all mentors, all supporters are called to *equip, engage and empower* young people if we hope to arrest youth attrition. TMI will be possible when TDI (Total Department Involvement) is in pursuit of TYI. Youth ministry is not a field for lone rangers. Collaboration is vital.

One of the indicators of pastoral success is the retention of youth. We must invest in these young minds. It is time to act! The prophecies tell us that the youth will finish the work. We must believe it and prepare for it to happen in a big way, so that we may expedite the coming of the Lord. The following are some ways in which pastors and elders can facilitate youth ministry:

1. **Connect with them.** Young minds are interested in knowing that the leadership is normal. They want to see whether you do normal things like laugh, greet, and smile. Do you have other

interests outside of your spiritual calling? Are you normal enough to go camping? Hiking? These are critical questions for most young people, even though they may not be for you. Participating in social media is a good start. The first language of many millennials and Generation Z is not Spanish, French, Portuguese, or Setswana but social media. Youth are found on social media. However, digital presence should never substitute for physical presence. Rather than ignore the reality of social media, it is critically important to harness its potential for mobilizing youth, advertising youth programs, and eventually fulfilling the supreme cause of mission. Know the young people by name. A database of the youth will help you to memorize their names. Barna and Kinnaman assert that connecting with young people opens up ineffable prospects for spiritual leadership.³

2. **Relate to them.** Relationships are symbiotic. All parties in the relationship are important. In any relationship, there is a difference of opinion. This must not be viewed as a threat but as an opportunity for understanding and growth. When young people question you, it is in part because they are "checking you out" to see whether you are

real. Are you genuine? Are you caring? Are you honest? One of the things that irks young people is inconsistency and partiality. Treat everyone the same. It is OK to say "I don't know" when you have no answer to a particular question. The youth will respect you for your honesty, and they will, in turn, trust you with the personal things of their lives. Maintain confidentiality when they open up to you. Authentic relationships enhance the pastor's or elder's ability to help young people identify and develop their spiritual gifts.

3. Empower them. The empowerment process starts with teaching. Rivet the youth in the truth. It will help them find their identity in Jesus, and it is why the church exists ([Matt. 28:19, 20](#)). Then, mentor them. Moses mentored Joshua. He was patient with Joshua, and Joshua was cooperative. Moses did not wait until he was too old to mentor Joshua. In his quest to be the best he could be for Joshua, he availed himself. It takes great patience to work with young minds.

Time is a precious commodity. Youth who have a mentoring *relationship* with caring adults are less likely to engage in delinquent behavior.⁴ Pastors should encourage all the adults to intentionally

mentor young people. If everyone got involved in this exercise, the results would be phenomenal. The church exists for mission. Without mission, the church becomes a social club. Leaders who are intentional in modeling evangelism (personal and public) will ensure that the legacy is passed on from generation to generation, thus making evangelism a lifestyle; not an event.

Youth are keen observers.

Adults who do what they say have great leverage over youth. Say it, do it, stay in it! Ellen White says, "With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Savior might be carried to the whole world! How soon might the end come."⁵ So, training is the key. Leaders who cheer for the youth bring the best out of them. The small efforts, the achievements and accomplishments of youth, must be celebrated. Young people are seeking honest mentors; not ones who choose to be politically correct. If you think they are not cut out for something, direct them to a vocation or ministry area that you think is more suitable for them. The

idea would be for them to find God's place for them. By so doing, we limit the work of the devil in trying to render them useless and worthless. Be a cheerleader.

«Youth who have a mentoring relationship with caring adults are less likely to engage in delinquent behavior.»

4. Trust them. Pastors, pass on the baton of leadership to the youth. Contrary to popular belief, those who share power become more powerful and relevant. This is another place where all church departments have a special role. Youth Ministries alone cannot involve the youth in leadership. It is too small. Other departments can embrace the giftedness of young people. Disengagement bears a cold lethargy, and demons insinuate thoughts of quitting in the youth. Jan Paulsen, immediate past president of the General Conference, said of the young people, "We must vote them into substantive roles that bespeak a high level of trust, include them in the decision-making processes."⁶ The world is

ready to embrace young people; what about the church? If it does not, the devil will happily employ their creativity, energy, time, and resources. However, we must not toss the baton to persons simply because they are young. The baton must be passed on to young people who show commitment, passion, and spiritual maturity. The youth will never be perfect. No one is perfect! All they need is a chance.

5. Support them. Attend programs for young people. It is advantageous for the pastors and elders to know the calendar and events of youth ministries. Show up rocking your Pathfinder uniform during Pathfinder days or young adult gear on their special days. One of the biggest initiatives of the church is Global Youth Day (GYD). GYD affords the youth an opportunity to serve their communities. Participate in this day. As you support, avoid taking over. Let them run the show. Acquaint yourself with the resources, quinquennial and annual themes, programs, curriculums, and operations of Youth Ministries.⁷

One of the most effective ways to support the youth is to pray for them. Let them know you are praying for them. Attend their sporting outings, their

presentations, or other special events in their lives. Support should not be limited to church activities. It should extend to other facets of their life. That's when you become "real" to them.

Change begins with leaders. Pastors are influential, and God requires much from them because of the sacred responsibility they carry. But youth ministry is not about the leaders; it is about the youth. It is about leading them into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ and helping them embrace His call to discipleship. How each local church passes the ball, the strategy for scoring, and the skills of the players all remain unique. But we can never lose sight of the goal. What matters most is that the ball gets to the back of the net.

1 Growing Young Adventists, <https://growingyoungadventists.wordpress.com/>, accessed April 30, 2018.

2 General Conference Youth Ministries Advisory minutes, February 2016.

3 George Barna and David Kinnaman, eds., *Churchless: Understanding Today's Unchurched and How to Connect With Them* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 2014).

4 Marilyn Price-Mitchell, "Mentoring Youth Matters: Six Qualities That Make You a Good Mentor for Teens," <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-moment-youth/201301%20/mentoring-youth-matters>.

5 Ellen G. White, *Education* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1952), 271.

6 Jan Paulsen, "Why Do They Walk Away?," *Adventist World*, Oct. 2009, archives.adventistworld.org/2009/october/why-do-they-walk-away.html.

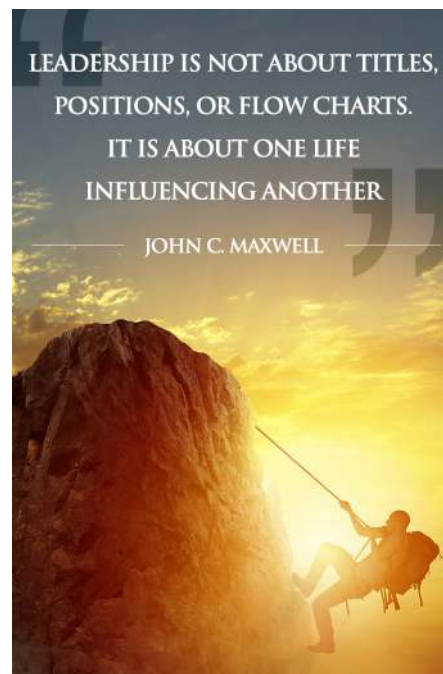
7. Numerous resources, including Pastor's and Elder's Handbook for Youth Ministry, are available on the official Seventh-day Adventist Youth Ministries website at youth.adventist.org

"Winning with young people: Five things every pastor should do" by Pako Edson Mokgwane, published in the June 2018 issue of *Ministry*.

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A PRISONER | A PATIENT | AN ORPHAN

BETHE
SERMON

adopt...

MAR2019

16	GLOBAL YOUTH DAY #GYD19
17-22	WEEK OF PRAYER #WOP19
23	HOME COMING SABBATH #HCS19
24-30	TOTAL YOUTH INVOLVEMENT #TYI19

#GYD19



www.globalyouthday.org





Journey to Forgiveness

Throughout my ministry, I have seen many youth, young adults and pastors struggling with many battles in their lives. One of the most difficult battles is forgiveness. A young girl came up to me and said, "Pastor Peralta, I cannot forgive my mother; she hates me, and she abandoned me." A youth from the state of Michigan once said, "I hate my father for being unfaithful to my mother." I remember on another occasion after I finished preaching to thousands at a youth retreat, a church elder told me that he can't forgive his son for the horrible things he has done to his family. A pastor approached me and said, "I cannot forgive what my Administrator did to me." At one time or another we have been wronged by someone or someone has hurt us. The question is, "What is forgiveness? How can we forgive when it hurts so much?" The Bible says, **"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."** (Eph. 4:32 NIV) The Bible is clear when it states that we

need to "forgive each another," but how and where do we begin?

WHAT IS FORGIVENESS?

Forgiveness means dismissing a debt. Forgiveness is the act of pardoning an offender. In the New Testament, forgiveness denotes a dismissal or release of penalty when someone has wronged you. In other words, when you grant forgiveness, you dismiss the debt owed to you. June Hunt suggested that forgiveness is dismissing the demand that others owe you something, especially when they fail to meet your expectations, fail to keep a promise, or fail to treat you justly. Additionally, I say that forgiveness is to extend love and mercy; to give a gist of grace and compassion. Forgiveness is a decision to let go of resentment, bitterness and thoughts of retribution. You might think that forgiveness is excusing the wrongdoer, but it is acknowledging that unjust behavior is without excuse, while still pardoning the offender.

HOW CAN WE FORGIVE WHEN IT HURTS SO MUCH?

One thing to remember is that unforgiveness will add more pain to your wounds. When you refuse to forgive you become stagnant and you are drained emotionally. A pattern of unforgiveness will dominate and harden your spirit. It's important to note that forgiveness is a journey: the deeper the wound, the longer the journey, but the deeper your relationship with God, the quicker this journey can become. So begin your journey with God. Ask God to do in you what you cannot do for yourself. Ask for the healing power of the Holy Spirit. Allow the Spirit to start a healing process in you. And "recognize the benefits of forgiving." Someone once said "When we forgive, we set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner we set free is us." Forgiveness is not something we do for others; we do it for ourselves. Mary Karen's last words in her journal entry before her death in the Virginia Tech shooting was, "When deep injury is done to us, we never recover until we forgive;

forgiveness does not change the past, but it does enlarge the future."

CONCLUSION

Almost everyone has been hurt in life by actions, words and attitudes. Perhaps your father mistreated you, your parents' divorce hurt you, your classmate offended you, a teacher dispraised you, a relative violated your trust,

your mother criticized you or you've experienced other offenses. These wounds can leave you with long-lasting feelings of anger, bitterness or even revenge, but if you don't forgive, you might be the one who pays the most. I encourage you to pray for a feeling of forgiveness towards those who have hurt you. Forgiveness is a supernatural response empowered by God.

It takes time, that's why it's a journey. But when you let go, you become free. At this Global Youth Leaders Congress, let's embrace forgiveness, hope and love.



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ADVENTIST YOUTH MINISTRIES STATISTICS

DIVISIONS	NUMBER OF AY SOCIETIES	AY MEMBERSHIP	NUMBER OF AMBASSADOR CLUBS	AMBASSADOR MEMBERSHIP	NUMBER OF PATHFINDER CLUBS	PATHFINDER MEMBERSHIP	NUMBER OF ADVENTURER CLUBS	ADVENTURER MEMBERSHIP
ECD	9,368	183,559	5,368	162,237	9,879	282,599	8,318	174,126
EUD	838	15,018	542	5,496	821	8,580	682	6,882
ESD	285	1,188	4	36	339	2,992	188	1,213
IAD	19,336	540,280	430	8,620	5,322	128,293	4,309	83,206
NAD	TBD	TBD	N/A	N/A	2,380	56,625	1,660	22,530
NSD	673	28,817	555	22,060	410	7,959	49	437
SAD	22,297	737,275	TBD	TBD	9,770	258,103	5,442	98,976
SID	12,957	510,105	9,820	122,657	10,624	680,915	8,347	801,277
SPD	1,677	37,323	232	3,545	1,297	38,709	1,162	28,290
SSD	8,075	248,292	915	53,517	2,312	76,007	2,043	58,525
SUD	785	94,580	100	7,535	265	19,840	283	13,344
TED	427	11,778	13	178	331	7,890	256	5,733
WAD	1,922	19,229	636	7,412	3,559	56,737	2,741	33,351
ISRF	7	65			4	43	4	21
MENA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	190	11	128
TOTALS	78,647	2,427,509	18,615	393,293	47,325	1,625,482	35,495	1,328,039



The Key Holder

As I drove to the venue of the meeting, one thought kept going through my mind, "How will you get these papers to him?" You see my boss had requested I dropoff some documents that were needed for the executive meeting that takes place twice a year. I always wondered what they discussed in these meetings. The only thing I was sure of was that I was not supposed to be in there. Forget the fact that I knew I was just doing my job. My worry was those few eyes that would look at me with slight disapproval saying, "What is she doing in here?"

As I raised my hand, I found myself muttering, "Ok, here it goes." When I got to the entrance, my first instinct was to peep through the glass panels that were on the side. I hoped that somebody was standing close by so that they would notice me and step out. Nothing. "Well he's waiting so you better go in," I thought. Clutching the box with one hand, I adjusted my spectacles

and prepared to make a spectacle of myself. Pulling down the door handle I switched my smile to, "Look I'm just dropping these off and will be out of here... ok!"

Fortunately, or unfortunately as I stepped in I heard, "Let's pray." They were about to break for lunch. I quickly made a mental note of where I had spotted my boss sitting so that I would not lose track of him when they all came out. "Amen." I quickly positioned myself as tightly to the wall as I possibly could, while standing on my tip toes to see my boss. "Sany, it's good to see you," someone said. Then those who knew me by my home name, "Hawu Mamo, kanti lawe ulapha?" (Literally translated to, "Mamo, you are also here?") "Yes, yes I just need to give these documents to my boss or one of the financial officers," I said as I shook hands, and hugged one or two people. To be fair I think most, well maybe most is pushing it, I think some of them genuinely liked me. Then my favorite, "Sanini, how are you my daughter?" He was a gentlemen from Angola and I loved

the way he took his time when speaking. Out of the corner of my eye I could see my boss getting closer to me but somebody had beat him to it. One of the officers. He too was from Zimbabwe, my home country, so he called me by the name that my parents use when all is well. "Unjani Mamo?" (How are you Mamo?) "Ngiyaphila." (I am fine.). "One day you will also sit in here." I managed an awkward smile.

I was 25-years-old at that time. Having started serving in the church when I was 21, I was actually surprised that I was still here. That wasn't the plan. The plan was after about 2 years or so I would go back to school, full time. But the bug caught. I actually liked working in this organization. I felt at peace. Of course, there were a few unpleasant moments but overall, this was home. Being a pastor's kid, I was familiar with the lingo and culture. There was no way I could go elsewhere. I loved my work and I played the behind-the-scenes role quite well. But this is the catch, when you play behind-the-scenes

long enough, at some point you start wishing your behind-the-scenes role was the type of position that actually had a significant impact on day to day activities. The type that actually influenced and participated in decision making.

I knew I had brilliant ideas and could vouch for it for the simple reason that when I moved to a different post in what was considered a "promotion," a significant difference could be seen in that department. Creative space was my niche. I loved it and some would say I lived for it.

When it came time to share what the future of that particular department was and to discuss the budget, I was not invited to the table. This is how the conversation usually went.

"Just give us the points and we will share them with the board."

"But how are you able to talk about something you are not actively involved in... don't you find it strange that I am not able to participate in a meeting that discusses my job description? To set a budget that maps a way forward for the following year?"

"I'm not the one who decides who attends these committees."

"I understand that, I just feel

that I... it's ok I understand." I was 27-years-old.

Then came the catch phrase, **"Give them the keys." An evangelistic endeavor aimed at giving the youth the keys in mission and leadership.** The memo went out but that is all it was, a memo. Each time I sat down with some young people in various countries, the feeling was the same. They too did not feel like they belonged. They too did not feel like they had a place in this church. I dare not generalize and say this is how they ALL felt but I can confidently state that more often than not, we shared the same views.

I am now 30 years old. So, Mr. President, Executive Officers, Departmental Directors, Youth Directors, Church Pastors, Church Elders, all protocol is observed. I appreciate the fact that I have had the chance to serve at the local church in the Pathfinder department. I appreciate the fact that I have had the chance to serve in my college church as a deaconess and head deaconess. I appreciate the chance that I have had an opportunity to serve as a College Youth Council President. I appreciate the fact that my brain has been part of the process that creates

Christian content for viewers all over the world. I appreciate the fact that I have been given all these opportunities. But why do I still get the sinking feeling that there is a lack of trust between us?

I'm a millennial and trust me we are not as bad as they say. We are not all self-absorbed. We are not all rude. We do not all have a sense of entitlement. We do not all lack work ethic. We are not all just interested in living artificially on social media and on and on and on. This is the reality. We want the same things that you want for this church organization. We may have different ways of expressing this and have different ways to achieve the end result but believe me, we love this church as much as you do. How could we not? This is all we know.

If you look close enough this is what you will see.

AGE IS NOTHING BUT A NUMBER

We believe that age is nothing but a number simply because we take the following advice literally, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12 NIV). We do

not believe that leading or being entrusted with a task has anything to do with age. We rush to any place that will give us the chance to actively participate in the forefront. Do not assume that our age means we lack wisdom because we have been paying attention to everything that you taught us. Show us that you believe in your own teachings and trust us enough to know it was not in vain. Don't give us a title while holding on to the actual job at hand.

COME LET US REASON TOGETHER

We do not believe in the "because I said so" stance. If you reason with us, you will find that most of the times we understand and once in a while you may find that you may have been wrong as well. Talk to us as you would a fellow adult because in reality we are actually adults who thrive on open conversation.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

We don't always come forward with our many gifts and talents. Sometimes for fear of being rejected. Have an eye that spots such individuals and help them up the steps until they are able to voluntarily participate and initiate.

We may not always be aware of our spiritual gifts and sometimes we are unsure. Identify these gifts. Reaffirm us. Help us to grow them.

«I'm a millennial and trust me we are not as bad as they say. We are not all self-absorbed. We are not all rude. We do not all have a sense of entitlement. We do not all lack work ethic ... We may have different ways of expressing this and have different ways to achieve the end result but believe me, we love this church as much as you do.»

RECOGNIZE THAT "WE CAN!"

Outside the church, at the local level, and as an organization some of us actually own companies, we are head of departments, we spear head projects and see them to full completion. The corporate world and government believes in us and encourages us by creating programs that will ensure we grow in the different fields we have chosen. Given the chance, we believe this expertise would bring a decent

level of valuable contribution to the church, while impacting the community directly.

IT'S OK NOT TO KNOW

When you do not know it's ok to say, "I don't know." We don't expect you to have all the answers but the moment you stray from the truth we see through it and accepting anything you say after that becomes a challenge. We are big on being honest and frank.

TRANSPARENCY IS NOT OVERRATED

Transparency will always be key. We fail to understand why items that are public knowledge should be a kept secret to church members. While we respect the due processes of the organization, we would like to be privy to information that actually concerns us and needs our attention. For example, in a church business meeting, when we ask, "What happened to the funds that we have been collecting for church building over the last 10 years?" the last answer we expect in return is, "The committee will look into it."

SOCIAL MEDIA IS AS CHRISTIAN AS YOU MAKE IT

We do not believe that media

and the use of it is all evil as it can be used for various projects within the church. When our leaders are open to it and make an effort to use it, we can hardly wait to share that information. So please go ahead and tell us about that new project, that upcoming camp, and while you're at it feel free to share a sermon or words of encouragement on various social media platforms. We believe that we can flood the internet with positive change and have creatives who are willing to create and share content. Challenge us by coming up with projects that need to be developed or shared on public forums and we will participate. We are capable of making anything we feel connected to trend. The key is to involve us.

THOU SHALT BE NICE TO US

Don't completely ignore us at the mall and still expect a wide smile when you say "happy Sabbath" by the door after service. We appreciate real relationships and flee from pretense. Make an effort to have authentic relationships with the millennials, be it as a group or as individuals. Show us that you actually care about our lives. Show us that you are open to listening and advising. When you ask, "How

are you?", make an effort to actually wait for the full answer. For us, it's all about connecting.

WE ARE MORE THAN CAPABLE

Youth can actually lead youth. As much as we still acknowledge the need for someone older for the sake of guidance and wisdom that comes with age, we would love to get in a space where we see our peers also leading us. "Why," you may ask. Well Millennials tend to follow and want to emulate those who are doing well in their age range as we find this inspiring. It's a mentality of "if he/she can do it, so can I." Believe it or not most times we actually give each other sound advice. In short, perhaps it's time to accept that church departments at any level could benefit from incorporating millennials into leadership roles.

WE HAVE A VOICE

We want to make a difference and do not feel that we can adequately do so from the outside. We believe that "If you do not have a seat at the table, you're probably on the menu," and NO, we do not want to be on the menu. We want to lend our voices and give input towards

the growth of this church. We want to get first-hand information and learn where necessary. We want to feel like we are part of the change and make a difference no matter how small it may be.

INTENTIONAL MENTORSHIP

If indeed we are to receive the keys at some point in time, then surely, we need to be mentored and prepared for those roles. Nobody is born a deacon or deaconess, nobody is born an elder, nobody is born a youth leader. By now you get where I am going with this. Sometimes learning on the job can prove to be quite disastrous. Prepare us for these roles in anticipation of our willingness to serve in various capacities. Have intentional meetings just for this purpose and plan to assign actual mentors to groups or individuals. We do want to learn but don't always know how to approach the leaders that we look up to. Open that door and watch how many will walk through it.

SIMPLY ASK

Make time, be it annually or after every five years, to sit down in an organized meeting and ask us what we feel or think. Perhaps there are instances where indeed we are

wrong. Perhaps you have something to share that you feel would help us see things differently. Perhaps you will learn something from us as well. If small families benefit from talking things over, imagine what would happen if the church at large applied the same principle. There is always so much to learn but we will never know until that line of communication is opened. Let's talk.

I'm 30-years-old and now have a "boss" who was willing to "Give Me The Keys" after I had been working with the key holder for close to a decade. He lost nothing because we share the same key with one purpose, to spread the gospel to every kindred and nation. Isn't that what it's all about? Try it. You have absolutely nothing to lose but everything to gain because "With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Savior might be carried to the whole world!" (*Education*, p. 271.2)



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Building Community in Your Youth Group—God’s Way

Building a feeling of community in a youth group is crucial, but it's also very difficult. A youth group is a type of family, and many of the youth, and leaders, in the group will only have relationship-building skills as good as the families they live in. Let's be realistic, the fact that many of our youth already come out of a home that's emotionally and relationally unhealthy is one problem. Combine this with the lack of healthy relational skills that many youth have today, due to the rise of social media (such as Facebook, Instagram & Twitter) where youth think that to "friend" and "like" somebody or their posts equates to authentic friendship. As a leader, you can begin to feel frustrated, discouraged, and think about giving up.

In spite of these scary and sad realities, you still need to build community in your youth

group and it's not going to happen naturally. But how do you do it? Is there a model that's Biblical, understandable, doable, and effective? How do you take a group of people with different cultural backgrounds, individual gifts and experiences and mold them into one happy, healthy, helpful and helping group?

COMMUNITY: A BIBLICAL MODEL

Well, admittedly, those are difficult questions, but the Bible has a wonderful model for creating healthy community in a group and its principles can be easily applied to the youth group. This model is displayed through the story of the early church as found in the New Testament book of Acts. Does it work? In one word: "YES!" Because of this model, the church of Jesus Christ exhibited explosive growth.

Before we break it down, let's get the context and background

of what just happened. Jesus had recently been crucified and had risen from the grave. For forty-days He had hung out with his disciples and right before He took the "Heaven-Express" cloud, He told His disciples not to leave the immediate area, but to wait for the Holy Spirit to come down in order to give them the power to fulfill His "Great Commission" (Matthew 28: 18-20). As they were waiting, they chose another disciple to join the inner-core of 12 disciples.

This is where we pick up the story. You can read the entire story for yourselves in Acts 2, however for the purposes of time, we will be focusing solely on the following verses: 1-4 & 42-47.

1. Decide to be all together. (v. 1)
God can't do His thing unless you as the leader, set the example to be proactive and allow God to do His thing. Your faith will be rewarded.
2. As you step out in faith, the

- Holy Spirit will show up and will bless your gathering (v. 2). Don't expect it to happen overnight, but stay at it—becoming a family takes time.
3. Recognize & discern each member's individual gift (v.3-4). Unity doesn't equal unanimity.
 4. Hang out and spend time together regularly and often. Get to know one another—a good way is to eat together. If all you do is come together for events and Sabbath school, you'll never truly connect. Check in during the week via phone, social networking or in person. It is of prime importance that: in each and every one of your interactions, you pray for each other. Commit to pray for each other during the week when you're not together as well. As the leadership, make it a point to get together and connect with each other during the week to pray for and encourage one another. Youth ministry is exhausting and draining—if it's done correctly (v.42, 44, 46). That's just the nature of the beast.
 5. If you do all these things, God will bless your efforts and the results will be:

- a. God will increase your power as Christians to do good and help others. (v. 43)
- a. When you interact with each other in public, non-Christians will be amazed at the love you have one for another and your youth group will increase in size. (v.47)

«The Bible has a wonderful model for creating healthy community in a group and its principles can be easily applied to the youth group.»

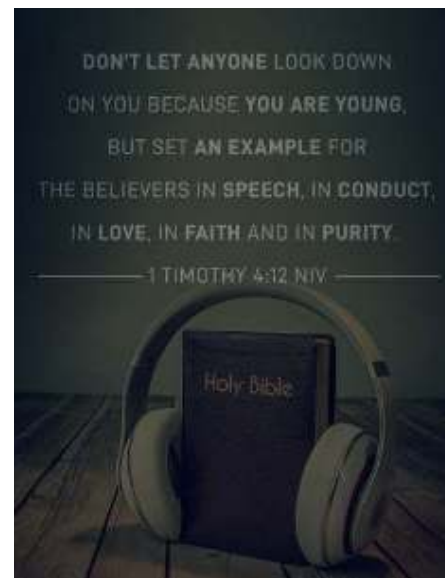
ACHIEVING GOD'S PURPOSE

I hope that as you read, study, pray about, and begin to work this model with your leadership and your youth group, that God will bless your efforts. A feeling of community and family in your youth group is vital. Remember, your youth group may be the only place for a broken and hurting youth to get unconditional love, understanding and healing . . . no pressure right?! But it's possible

and it will happen. How do I know that? Because God makes this promise: "As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:10-11, NIV).



Omar Miranda, M.Ed.
Editor/Director of Insight Ministries



SEPT. 15, 2018

General Conference Adventist Youth Ministries

PATHFINDER DAY



THEME

IDENTITY

WHO ARE YOU ?

2 Corinthians 5:17



YOUTH.ADVENTIST.ORG





Mentors for the New Generations

Every generation has its own characteristics but having someone to follow is a need of all young people in every time and place.

I was born in an Adventist home. Actually, I represent the sixth generation of Adventists in my family. It is because of that history, and because I'm a church leader, I often think about today's Adventism. Whenever I do that, my mind goes straight to the stories I used to hear from my ancestors and the experiences I had as a child, teenager and young adult at church. In that "movie" that crosses my mind, there is a strong memory of the impact that my leaders – pastors, elders and adult members – had on my development.

Their influence was really significant, and it will not vanish. How could I forget some of them who helped us, on Sundays afternoon, to clean and paint the

youth center at church, or those who played volleyball or ping pong with us every Saturday night? I acknowledge those who offered me a friendly word at the right time and that tight hug that made me feel unique and special. How could I forget to thank those pastors and elders who walked beside the Pathfinder Club, who were always, always with us at camp meetings or those who visited our home during difficult times?

I need to be honest and say that of all the sermons I heard during that time, I only remember one: the one where an elder asked me to help him with the illustration of the message. On the other hand, I remember the support, the laughter and the counsels the leaders gave me. I felt they trusted us and that there was always someone to remind the church committee of our importance.

Why am I sharing these experiences with you? In order to highlight that, even though every generation has its own characteristics, the youth in every

generation seem to share similar needs. A church that takes care of the younger members is a community that is involved in the salvation of the new generations.

STOP AND LISTEN

I believe that much can be done for the discipleship of the new generations with a simple, but hard attitude: to listen more to those we want to mentor. In a general way, adults presuppose they know what the youth want, think and what their vision of the church is. However, we are fooling ourselves if we think that way. I invite you, someone who is looking with concern, to dedicate more time to listen to the new generations and to build a healthy dialogue with the youth.

At the South American church headquarters in Brasilia, Brazil, we have been doing that for a couple of months. We invited some young representatives from different regions of our subcontinent to talk openly about some topics such as church relevance and the relationship between the youth and

the leaders. Here are some of the ideas they presented:

(1) They consider that the church is relevant if it takes care of them. This means a genuine interest for the youth and the construction of a friendly environment. In their opinion, evangelism and baptisms are the consequences of that relevant process.

(2) They see the church as an updated institution that uses technology, but they also understand that is secondary. What they expect the most is to be heard, to have a place for dialogue and to be part of a community that works as a discipleship network.

(3) In terms of their relationship with the leadership, they consider that the influence of a church pastor or elder is proportional to their closeness and friendship with the people they are leading.

(4) They also believe that the church tends to emphasize the use of Christ's method in evangelism –which involves mingling, meeting the needs and to gain people's confidence –but that it forgets about it when it comes to dealing with its own members.

(5) The youth expect that adult members do not limit their creativity or underestimate the

abilities of the youngest members; they also want the members to have coherence between what they say and what they do. They also expect to be considered as allies in the process of turning the church into a warmer, more united and more relevant place for the community.

INDIVIDUAL TASK

Every time I analyze this *feedback*, I always think about how healthy it would be if we could build a dialogue culture with the youth. It would be good for them, for us, and for the whole church. As that dialogue matures, it is necessary to change thoughts into actions and decisions that may be crucial in favor of the generations that await their place and that have so much to offer. We are in front of a challenge and an opportunity that can encourage growth for everyone.

High levels of apostasy among the youth are a reality in the Adventist context all around the world. A global survey carried out by the church showed that the main cause for leaving the Adventist Church is the lack of friends to support the spiritual journey (41%). The next two main reasons have to do with relationships as well. For me, that indicator shows what

needs to be the emphasis in our work to teenagers and youth.

«High levels of apostasy among the youth are a reality in the Adventist context all around the world. A global survey carried out by the church showed that the main cause for leaving the Adventist Church is the lack of friends to support the spiritual journey (41%).»

To do so, the discipleship towards the new generations cannot be addressed as a merely institutional task. It is a collective church challenge, but it goes even further than that: it is a personal and individual responsibility. Discipleship is handmade and personal. It cannot be taken as a package, or as a law or a document. It involves few people. I have experienced that with the discipleship of a young boy in particular. I promised God I would take care of that teenager, that I would love him and share my spiritual experiences with him. I

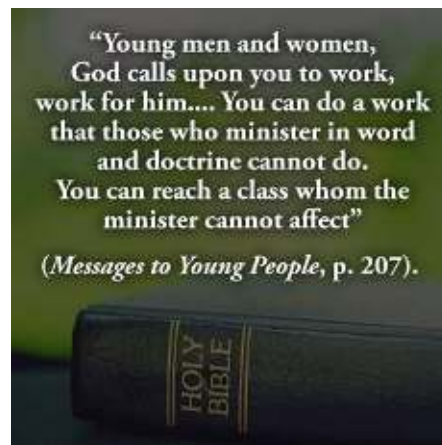
encourage you to do the same on your scope of influence.

I believe that the best characteristic of a disciple is love (John 13:35). And when that gift of God is manifested in someone's life, it reaches others. For that reason, discipleship to new generations will only be effective when our love for children, teenagers and the youth is bigger than our own interests. I

would be very happy if someday in the future the youth look back in time and remember the positive influence I had on them. What about you?



Carlos Campitelli, MA.
Youth Director
South American Division



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Growing Young Adventists: Growing Young with Jesus

SERMON

Good morning! Welcome to Younger Generation Church. We are starting a brand new series that I am very, very excited about – so excited that I forgot to bring my book with me. I'll bring it next week so that you can see it as well. The entire series is called Growing Young Adventists, and it's based on a book called *Growing Young: 6 Essentials and Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church*.

You may be wondering why this is important at Younger Generation Church and I'm going to share that with you in just a moment. The book is available online and I encourage you to check it out. It's very, very good stuff (churchesgrowingyoung.com).

I'm also really excited because many of you are new school. If you're old school, there's a pew Bible right in front of you and that's perfectly fine. But if you have your electronic device, our young adults have helped us put together a snazzy little app. Find the YouVersion app, scroll down to the corner, click on "events" and you'll find YG Church. Here you

will find sermon notes, scriptures, and some of the announcements that are coming up here in short order. (<https://www.bible.com/events/244174>)

So, we're getting started with this brand-new series; a really exciting series for me, called Growing Young Adventists, and we want to say a very special welcome to all of our viewers that are joining us online. We're glad that you are here, including those of you that are on Facebook Live.

We're introducing this idea of growing young. Now some of you are saying, "Oh great! This message doesn't apply to me." Hold off on that thought because you're going to find out this applies to all of us. In fact, some of you are thinking in your mind right now, "Pastor Allan, why, why is this important?" Well, if you just give us a little bit of a bridge here, we're just going to dive straight into the Word of God and see what the Word of God has to say in regard to growing young. Let's pray.

Lord Jesus, even now, You did it in the generations of old with the biblical heroes that seem

so far away, but You want to do it again in this generation, with us. So I ask and pray, Lord God, that, even though many of our churches are growing old, some of our churches are growing obsolete and some of our congregations have literally withered away at the vine. We ask and pray that You will give us the vibrancy, the vitality that only new generations can bring. Allow us to see what You're doing in our generation. We ask and pray these things in Your name, Amen.

Some of you are thinking, "Pastor Allan, okay, you don't have to beat us over the head in order for us to see the importance of young people. We get it." I have a variety of my research individuals that I collaborate with across the North American Division and they say, "Okay, every time we see Pastor Allan, he shares with us that this percentage of young people are leaving the church; this is happening in regard to teenagers—when they graduate from high school—they want to be somewhere other than in the church services; and this is why the decline is happening." But, there's more to this story than that. Here are the reasons why this is so important.

How many of you have ever seen the Olympics? Any of you seen the Olympics? Raise your hand if you have; if you haven't seen the Olympics or don't know what that is, you can check that out on Google. I'm not a big track and field guy, but there is a particular race that I'm always fascinated with. It's called the 400 relays or the 800 relays. Anyone understand what those are—the 400 relay and the 800 relays? These races actually have very little to do with how fast people are because everyone in this relay is fast. Do you know the secret

to winning the 400 or the 800 relays? The secret is the baton pass. That is where the race is won. The baton is this little, very lightweight stick—I think it's aluminum. As you're watching these people literally flying on that track, there is this little window of space where one individual has their hand placed ready to pick up the baton and the other person is coming full tilt. Then the second person starts taking strides forward and, at the right moment, the current runner will pass the baton and the race continues. If that is not done well—if that pass-off is somehow fumbled—if it basically fails, the race is lost.

And it's not just in the Olympic races. The Scriptures share with us wonderful stories of great biblical triumphs for the kingdom of God. But the Scriptures also share places where the baton was missed. If you know the story of Moses, you know that God showed him great favor. Moses was a wise man because he didn't just keep all that wisdom and all that grace and all that love to himself. He actually poured it into the next generation, specifically into a young man by the name of Joshua. We hear in the Scriptures the great exploits of this brave, courageous young man that brought the children of Israel into the Promised Land. A young man named Joshua.

But if you look in the Scriptures, there is a daunting story that talks about the baton pass. Turn in your Scriptures to the book of Judges, chapter 2 starting with verse 7.

In this story we will see how Joshua was able to lead a rag-tag bunch of slaves through the wilderness into the Promised Land, and all because Moses passed the baton to the next generation.

Listen to the Word of God. *"And the Israelites served the Lord throughout the lifetime of Joshua and*

the leaders who outlived him—those who had seen all the great things the Lord had done for Israel. Joshua, the son of Num, servant of the Lord, died at the age of 110. After that generation had died, another generation grew up and did not acknowledge the Lord or remember the mighty things He had done for Israel.” –Judges 2:7-8, 10 (NLT)

So, why is growing young so important? It's important because every generation has its Achilles' heel. If we're not careful, we can get so wrapped up with our own lives, the people we've grown up with and the people we know, that we forget our responsibility to connect with the next generation. And just like that, a generation that so vibrantly followed God can be followed by another generation that doesn't even know who He is. It can happen . . . just . . . like . . . that.

For some of you, when you're gone and finished with your time here on earth, you aspire to have your name on the side of a building. Others of you may think it's a really important thing to develop some wealth, to accumulate some stuff while you're here on earth and that's how you plan to pass on your legacy to your children and your grandchildren. But let me suggest an alternative legacy to you all as we take a look at the importance of growing young.

A startling thing happened to me this week. For the first time, I received an envelope from AARP (American Association of Retired Persons). It gets real when they start profiling you and you begin to receive their junk mail. There are some great subscriptions in there and some discounts that I might take advantage of.

When it's all said and done, I won't be able to carry that building (with my name on it) up to heaven with me. All the stuff that I could accumulate; all the wealth, the prestige, the accolades, the promotions that I put so

much effort into on this earth, none of these things are going with me when I go.

The only thing that may go with me is that young person that I said, "You know what. I'm going to pour a little of that goodness that God's given me into your life. I'm going to share a little bit of wisdom. You don't have to go through that trial if you're willing to listen to the discernment, because God worked on me when I was a young person. He showed me some wisdom. I'm going to pass that on to you so you don't have to end up in that ditch."

*My friends, why is this important? **Because the race is won at the pass of the baton.***

Another reason this is so important is that it's time for us to get out of our silos. For those of you who aren't aware of what a silo is, silos are those things that hold those missiles. There are silos all over the country, standing alone and talking to no one. The only thing they do is simply wait for orders. This is so important because [the sad truth is] it's so easy for us to get caught up and isolated in our own silo. Isn't that true?

In the Scriptures, there's a great portion here that I think is worth taking a look at. Psalm 145:4 (NIV) says this: *"One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts."*

Now last series we talked about some of our purposes. Right now, I want you to ask yourselves, "What is something subtle or spectacular that the Lord has done for me?" It could be anything. It could be as gigantic as parting the Red Sea or as simple as finding you a parking spot at Macy's. Many of us have kept the testimony of what God is doing in our lives to ourselves. The only time we dare say something about it is at the appropriate time during Sabbath School or in the midst of a Bible study discussion. It's time for us to stop living

in silos, keeping ourselves to ourselves, and minding our own business, and it's time we begin to share our lives with other individuals around us, including those that are older and younger than us.

The Bible gives us clear and distinctive admonition regarding this in 1 Corinthians. You've heard a sermon or two preached on this. Chapter 12, verse 27, *"All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it."* –1 Corinthians 12:27 (NLT)

Some of you say, *"Oh, but Pastor, it's only talented, spectacular singers that are part of the body,"* or *"Oh, but Pastor Allan, it's only individuals who know how to share a Bible study and ask the right questions that are part of the body,"* or *"Oh, Pastor Allan, it's only for the evangelists,"* or *"Oh, Pastor Allan, it's only for you."* No. Each and every one of you, right now, can connect to 5 people, 3 people, a dozen people that I will never meet, people that will never set foot in this church. You are the individual, as part of the spiritual body that extends us out of the silo of this church, out of the silo of those that decided to find us on the internet. You extend us beyond ourselves to expand the kingdom and share what the Lord has done for you and share His mighty works. Or you can continue to be silent and live in your silo, waiting for some coming word about what you're supposed to do.

I read a great quote. It's a great quote that, I think, helps us to get out of these silos, because in the research, these silos are actually partly my fault. I'll accept some of the responsibility. It's partially my fault because demographers and researchers and sociologists have created these definitions of generations. Have you heard this before? The Baby Boomers and the GI Generation, the Xers and the

Millennials. We've created all these different silos of generations.

Some of you can say, *"Yeah! We're the generations who knew what 'Friends' was as a sitcom."* Or, *"Yeah! We're the generation that burned our bras and draft cards."* Or, *"Yeah! We're the generation that made it legitimate to wear a man-bun."*

We can talk about these different silos that we've created, and unfortunately, I think it's a little unbiblical. There's a great quote that kind of shook me up and I think it's going to be worth saying here. I don't know who it's from and I apologize to whoever came up with this quote. Maybe Mike Tucker came up with this quote; I don't know. Someone famous and wise said this quote:

"If you are alive today, then it's your generation's turn to do great things."

Did you hear that? If you're 90 and you're alive, then you're a part of this generation. If you're 9-years-old and alive, you're a part of this generation. We're going to see and experience things in this culture, in this contemporary age that no other generation of alive people will experience. And if you are alive today. . . if you are a Christ follower today. . . it is your turn – 9 to 90; 19-years-old or 69-years-old – it is your turn to do great things for the sake of His glory in our generation. It's our time to get out of our silos.

There's a great verse that oftentimes youth pastors will turn to; One that you'll probably hear from a youth director making a Pathfinder camporee sermon. You'll hear a sermon with this verse at the General Conference session or some camp meeting. You'll hear it over and over again.

This morning we turn to it again in 1 Timothy 4:12 (NKJV), *"Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love,*

in spirit, in faith, in purity." This was the admonition of the apostle Paul to a young "whippersnapper" named Timothy.

Oftentimes, quite honestly, I fallen into this [assumption] too. When I was young, when I thought of all these biblical characters, they were all bearded and old. Didn't you think of them that way too? Wasn't that your picture of all these biblical stories with these people of great faith? Well, I just want to shake that up a little bit. I just want to help you understand that Paul was sharing this: "Don't despise your youth"—because for the generations of that time—the older, wiser, more religious, more educated individuals—looked down on those younger generations. This is not a new phenomenon. But even in my own mind, I went through this as well. So I'm going to ask some of my friends to help me out in regards to understanding a little bit of what has happened all throughout the biblical record.

Any of you remember the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? I think of them as men, right? I think of them as older men, but in actuality, if the biblical record is correct, they were around 14-years-old. So, can the person who has my little 14 sign. . . can you come on up? All right, we have Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—right here—defying King Nebuchadnezzar and taking a stand when everyone else would bow.

I did a little more research, and Queen Esther was 15. Where's my 15-year-old? Come up and stand in your place. The fate of the entire Jewish nation resided on the courage of this young person.

What about David? You remember David slaying Goliath, right? He was 16-years-old! Was he like some Rambo-like militant, tae kwon do, assault rifle-wielding adult? No, he was a 16-year-old.

And what about when Joseph was sold into slavery? Do you know how old he was? He was 17-years-old. One of my 17-year-olds, come on up.

And just so some of you will acknowledge that I'm Adventist, let's see how old some of our church founders were at the time. Whenever I see photos of them, I think about old geezers, right? But you know what age Ellen Harmon received her first vision? She was 17-years-old. Another 17-year-old come up and stand on the 17-year-old spot. Ellen Harmon, who became Ellen White and one of the prolific writers who helped found the Seventh-day Adventist Church, was 17 years old.

Do you know how old the disciples were when Jesus called them? Anyone have a guess? There's probably a range of ages, and I'm not smart enough to know exactly where they were in their ages, but they were somewhere between 18 and 22, so my 18-year-old, my 19-year-old, my 20-year-old, my 21-year-old, my 22-year-old, please come and stand up here somewhere on stage.

Again, just to make sure you know that I'm a Seventh-day Adventist in good and regular standing, Uriah Smith, one of our church founders, he was 23 years old when he became the editor of the *Adventist Review*. Now we're getting really, really ancient.

J. N. Andrews, the first missionary of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Do you know when his theological discoveries helped him to identify in Revelation the United States of America? When he was 26-years-old. **26-years-old.**

And then, of course, if you were to put into play here the Lord Jesus . . . when did He start His formal ministry? Jesus was 30-years-old when He started the

worldwide revolution which we now call Christianity—a 30-year-old. Where's my 30-year-old? Come on up.

At 30-years-old He led a rag-tag group of disciples. Whenever I look at the images of the last supper; whenever I think of the stories of the biblical record, whenever I look at the early stages of the Adventist Church, I always think of the old geezers, the bearded men, the people that are all receiving their second and third and fourth AARP subscription invoice.

But if you look at the vibrant faces that are in front of you. If you take a moment and think about these individuals here, Jesus was on to something.

He said, "I want to grow a church and I'm going to utilize young people, young adults, teenagers, twenty-somethings to start a revolution that will light the world on spiritual fire."

I want to share with you a Scripture and I'd like for you to actually fill in the blanks here because you already know what's supposed to go there. Let's go back to 1 Timothy 4, verse 12, now in the New Living Translation. . . Whether you are a twenty-something, a young professional or a teenager who just graduated from high school. Whether you are an accomplished businessman or a thriving entrepreneur; whether you have reached the golden years and decided to retire, I want you to take a look at this verse. *"Don't let anyone think less of you because you are old, because you are feeble, because you are rich, because you're accomplished. Don't let anyone think less of you; don't let anyone despise you because you're 20 and beautiful or 60 and gorgeous. Don't let anyone think less of you because you are a Seventh-day Adventist or a Dallas Cowboy fan. But all of you, every single one of you, be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity."*

YG church, why is this important? Why is growing young Adventists important? The reason that it's important to us is because it's important to Jesus. I think that's enough reason, don't you?



A Allan Martin, PhD.

Younger Generation Church Pastor

GENERAL CONFERENCE ADVENTIST YOUTH MINISTRIES



UNIVERSITY

IS A FIVE-DAY LIVE ONLINE TRAINING EVENT THAT HELPS TO PREPARE
OYIM LEADERS, UNION/CONFERENCE DIRECTORS, OYIM COORDINATORS
AND OYIM TEAMS FOR CITY EVANGELISM.

January 28-February 1 from 10 AM-12 PM (EST)



Registration: September 1, 2018 - January 15, 2019

Youth.adventist.org/OYIM





OYiM University: Made Simple

1). OYiM (One Year in Mission) University is a *five-day live online training event* that helps to prepare OYiM leaders, Union/Conference Directors, OYiM Coordinators and OYiM teams for city evangelism. It will be publicly broadcasted through our GC Youth Website youth.adventist.org/OYIM. OYiM Teams must register through their Division Youth Department or through their designated OYiM Coordinator (information regarding coordinators are found at youth.adventist.org/OYIM).

2). OYiM University will broadcasts the last week in January (*January 28-February 1*, 10 pm -12 am EST). It will entail at least 2 hours of training and at least 3 hours of onsite team discussing and planning daily (1-3 p.m.)

Why Mandatory? Three reasons---**Our young people need to be “rightly trained,” encouraged by our global collaboration and intentionally supported/overseen by their Union and Conference Youth Directors (this will assure its success). It is also important that our young teams understand the OYiM concept and can rightly represent the world church wherever they are sent as missionaries.**

3). OYiM University is also designed to build comradery and synergy between the Union and

Conference Directors (who will be closely overseeing the OYiM missionaries) and their OYiM leaders, Coordinators and teams! We recommend that the Union or Conference Youth director facilitate the discussions, keeping them on point and encouraging the OYiM team to create the strategy (we all know that people don't usually wash rental cars). The following individuals should be in attendance.

1. *Union Youth Director*
2. *Conference Youth Director*
3. *OYiM Coordinator*
4. *Local City Pastor*
5. *Two OYiM Directors*
6. *Entire OYiM Team (if possible)*

4). OYiM University will broadcast several training videos and will post “planning worksheets” for each online at youth.adventist.org. Following these online presentations each Union and Conference Youth Director will facilitate the planning process with the teams (using the worksheets). **All presentations will be recorded and made available for download (in case of tech problems or time zone conflicts). After each presentation there will be a live Q and A Session with**

the instructors. During these times the teams can email or call in questions (number will be provided at youth.adventist.org/OYIM).

TENTATIVE DAILY PROGRAM

• OYiM Training	20 Minutes	10 AM EST
• Special Video Features	2.5 Minutes	
• Live Q and A	10 Minutes	
• OYiM Training	20 Minutes	
• Info Videos	5 Minutes	
• Live Q and A	10 Minutes	
• OYiM Training	20 Minutes	
• Special Video Features	5 Minutes	
• Q and A	10 Minutes	
• Workbook Review	15 Minutes	
• Lunch/Team Break	1 Hours	
• Local Team Discussion and Planning	3 Hours	

5). Translation

All presentations will be taught in English; however, translation for specific languages will be provided (for more information go to youth.adventist.org/OYIM).

6). Connecting Information

OYiM University will be livestreamed through various social media platforms but primarily through the GC Website youth.adventist.org/OYIM.

7). Time Zone or Tech Issues

OYiM programming will be naturally recorded through livestream and also daily uploaded to youth.adventist.org/OYIM. There will be a special live Q and A

time daily for those who are in a different time zone or had technical difficulties (youth.adventist.org/OYIM).

8). Role of the Union and Conference Director

The role of these KEY youth leaders is five-fold:

1. Oversee the success of OYiM in their area
2. Attend the OYiM University
3. Facilitate the "Local Team Discussions and Planning" using the downloadable worksheets for each day found at youth.adventist.org.
4. Provide team transporting to the Union site, meals and reliable internet service.
5. Prepare a special Friday Night Communion service and Commissioning program.

9). Registration

Union or Conference Youth Directors must register their Union Teams at youth.adventist.org/OYIM after September 1 and before January 15.

10). Presenters and Presentations

Must be experts in the area they are presenting and good communicators. They must be able to "cut the fat" and get right to the practical "meat" of their presentation. All presentations must be pre-recorded on video 4 weeks before the event to allow time for translation. Their presentations must be between 15-20 minutes in length. Following their presentation, they need to be prepared for a 15-minute questions and answer time which will be live (either at their current location or at our Miami studio). They must also answer questions later in the day for those who were unable to attend the live event (this can also be done from their original location). It would be helpful for the presenters

to also recommend a short video clip we can show after their presentation.

11). How to learn more and register?

All communication will be done through our GC Youth Webpage youth.adventist.org/OYIM. Registration for teams will begin September 1-January 15. If you would like to join an OYiM Team and are ready to be interviewed. Please contact your local Union or Division office for the steps you need to take.





Who are you?

Pathfinder Day Intro

To that question one generally responds with a name.

However, many times, people expect to hear something more than your name. Sometimes the question refers to your job, your function or your status. Other times the question has more of a relational hint. In my case, I am a pastor, husband of Martha and father of Melany. But if Martha asks me that question, the answer would surely be different.

As you can see, there are many ways to define our identity. In any case, what we believe we are determines our actions and our limitations. I would like to tell you about four aspects of my identity that I believe I share with you despite our possible differences. These aspects are relevant because they are not as volatile as others and they provide me stability in a changing world.

WHO AM I FOR GOD?

I am part of His eternal plan. He chose me even before He created the world (Ephesians 1:4) to be an object of His eternal love (Jeremiah

31:2). I am the glory of His creation (Psalm 8:5), made in His image and likeness so that I could relate to Him (Genesis 1:26, 27). Above all, he loves me so much that he was ready to make the biggest sacrifice of all for me (John 3:16; Romans 8:32).

WHO AM I IN CHRIST?

I am a forgiven and redeemed sinner (Romans 3:23-25; Colossians 1:14). With His strength, I am more than a victor of all enemy attacks (Romans 8: 37-39). I am the object of His ministry of intercession (Hebrews 7:25, 8:1-2; 1 John 2:1). I am a part of His body on earth, that is the church (1 Corinthians 1:27; Ephesians 1:22). I am an exhibition of His transforming power (Ephesians 3:10). I am the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20). I am someone in whom God is determined to perfect (Philippians 1:6).

WHO AM I TO THE WORLD?

A God-sent (Juan 17:18), an instrument of influence and transformation (Matthew 5:13-16, 13:33), an alternative model of God to the satanic lifestyle (Ephesians

2:1-10), the reason for which the world still has hope (Revelations 7:1-3).

WHO AM I IN THESE END TIMES?

Part of a special rescue team of God, the remnant (Revelation 12:17, 14:12), a possessor of a special relevant message of salvation (Revelation 14:6-12), one essentially called to be part of the final conflict between good and evil (Revelation 16:14-16), part of the people that prepares for His coming, a soon citizen of the city of God (Revelation 21:1-3).

I should tell you, that no matter what I am, what I have been or what I will be, while it's part of God's plan, I am a special person for Christ, a necessary soul in the world and someone very critical in this time; it doesn't matter what can change about who I am. Who are you?



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



With the support of GC Administration, the 13 Division youth directors, MENA Union and the Israel field, “Global Youth Day” was launched on March 13, 2013. The vision of GYD is to recapture the reality of Adventist youth as a global movement mobilized for service, contributing to the proclamation of the everlasting gospel and ushering in the second coming of Jesus Christ.

There is a lot more to religious faith than simply going to church and listening to sermons. The true practice of religion involves the revelation of God’s love in living out Jesus’ gospel commission as He bade us to before He ascended to heaven: through all manners of selfless acts that point a desperately needy world to the ultimate hope of the better world He has made possible for us. Grounded in the concluding words of Jesus in the parable of the Good Samaritan, “Go and do likewise” (Luke 10:25-37), the theme of the Global Youth Day is “Be the sermon.”

After seeing all the news reports, testimony videos, and worldwide activity from more than 150 million digital social media impressions on GYD 2018, we know God has been ministering to those in need through our tireless young people committed to being the hands and feet of Jesus.

WORLD PATHFINDER DAY

THEME IDENTITY

PATHFINDER DAY SHOULD BE A FULL DAY INCLUDING:

1. Spiritual Activity (Morning Worship)
2. Outreach Activities (Sabbath Afternoon) / (GPS: Global Pathfinder Service)
3. Social Activities (After the Sabbath)

8 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PATHFINDER DAY:

1. Church Services including divine hour conducted by Pathfinders.
2. Participation in Community Service Sabbath afternoon.
3. Collection of a special offering for Pathfinder Ministry.
4. Baptismal Service for Pathfinders
5. Study of the History of Pathfinders in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
6. Take a club picture and share it on social media #WPD18
7. Memorize the 2018 Pathfinder Day Bible Verse (2 Corinthians 5:17)
8. Invite friends to share in the activities of the day

17 RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR YOU:

1. General Information about Pathfinder Day 2018
2. Recommend outline for the day (Sabbath School and Divine Service)
3. Sabbath School Skit recommendation
4. Pathfinder Day Promotion Video
5. Identity Loops
6. Identity 5 min Countdown (Church Service)
7. Identity Watermarks
8. Identity Templates for Keynote & PowerPoint
9. Social Media promos
10. Flyer
11. Sermon Script
12. Sermon Presentations in Keynote & PowerPoint
13. Pathfinder Story Presentation
14. Greeting Video from Division Leaders
15. Recommendations for Community Service Activities
16. Recommendations for Social Activities
17. Pathfinders Statistics

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO OUR WEBSITE: YOUTH.ADVENTIST.ORG