



Adventist Youth Leader Magazine

Spiritual Youth Leaders Resource



- ▶ Conquering Fear: Biblical Wisdom for Youth
- ▶ Are you Listening?
- ▶ Rise Up and Serve: The Call to Mission Work for Young Seventh-day Adventists
- ▶ Embracing New Leadership



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ADVENTIST YOUTH MINISTRIES
GENERAL CONFERENCE



GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS®
ADVENTIST YOUTH MINISTRIES

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EDITORIAL

A Year of
Inspiration
and Faith
As we bid
farewell
to another

year, we reflect on the multitude of experiences and lessons it has bestowed upon us. At the General Conference Youth Ministries department, we've been diligently preparing for the significant events that define our ministries.

Within these pages, you'll find encouraging articles and introduction to the leaders that work hard to produce for the youth of the world. In all your endeavors, remember that God should be the guiding force. Commence your planning, imagining, and brainstorming with faith and the knowledge that His will is the ultimate compass for your journey.

Let's embrace the future with open hearts and minds, ready to learn, grow, and make a positive impact. The experiences we share and the faith we hold are what truly define our path.

Wishing you a year filled with inspiration and unwavering faith.

Warm regards,



Andrés J. Peralta
Associate Youth Director
General Conference

A Year of
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CONQUERING FEAR: BIBLICAL WISDOM FOR YOUTH

By: Andres J Peralta



Fear is a natural emotion that everyone experiences at some point in their lives. For youth navigating the challenges of growing up, fear can be especially daunting. However, the Bible offers profound wisdom and guidance on how to conquer fear and find strength in faith.

In this article, we will explore five biblical principles that provide practical steps for young people to overcome fear and walk confidently in their journeys.

TRUST IN THE LORD: PROVERBS 3:5-6 (NIV)

The book of Proverbs offers timeless advice: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” Trusting in God’s plan, even when it seems uncertain, is the foundation for conquering fear. Understand that God has a purpose for your life, and He is with you every step of the way.

PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION: PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7 (NIV)

The Apostle Paul encourages us, saying, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Through prayer, you

can release your fears and anxieties to God, finding peace that surpasses human understanding.

MEDITATE ON GOD'S WORD: PSALM 119:105 (NIV)

The psalmist declares, “Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.” The Bible is a source of comfort, wisdom, and guidance. Regularly immersing yourself in Scripture allows you to internalize God’s promises, providing a steady light in times of darkness and uncertainty.

COMMUNITY AND FELLOWSHIP: HEBREWS 10:24-25 (NIV)

The importance of surrounding yourself with a supportive community cannot be overstated. The book of Hebrews urges believers, saying, “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” Seek out mentors, friends, and fellow believers who can offer encouragement, understanding, and prayer.

COURAGE AND STRENGTH: JOSHUA 1:9 (NIV)

As Joshua prepared to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land, God reminded him, “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” This verse serves as a powerful reminder that God equips us with the strength and courage to face our fears. When you feel overwhelmed, remember that you are not alone.

Conquering fear is a journey that requires faith, courage, and a reliance on God’s promises. By trusting in the Lord, seeking His guidance through prayer and His Word, fostering a supportive community, and embracing courage, young people can overcome their fears and step boldly into their futures. The wisdom of the Bible provides a timeless blueprint for conquering fear and living a life characterized by faith and confidence.

Resources:

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ARE YOU LISTENING?

By: Pr. Busi Kumahlo

The story of Samuel's call in 1 Samuel 3 proves that God is in the business of calling young people to serve Him. The opening statement in that chapter says: "The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions." (1 Samuel 3:1, NIV). The books of Judges and Samuel depict a sad scenario of God's people being indifferent and disobedient to God. They ignored all the teachings, warnings, and counsels from the Judges, who were God's appointed leaders to admonish and guide His people. What makes 1 Samuel 3:1 poignant is the fact that God had ceased to reveal Himself to His people because of their sinful practices. But He decides to break His silence by revealing Himself to a young man, Samuel.

God's call to Samuel is dramatic. He could have chosen to use a simple method to alert Samuel of the task he needs to execute. The drama in 1 Samuel 3 teaches me that when God calls a young person to be part of His mission, He makes it a big deal. I will cite a few biblical examples: the boy who had five loaves and two fish, the anonymous girl in 2 Kings 5 who gave Naaman advise to go to Samaria to receive healing for his leprosy, Esther's rise to fame by marrying the king and being instrumental in the emancipation of the Jews, Joseph's story remains the magna carta of what can do when a young person fully surrenders to Him, and, the story of Daniel and his friends exhibits the power of godly influence in a pagan land. These examples and a litany of many more indicate that when God uses a

young person He shows off as a demonstration of His ability and will to use them.

When Eli realized that God was calling Samuel, he gave him a timely and an apt counsel: “Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy. 9 So Eli told Samuel, “Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, ‘Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.’” So, Samuel went and lay down in his place.” (1 Samuel 3:8-9, NIV). Samuel followed the counsel of his mentor, Eli. This is how he responded: “Speak, for your servant is listening.” (1 Samuel 3:10, NIV).

1 Samuel 3 serves as the blueprint for Adventist Youth Ministries (AYM) at the General Conference (GC). Our core business is to produce resources, provide training, utilize media, teach, and preach to invite the youth to respond to God’s call. This call began in Genesis 3 since man fell into sin and it permeates the annals of history and will be consummated when Jesus comes back. The GC organized AYM as a department in 1907, prior to that it was under the supervision of the Sabbath School department. Since its inception AYM has been led by capable, spiritual, and visionary youth directors who have paved the way for what we have today. As a newly elected (June 2022) youth director of the GC, I stand in awe of what God has done in the department. I owe a great debt to all my deceased and living predecessors. When I peruse the resources and initiatives, we have in the AYM, I am amazed and challenged to continue with the good legacy of the erstwhile youth directors.

The GC challenges the global youth and their leaders to consider the following:

- Availability
- Proximity
- Response
- Courage

AVAILABILITY

Samuel made himself available for service because of his mother’s positive influence and early training. The Bible and Ellen White inform us that as soon as he was ready to be separated from his mother, he was made available to Eli in compliance with his mother’s pledge to God.

“During the first three years of the life of Samuel the prophet, his mother carefully taught him to distinguish between good and evil. By every familiar object surrounding him, she sought to lead his thoughts up to the Creator. In fulfillment of her vow to give her son to the Lord, with great self-denial she placed him under the care of Eli the high priest, to be trained for service in the house of God. Though Samuel’s youth was passed at the tabernacle devoted to the worship of God, he was not free from evil influences or sinful example. The sons of Eli feared not God, nor honored their father; but Samuel did not seek their company nor follow their evil ways. His early training led him to choose to maintain his Christian integrity. What a reward was Hannah’s! And what an encouragement to faithfulness is her example!” (The Review and Herald, September 8, 1904).

Samuel had a choice to refuse God’s call for service because of the bad influence of Eli’s son. But he chose to honor God and his parents. The mother’s early training cannot be underestimated.

AYM cannot and shouldn't replace parental training of the youth. Ellen White calls the home the first school (*This Day with God*, p. 293). AYM serves as a support structure for the family. Parents should not only encourage their children to join AYM clubs and programs, but they should assist us in training their children. We encourage them to show interest in AYM activities by volunteering to be counselors, mentors, and office bearers. When all interested parties rally around the youth, the devil will not win in swaying them towards the world. The old African adage, "It takes a village to raise a child" couldn't be truer in the context of AYM. When we join hands together to make young people available for God's service, the church and the world will benefit.

Many youth leaders have been and are heavily criticized by the parents, church leaders and the youth themselves for many reasons. It is important that youth leaders be held accountable if things are not done properly. But is not fair and unchristian to judge youth leaders who are doing their best to train young people and yet they receive no support from the same critics.

Hannah did not only make Samuel available for God's service, but she also maintained her support for Samuel by praying for him regularly.

"From Shiloh, Hannah quietly returned to her home at Ramah, leaving the child Samuel to be trained for service in the house of God, under the instruction of the high priest. From the earliest dawn of intellect, she had taught her son to love and reverence God, and to regard himself as the Lord's. By every familiar object surrounding him, she had sought to lead his thoughts up to the Creator. When separated from her child, the faithful mother's solicitude did not cease. Every day he was the subject of her prayers. Every year she

“

From the earliest dawn of intellect, she had taught her son (Samuel) to love and reverence God, and to regard himself as the Lord's... Every fiber of the little garment had been woven with a prayer that he might be pure, noble, and true.

made, with her own hands, a robe of service for him; and as she went up with her husband to worship at Shiloh, she gave the child this reminder of her love. Every fiber of the little garment had been woven with a prayer that he might be pure, noble, and true. She did not ask for her son worldly greatness, but she earnestly pleaded that he might attain that greatness which Heaven values—that he might honor God and bless his fellowmen.” (Patriarchs and Prophets, 572, 1890).

Young people need a lot of prayers from all of us. This is the best support we can give them and their leaders.

PROXIMITY

The Word of the Lord says: “The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down

in the house of the LORD, where the ark of God was.” (1 Samuel 3:3, NIV). Samuel was at the right place at the right time. Samuel was lying down in the temple and not far from the ark of God. This is astounding! Not only was Samuel properly trained for service, but he was physically positioned to listen to the voice of God. Many of us miss to hear God’s voice because of our proximity to worldly things that drown God’s voice. Ellen White rivets this point home,

“Seek every opportunity to go where prayer is wont to be made. Those who are really seeking for communion with God will be seen in the prayer meeting, faithful to do their duty and earnest and anxious to reap all the benefits they can gain. They will improve every opportunity of placing themselves where they can receive the rays of light from heaven.” (Homeward Bound, p.148).

God spoke to Moses at the burning bush. But Moses had to do his part before God could speak to him. “So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.” (Exodus 3:3, NIV). Many young people have wondered far away from the burning bush (church) this makes it hard for them to hear the voice of God. We know that God is omnipresent, and He is not limited by time and space to communicate with us, but He also chooses certain spaces and locations to share specific instructions with those who love Him and prioritize His things. When the phone’s GPS is connected to the car’s sound system by Bluetooth, and you are listening to music as well. The GPS will muffle the sound of music when it gives you navigational instructions. If this is not done, you will

miss the instructions because the music drowns out the voice. What is drowning out the voice of God in your life? The Bible says, “Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it.” (Isaiah 30:21, NIV). This voice is persistent and does not give up on us. What is your location when the voice of God is calling you? Be found where God’s voice can speak to you!

RESPONSE

Samuel’s positive response to God’s call should serve as a motivation to the Adventist young people. AYM offers programs, projects and activities that are designed for the youth. We provide training to youth leaders on how to equip young people for service. AYM also collaborates with other church



Those who are really seeking for communion with God will be seen in the prayer meeting, faithful to do their duty and earnest and anxious to reap all the benefits they can gain.

initiatives to ensure that the youth are adequately and holistically trained. We call upon the youth to say: “speak Lord, your servant is listening!” The church needs youthful energy and creativity to carry out its mandate of preaching the three angel’s messages to the perishing world. Where are the modern day Samuels? This is the time for the youth of the church to stand up and be counted among those who say, “I will Go!” The Bible says the harvest is plenty and ready, God needs the reapers. When Samuel responded positively to God’s call, He was given clear instructions on what to do. He had to give Eli God’s message of displeasure at what his sons were doing. The message from God may not always be what we expect it to be, but we still need to respond positively. The message may be too heavy for the youth because they lack the experience, and they feel inadequately equipped to serve. But your willingness to serve is God’s way of enabling and empowering you for service.

“As the will of man cooperates with the will of God, it becomes omnipotent. Whatever is to be done at His command, may be accomplished in His strength. All His biddings are enabling’s.” (Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 331-333).

COURAGE

Fear prohibits many young people from responding positively to the voice of God. If fear is your problem, be of good courage. You are not the only one who fears! Elijah was afraid after calling fire down from heaven on Mount Carmel. He ran away from king Ahab and his wife Jezebel because they wanted to kill him. God revealed Himself and

comforted him. When Joshua took over from Moses as the leader of the nation of Israel, God said to him: “Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land, I swore to their ancestors to give them.” (Joshua 1:6, NIV). God is saying the same thing to the youth of the Adventist church. Do not fear anything! This is the time to act and be part of God’s mission. The former president of the United States of America, Barak Hussein Obama, challenged the Americans when he was running for president by saying: “Yes, you can!” You too can be part of God’s army of workers.

Resources:

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10th



Anniversary

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FOLLOW JESUS
EMBRACE HIS MISSION
CHANGE THE WORLD



Adventist Youth Ministries
GENERAL CONFERENCE

RISE UP AND SERVE: THE CALL TO MISSION WORK FOR YOUNG SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

By: Ivonne Omaña



In a rapidly changing world, young Seventh-day Adventists (SDA) are called to a unique mission - one that is not limited to foreign lands but extends to their very cities and communities. With inspiration from the Bible and the teachings of Ellen G. White, this article encourages young SDA youth to participate in mission work right where they are. Let's look at 3 bible texts and

1. MATTHEW 28:19-20 (NIV) - THE GREAT COMMISSION

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

As young Adventists, this call extends to your own neighborhoods. Your cities are the mission fields in which you can sow the seeds of faith, love, and hope. Ellen G. White says “The Savior’s commission to the disciples included all the believers. It includes all believers in Christ to the end of time.” - (The Desire of Ages, p. 822.2) Ellen White’s writings emphasize that the responsibility of spreading the gospel is not exclusive to a chosen few but extends to all who believe. As young Adventists, you are an integral part of this mission.

2. JAMES 2:14-17 (NIV)- FAITH IN ACTION

“What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”

Participating in mission work in your city is a tangible way to put your faith into action. It is an opportunity to live out the principles of love and compassion. Ellen White states that in the cities the youth can be gathered in the church schools, and they can help to do missionary work. The Lord calls for work to be done in the cities. He calls for workers to enter the cities, not to become one with them, but to uplift them, to make the people nobler and better. (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 183) She emphasizes the importance of mission work in urban areas. Our cities are filled with diverse people in need of spiritual guidance and support.

3. GALATIANS 6:9 (NIV)- PERSEVERANCE IN WELL-DOING

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

Mission work may have its challenges but remember that your efforts can make a lasting impact on someone’s life. Stay steadfast in your commitment to serve your community. Ellen states

that “Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me.’” - (*The Ministry of Healing*, p.73.4)

Ellen G. White’s teachings stress the importance of Christ’s method of ministry, which involves not only preaching but also actively serving and showing compassion to those in need.

As young Seventh-day Adventists, you have a unique opportunity to be ambassadors of Christ in your cities. Through your actions, you can embody the teachings of the Bible and the guidance of Ellen G. White. The mission work you engage in within your communities can bring hope, love, and salvation to those who need it most. So, rise up, answer the call, and let your light shine in your city as you participate in the mission work that God has set before you.

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1. Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.
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THE YOUTH IN THE BIBLE: LESSONS IN FAITH, LEADERSHIP, AND RESILIENCE

By: Andres J Peralta

The Bible, a sacred text for millions around the world, contains a rich tapestry of stories and lessons that continue to inspire and guide people of all ages. Among its pages, we find numerous accounts of young individuals who played pivotal roles in shaping the course of history, demonstrating remarkable faith, leadership, and resilience. These stories serve as a source of encouragement and wisdom for today's youth, offering timeless lessons that transcend time and culture.

1. DAVID: THE SHEPHERD BOY TURNED KING

One of the most iconic figures in the Bible is David, who rose from humble beginnings as a shepherd boy to become the renowned King of Israel. As a youth, David's faith in God, demonstrated by his courage in facing the giant Goliath, serves as an example of how unwavering trust can lead to extraordinary victories. His leadership qualities, coupled with his ability to learn from both triumphs and failures, offer invaluable lessons for young people navigating their own paths.

2. JOSEPH: A MODEL OF INTEGRITY AND RESILIENCE

Joseph's story, found in the book of Genesis, is a testament to the power of resilience, even in the face of adversity. As a youth, he faced betrayal by his own brothers, wrongful imprisonment, and various

trials. However, Joseph's unwavering integrity, coupled with his ability to interpret dreams, ultimately led him to a position of great influence in Egypt. His journey emphasizes the importance of maintaining one's integrity, even in the most challenging circumstances.

3. MARY: THE YOUNG WOMAN OF IMMEASURABLE FAITH

Mary, the mother of Jesus, is an exemplar of faith and obedience. As a young woman, she received an angelic message announcing her role in the birth of the Messiah. Despite the uncertainty and potential social stigma, Mary responded with profound faith, saying, "Let it be to me according to your word." Her willingness to embrace God's plan, even when it seemed beyond human comprehension, serves as an inspiration for young people to trust in God's purpose for their lives.

4. TIMOTHY: THE DISCIPLE WITH A COURAGEOUS SPIRIT

Timothy, a young disciple of the apostle Paul, is often praised for his faithfulness and courage. Despite his youth, Timothy played a significant role in the early Christian church. Paul, his mentor, wrote to him, saying, "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" (1 Timothy 4:12, NIV). Timothy's story reminds young individuals of their potential to impact the world, regardless of their age.

5. ESTHER: A QUEEN'S COURAGEOUS STAND

Esther, a young Jewish woman, found herself in a position of unexpected influence as the queen of Persia. When faced with a crisis that threatened her people, Esther demonstrated immense courage by risking her own life to intercede on their behalf. Her story underscores the importance of using one's position and influence for the greater good, even in the face of personal risk.

The youth in the Bible offer a diverse array of role models, each demonstrating unique qualities that continue to inspire generations. From David's audacious faith to Mary's unwavering obedience, these individuals exemplify virtues such as courage, resilience, and faithfulness. Their stories serve as a reminder that age is not a barrier to making a meaningful impact on the world. As young people navigate their own journeys, the lessons from these biblical figures provide a timeless source of guidance and encouragement. Through faith, leadership, and resilience, the youth in the Bible have left an indelible mark on history, leaving a legacy that continues to inspire millions around the world.

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PATHFINDERS ON A MISSION: EMPOWERING CLUBS TO ENGAGE COMMUNITIES AND SHARE THE SDA MESSAGE

By: Ivonne Omaña

Pathfinder clubs, with their vibrant energy and commitment to service, have the potential to be powerful agents of positive change in their communities. In this article, we will explore creative and practical ways for Pathfinder clubs to become more involved in their neighborhoods, as well as strategies to effectively share the Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) message with others. Let's embark on a journey to empower Pathfinders to be proactive ambassadors of faith, love, and service.

COMMUNITY SERVICE INITIATIVES

Pathfinder clubs can identify and participate in community service initiatives that align with their core values. Whether it's organizing food drives, conducting health fairs, or participating in environmental clean-ups, these acts of service not only positively impact the community but also exemplify the values of the SDA message, which emphasizes love and care for others.

ADOPT-A-STREET OR PARK PROGRAMS

Encourage Pathfinder clubs to adopt a street or park in their locality. Regularly cleaning and maintaining these areas not only enhances the community's aesthetics but also helps forge positive

relationships with local authorities and residents, thereby opening doors for spreading the SDA message.

INTERFAITH OUTREACH AND DIALOGUE

Facilitating interfaith dialogue can be an enriching experience for Pathfinder clubs. Engaging in respectful discussions with members of other faith communities fosters mutual understanding and respect, paving the way for sharing the distinct beliefs and values of Seventh-day Adventists.

YOUTH-LED EVANGELISM EVENTS

Empower Pathfinder clubs to organize youth-led evangelism events tailored to their community's needs. These events could include workshops on healthy living, stress management, and family values, which resonate with both the young and old.

ENGAGING IN SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH

Incorporate social media as a platform to share the SDA message. Pathfinder clubs can create engaging content that highlights their service projects, inspiring testimonies, and the impact of their faith on their lives. Social media platforms can act as modern-day pulpits, reaching a wide audience and sparking curiosity about the SDA faith.

PARTICIPATING IN GLOBAL MISSION INITIATIVES

Pathfinder clubs can participate in global mission initiatives supported by the SDA Church. Engaging in projects such as disaster relief,



Pathfinder clubs are more than just youth organizations; they are vibrant and passionate groups of young individuals with the potential to make a significant impact in their communities and beyond.

educational support, and community development in different parts of the world allows Pathfinders to experience the universal reach of the SDA message and its impact on diverse communities.

Pathfinder clubs are more than just youth organizations; they are vibrant and passionate groups of young individuals with the potential to make a significant impact in their communities and beyond. By actively engaging in community service, fostering interfaith dialogue, and using social media as a tool for outreach, Pathfinder clubs can effectively share the SDA message of love, compassion, and hope with others. As they become proactive ambassadors of their faith, the positive influence of Pathfinder clubs will be felt far and wide, nurturing a culture of service, understanding, and a deeper connection with the SDA message.

EMBRACING NEW LEADERSHIP

By: Ivonne Omaña



As we journey through the ever-evolving landscape of the Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) Church, change and transition often become our faithful companions. In this dynamic global family, transitions signal a period of new beginnings, fresh perspectives, and renewed energy. The appointment of new directors across the various SDA divisions around the world ushers in a season of anticipation and possibility. Each new director brings with them a unique blend of experiences, expertise, and vision that promises to guide their respective divisions toward a future marked by unity, growth, and innovation. In this introduction, we are delighted to present the new directors who have embarked on the exciting responsibility of leading various SDA divisions globally. Together, they exemplify the diversity and vitality that will shape the path ahead for the worldwide SDA community.



Samuel Mwebaza (East-Central Africa Division)



Pr. Mwebaza Samuel is the firstborn child in the family of Mr. George William Ssekulya and Ruth Musoke Ssekulya. He originates from Uganda. He is married to Lydia Kisakye Mwebaza and together they have three children two girls, Lisa Nakiregga, Lesley Nanyonjo, and one son Lemuel Paul Zziwa.

Mwebaza is very passionate about empowering young people with Leadership skills that will equip them to be zealous for God's work and prepare many for the soon return of our risen Lord. Prior to joining the East-Central Africa Division Youth and Campus Ministries leadership, he had the privilege of spending his longer years of service working with the young

people in his country Uganda as a Youth and Public Campus Ministries director and served as a Union Communications director. He has served as a District pastor in several places and as a Chaplain in Colleges. Has also served as a Field President for at least seven years.

Mwebaza graduated from Bugema University in Uganda with a Bachelor of Theology degree. He then graduated with a Master of Arts degree in Leadership from the Adventist University of Africa, Nairobi, Kenya in 2009. Currently, he is pursuing a Doctoral of Philosophy degree at the Adventist University of Africa. He is inspired by the words of Apostle Paul in Ephesians 3:17-18. “Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is.”

Pr. Mwebaza is a lover of Christian music, enjoys gardening, traveling, and adventuring.



Dr. R N Prabhu Das
(Southern Asia Division)

Dr. Prabhu Das has served our church in various capacities throughout the years. Some of his notable roles have been as a teacher, dean, and as headmaster at different schools. His experience in the Adventist education

system led him to serve as director of the Education Department at the Southern Asia Division. His

passion for schools and education allowed him to be instrumental in building a special school for the Blind at Bobbli. Dr. Prabhu Das’ love for education has been reflected in his own life as he holds various master’s degrees, including a Master’s in Education, as well as a Ph.D. He is married to Mrs. Salomi Prabhu Das who is also a schoolteacher. Together they have two sons, R N Franklin and David Narayan, and a daughter, Dashami Stephen.



Alfred Kwasi Asiem
(West-Central Africa Division)

Pastor Alfred Kwasi Asiem is an ordained minister of the gospel and a second-generation Seventh-day Adventist. He entered denominational service in 2001 as an Associate Church Pastor of the

South West Ghana Conference. Two years later he was appointed as a District Pastor and an Associate Departmental Director for Youth in 2005. He was elected as the substantive Youth Director by the Conference in 2011, a position he held until he was called to serve in the Southern Ghana Union Conference in 2016.

Pastor Asiem for the past 7 years served as the Youth, Adventist Possibility Ministries, and Music Director of the Union until June 2022 when he was elected to serve as the Youth Director of the West Central Africa Division.

Pastor Asiem has a BA in Religion from Valley View University, Accra, Ghana, an MA in Religion

from AIIAS-Philippines and is currently a Doctoral student at the Adventist University of Africa (AUA) in Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

The native of Asanta in the Western region of Ghana is married to Esther Asiem and both are blessed with two daughters, Ellen, and Lois. I enjoy working with other youth leaders to find relevant ways to encourage and train youth as they help their local churches and the communities in which they live.



James Tham 譚雋煜
(Chinese Union Mission)

Pastor James Tham was born in Singapore but grew up in six cities across three continents. He is married to Tiffany Cheng and has a little boy, Lucas Tham. James is a second-generation Adventist Pastor. He has been involved in Youth Leadership since he was

16, and his passion for mentoring youth to their full potential drives him.



Irvine Gwatiringa
(Southern – India Division)

Pastor Irvine Gwatiringa is the 3rd SID youth Director and he hails from Zimbabwe. Popularly known as Uncle Irvine, his passion is to empower young people and those who are young at heart to

a loving and saving relationship with Christ as their personal Saviour. He is married to Auntie Slie and their union is blessed with two children Shekainah and Sheyna. Currently studying for a Doctoral program with Andrews University. He believes that Youths have an integral part in the gospel mission.



Ivan Dmytrovych Romaniuk (Ukraine Union Mission)

Pr. Ivan Dmytrovych Romaniuk has worked as a Radio and TV presenter, has produced several radio programs, hosted the Wake Up morning program on the “Voice of Hope” radio station, as well as the “Morning of

Hope” program on the Hope TV channel. As a speaker, he speaks at youth and children’s Christian recreation camps, as well as at youth meetings, and has made several missionary trips outside of Ukraine. As of June of 2022 he has been newly appointed as the Youth director for the Union mission in Ukraine.



INTRODUCING THE GENERAL CONFERENCE YOUTH MINISTRIES TEAM

By: **Ivonne Omaña**

The General Conference Youth Ministries Team is a faithful and fervent assembly of individuals devoted to guiding and nurturing the young souls within our Seventh-day Adventist community. With an unwavering commitment to our faith and a shared mission to shepherd the youth on their spiritual journey, our team plays an indispensable role in fostering the growth and development of our young believers.

Our team comprises a diverse group of dedicated individuals, leaders, and mentors who work harmoniously to create purposeful and spiritually enriching experiences for our youth. Together, we seek to provide a nurturing environment in which our young ones can deepen their relationship with God, grow in their understanding of our beliefs, and build lasting bonds of fellowship within our faith community.

Our sacred mission is to offer the youth opportunities to discover and strengthen their connection with God, explore their unique gifts, and actively engage with the teachings and doctrines of our beloved Seventh-day Adventist Church. We firmly believe that the future of our faith community hinges upon the active participation and spiritual maturation of the next generation.

Through a range of religious programs, sacred events, and spiritually guided initiatives, the General Conference Youth Ministries Team strives to cultivate an atmosphere where our young members can feel the presence of God, be mentored in their faith, and be inspired to become devout followers and leaders within our

faith community. Whether it's through our spiritual retreats, Sabbath school classes, mission trips, or sacred convocations, we are committed to nurturing the spiritual well-being and discipleship of each and every young Adventist we are blessed to serve.



BUSI KHUMALO
YOUTH DIRECTOR

Pastor Busi Khumalo has worked in ministry for over 30 years: 10 years in pastoral ministry and 20 years in youth, chaplaincy, and public campus ministries. He served as a departmental director at the Southern Africa Union Conference from 2003-2010 and at the Southern African Indian-Ocean Division (SID) from 2010 to 2022. Busi's passion for young people and youth ministries is inspired by the last part of the Pathfinder Pledge: "By the grace of God, I will be pure, kind, and true, I will keep the Pathfinder Law, I will be a servant of God and a Friend to man."

Busi has been married to his incredible wife, Maipato, for 29 years, and together, they are the parents of two amazing children: a son, Sihe, and a daughter, Side. He also enjoys reading, running, and traveling.



DR. PAKO EDSON MOKGWANE
ASSOCIATE YOUTH DIRECTOR

Dr. Pako Edson Mokgwane has worked in ministry for over 18 years. He grew up in Botswana and is a product of Adventist Education, from primary school to graduate school. He obtained a Bachelor of Theology from Andrews University (MI, USA), and a Master of Theology, and a PhD in Leadership from the Adventist University of Africa, Nairobi, Kenya. Prior to joining the Youth Ministries team of the General Conference, he served as the Youth, Stewardship, and Communications Director for the Botswana Union Conference, and as a frontline pastor in both North Botswana and South Botswana conferences. Dr. Mokgwane is an endorsed chaplain (SID) and an ordained minister.

The firstborn child of the late Thulaganyo Mokgwane and Masego Mokgwane, Pako is inspired by the lyrics of the hymn "We Speak of the Realms" as it awakens the reality of the Maranatha motif—Jesus is coming again! He is married to Ayakha Babalwa Dywili, and they have two sons,

Akim Thulaganyo Mokgwane and Pello Tshwaro Mokgwane.

Pako draws strength from 1 Timothy 4:12, “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.” Pako is a pastor’s kid. His leadership philosophy is founded on sociability; the more leaders connect with people and make moments significant the more opportunities they will have to point people toward Jesus. This is discipleship.

He is passionate about Youth Evangelism and believes that we should go beyond ourselves—beyond our comfort levels—and use social media and other media platforms to multiply our reach in our communities and beyond. This willingness of young people to respond to their communities with the Gospel of Love, Jesus’ gospel, will contribute to the Church’s goal of TOTAL MEMBER INVOLVEMENT and more intentionally TOTAL YOUTH INVOLVEMENT.



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DR. ANDRÉS J. PERALTA
ASSOCIATE YOUTH DIRECTOR

Chaplain Peralta is a native of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. He graduated in 2003 from Antillean University with a Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Theology. He graduated from Andrews University Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity in 2006. He concluded Doctor of Ministry in 2009 in Urban Ministry and Teamwork. He completed four units of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) with Emeritus Hospital, Hagerstown, Maryland. As a volunteer Chaplain, he offered spiritual guidance and pastoral care to patients and their families at Brookdale Hospital in Brooklyn, NY. He has also been trained in Police chaplaincy and endorsed as University Chaplaincy by North American Division. He is National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) and Victim Relations Certified.

For the past 4 years as a Lieutenant Chaplain, he has been an active member of the NOSC Baltimore Funeral Honor Detail team and has participated in 80 funerals across the Baltimore

area. He is a reserve Chaplain at the Second Navy Expeditionary Logistics Regiment in Williamsburg, VA. There he provides religious ministry and support by facilitating the religious requirements of those from all faiths during drill weekends, cares for all service members and their families including those subscribing to no specific faith in the base, and advises the command in ensuring the free exercise of religion for two battalions. Over the past 19 years, Chaplain Peralta has served as University Campus Ministries Director, Volunteer Hospital Chaplain, local Church Pastor (Puerto Rico, Michigan, New York, Massachusetts & Maryland), Conference Youth Director, and Union Youth Director. Currently, he serves as the World Pathfinder Director for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and oversees Youth Leaders in 217 countries. In this role, he provides support and resources to 13 Divisions under the General Conference Adventist Youth Ministries umbrella. Chaplain Peralta effectively leads a team of youth directors from all continents to plan and execute multiple worldwide events meeting the spiritual, social & physical needs of approximately 10 million Adventurers, Pathfinders, Master Guides, Youth and young adults.

In 2017, he was awarded the North American Division and Canada “Youth Ministry Excellence” award. Chaplain Peralta is an ordained, dedicated, enthusiastic, and optimistic servant leader with a passion to empower chaplains to grow in Christ, practice servant leadership and ministry of presence. He is adept at training leaders, utilizing

interpersonal and teamwork skills to create unity in vision and mission while maintaining a positive attitude and a spiritual focus. He is an international speaker and has spoken in over 100 countries training leaders. Chaplain Peralta co-authored “The Loving Father Bible Studies,” a small group study guide. Additionally, he has authored various published articles and his latest two books “Change the World” and “Jesus’ Dream Team”. He is the Editor of the “I Will Go” book and the Adventist Youth Leaders Magazine for the World Headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Silver Springs, MD. Chaplain Peralta also functions as the Chief Editor of the Adventurer Curriculum 2021 which will be utilized by one million children in 186 countries. He is a social media influencer with over 100k followers and has a passion for Media and designs.

Chaplain Peralta is married to Martha and is father to Melany, 6, and Amy, 2. He enjoys reading, writing, traveling, sports, and spending quality time with his family.



The General Conference Youth Ministries Team is a faithful and fervent assembly of individuals devoted to guiding and nurturing the young souls within our Adventist community.



MARIA A. MANDERSON
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

From her start as a teenager in Kingston, Jamaica West Indies, to coming to Silver Spring, Maryland, Maria has seen every position the Lord has blessed her with as an opportunity to serve God through serving others. Maria lives with her family in Baltimore, Maryland. The mother of three young adults, she enjoys traveling and being with her sons Andrew, Jonathan, Nathaniel and his wife Kalandra. Her hobbies are cooking, driving and reading and her favorite ice cream is grapenut.

“Over the past years I have learned many lessons and truths, but one of the most important ones is this, that, ‘God’s gifts and God’s call are under full warranty—never canceled, never rescinded.’ (Romans 11:29, Message Bible). That is sometimes a very scary reality, but it is also humbling because it makes me realize that each of us have to walk in the calling that God has called us to, and His way is always the best.”



MWENYA MPUNDU
MEDIA COORDINATOR

Mwenya Mpundu is a young adult who is passionate about Jesus, serving others, and Young people. Mwenya was born in Zambia and moved to New York at the age of 8. Mwenya Studied Business Administration and Communication in her undergrad classes. She loves to read, is very competitive, a lover of all things nature, and is terribly afraid of heights. In her free time, she enjoys being surrounded by those she loves.

At a young age she realized her love for ministry, she acquired her Master Guide and AY Leadership certification. She also served as a director for several ministries in her local church as well as being a coordinator in the Greater New York Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Mwenya assisted in the planning and executions of Congresses, Camporees, and other events for the conference and union. She helmed the digitalization of the department using smart technologies.

In her own life, 1 Timothy 4:12 has served as her guiding verse of what she hopes to achieve through her ministry: “Don’t let anyone despise your youth, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity.” Mwenya hopes to show everyone the true love of God and his unyielding Mercy through all she does. Her largest passion is introducing youth and young adults to the lover of her soul, Jesus Christ.



IVONNE OMAÑA
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Ivonne Andrea Omaña Was born in Barquisimeto, Venezuela. She is the only daughter of Chaplain Ivan and the late Anabel Omaña. She is a fifth generation Seventh Day Adventist and has a passion for assisting and encouraging the youth of the church and the world. She studied Biomedical Sciences in Adventist University of Health Sciences in Orlando, Florida, and then obtained a Master of Counseling with an emphasis on Marriage and Family therapy and Clinical Therapy from La Sierra University in Southern California. She worked during the pandemic to assist kids and families in



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nonprofit organizations. She is a pet mom to a cat named Frijolito and a dog named Reggie. She loves to go camping, traveling the world, and spending time with her family. She has a passion for assisting the youth of the church and wants to help others spread the love of Jesus Christ.

We extend a heartfelt invitation to you to become acquainted with the dedicated members of our team and to explore the sacred opportunities and events we offer to the youth of our Seventh-day Adventist family. Together, we can empower the next generation to walk steadfastly in the light of the Adventist faith and emerge as devout stewards who will carry forward our cherished beliefs and values into the future.

Resources:

1. General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. (2023, June 21). Out Team - Adventist Youth Ministries. Adventist Youth Ministries. <https://www.gcyouthministries.org/our-team/>



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