



Adventist Youth Leader Magazine

Spiritual Youth Leaders Resource



- ▶ **It's All About Mission**
- ▶ **Spirituality and Health**
- ▶ **Jesus calls ordinary people to do an extra-ordinary work**
- ▶ **Making Connections**



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ADVENTIST YOUTH MINISTRIES
GENERAL CONFERENCE



GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS®
ADVENTIST YOUTH MINISTRIES



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JANUARY - MARCH, 2024

EDITORIAL

Embracing Mission, Spirituality, and Service

In a world where challenges seem insurmountable and uncertainties loom large, the call to mission, spirituality, and service shines ever brighter. Across continents and cultures, individuals are answering this call with unwavering dedication and profound impact. As we reflect on the articles presented in this collection, we are reminded of the profound significance of embracing these values in our lives and communities.

It's All About Mission by Busi Khumalo underscores the transformative power of mission-driven initiatives. Khumalo's narrative reveals the power of innovative evangelism methods, such as Satellite Evangelism and Global Youth Day, in reaching hearts and minds. However, it also highlights the need for adaptability and creativity as we navigate changing times and emerging challenges. The message is clear: mission is not a static concept but a dynamic force that requires continuous innovation and commitment.

Spirituality and Health – Implications for Youth Leaders by Pako E. Mokgwane, PhD, delves into the profound interplay between spirituality and health. Mokgwane's insights remind us that true well-being encompasses not only physical health but also spiritual vitality. As youth leaders, it is imperative to recognize the holistic nature of wellness and empower young people to cultivate healthy habits and spiritual resilience.



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Embracing Mission, Spirituality, and Service

In a world where challenges seem to loom large, the call to mission and service shines ever brighter. Across cultures, individuals are answering the call with dedication and profound impact. The articles presented in this collection explore the profound significance of embracing these values within our communities.

It's All About Mission by Busi Khumalo explores the transformative power of mission-driven initiatives. The article reveals the power of innovative evangelism and service. At Global Youth Day, in reaching out to the world. However, it also highlights the need for adaptation as we navigate changing times and emerging challenges. The message is clear: mission is not a static concept but a dynamic one, requiring continuous innovation and commitment.

Spirituality and Health - Implications for Public Health by Palesa E. Makgwane, PhD delves into the profound

By integrating spirituality into health promotion efforts, we can foster a generation of individuals who are not only physically fit but also spiritually grounded.

Bridging Faith and Service: The SALT Outreach Story - A Journey of Faith, Resilience, and Impact by Ivonne Omaña showcases the transformative potential of faith-based service initiatives. Omaña's narrative illustrates how organizations like SALT Outreach are bringing hope and healing to communities in need. Through unwavering dedication and resilience, these organizations are not only addressing immediate needs but also fostering long-term impact. Their story serves as a testament to the power of faith, resilience, and community in driving meaningful change.

Missionaries in Their Own Backyard by Martín Bernhardt, **Always on a Mission** by Erton C. Köhler, Jesus calls ordinary people to do an extra-ordinary work by Richard Osborn and **Making Connections** by Olga Valdivia further underscore the universal call to mission and service. Whether it's through local outreach efforts, global missions,

or everyday acts of kindness, each article emphasizes the importance of embracing a mission-driven mindset in all aspects of life.

As we navigate the complexities of the modern world, let us draw inspiration from these narratives of faith, service, and resilience. Let us heed the call to mission, cultivate spiritual vitality, and commit ourselves to serving others with unwavering dedication. In doing so, we can build a brighter, more compassionate world for generations to come.



By: Ivonne Omaña

IT'S ALL ABOUT MISSION

By Busi Khumalo



It was in the late '90s when I was pastoring in the Kwazulu-Natal province in South Africa that the conference administration informed us of a new and innovative way of doing evangelism initiated by the General Conference (GC). This method was called, "Satellite Evangelism." After receiving training offered by the Personal Ministries directors of the conference and the union, we were instructed to educate our members. Following the training, churches received satellite equipment (a large dish and its accessories, including a decoder). I was pastoring in a rural area, and our church, where the equipment was installed, received praise from the local community. They already held us in high esteem, but when they saw the satellite equipment, their respect for our church heightened. Satellite Evangelism was very successful, and many souls were baptized due to this method. Sadly, today, we hardly speak about satellite evangelism because other evangelism methods have taken over. Understandably, we must move with the times and try new methods of conducting evangelism.

The General Conference (GC) launched Global Youth Day (GYD) in 2013. This was and is a fresh and creative way of engaging youth in acts of kindness and mission. Its popularity was palpable in the first few years after its debut. However, a few years later, almost like "Satellite Evangelism," GYD's popularity was

dwindling. In no way does this imply that GYD is dead! To the contrary, it is still loved by youth, and many of them are participating in GYD community projects. However, there is a certain level of fatigue that comes with doing the same thing every year.

To combat this tendency, Adventist Youth Ministries is embarking on a deliberate campaign to encourage young people to make GYD a lifestyle, not an event. In the GC calendar, GYD is an annual event that serves as a reminder that youth must be engaged in a mission. Its main objective is to challenge young people to leave their comfort zones and seek those they can minister to. As the youth reach out to the needy and the poor, as they sing and pray for those facing trauma and problems, the gospel seed is planted in the hearts of the recipients. We plead with all Adventist youth to be active participants in sharing the love of Jesus with their friends and fellow youth. When they do this, they will experience the joy of being part of the group to whom these words will be declared: “The King will reply, “Truly I tell you,

whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25:40 (NIV).

Some may ask the question, what are the practical ways in which young people could make GYD a lifestyle? The following tips may serve as guidelines:

1. Pray for wisdom and courage to face strangers. Many young people find it difficult to go where people are. We live in an individualistic era. We mind our business too much to the neglect of those whose lives we should be worried about.

2. Employ your talents and spiritual gifts when serving the people. Some young people fear being involved in GYD or any mission initiative because they are comparing themselves with others. God has gifted each of us with unique talents and spiritual gifts. All of us have a role to play in God’s kingdom.

3. Start with small things. Show love to those who desperately need it. You do not have to conduct an evangelistic campaign. While this method is effective, not all youth can do this. God will guide

you on how to reach out to the people and what to do.

4. Establish a rapport with those you serve. Very often we engage in ‘hit and run’ evangelism. Let’s build a relationship with the people and keep it going. Friendship evangelism is always the best method of doing mission. GYD gives us the opportunity to make friends. After giving the people food, etc., go back to assess their situation and show them that you care about them.

5. Do not be afraid to challenge the people to decide to be born again and be baptized. We are called to make disciples, not convert people, so this should be the last step in the process. It will be easy for people to make a commitment for baptism when they trust us because we care for them.

We cannot expect every person we serve to become a Christian or Adventist. Jesus did not convert everyone He healed or served. But we know that even his enemies acknowledged that He was the Son of God. As we make GYD a lifestyle, may people see in us God’s children.



SPIRITUALITY AND HEALTH — IMPLICATIONS FOR YOUTH LEADERS

By **Pako E. Mokgwane, PhD**

Physical health is God's best gift to human beings. The state of the body determines how the mind and soul respond to the environment. The fact that our expressions and feelings are significantly toned and colored by our health speaks volumes to the importance of this subject. Nonetheless, spirituality is the wealth of our health. Our spirituality should push us to be healthy. There are eschatological and missional implications regarding health: "The health reform is an important part of the third angel's message; and as a people professing this reform, we should not retrograde, but make continual advancement. It is a great thing to ensure health by placing ourselves in the right relation to the laws of life, and many have not done this (Ellen White, *Counsels on Health*, p. 49)."

Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. 3 John 1:2.

The verse promotes a progressive approach to life and optimal health for all, based on the vigor and vitality of the soul. The admonishment is that health must not lag as the soul prospers. It is possible to be spiritually fit, albeit physically weak. Yet, the complexity of life has ushered in numerous health challenges. Common health issues among young adults include mental health concerns like anxiety and depression, as well as lifestyle-

related factors such as poor diet, lack of exercise, and substance abuse (Castelpietra et al., 2022; Goularte et al., 2021; Aguirre Velasco et al., 2020). Additionally, issues like sleep disorders and reproductive health are prevalent. Therefore, it's crucial for individuals to prioritize their well-being through balanced lifestyles and seeking professional help when needed.

It is critical that young people to be healthy for several reasons. It sets the foundation for a lifetime of well-being, reduces the risk of chronic diseases later in life, enhances cognitive function and academic performance, and supports emotional and mental health (Mahindru et al., 2023; Abou Sawan et al., 2023; Rahaman et al., 2023). Healthy habits established early contribute to a better quality of life, increased productivity, and overall resilience in the face of life's challenges. Engaging in spiritual practices may reduce stress, improve coping mechanisms, and foster a positive mindset. Studies suggest that spiritual well-being is associated with better mental health outcomes, improved immune function, and a lower risk of certain diseases (Leung & Pong, 2021; Milstein, Hybels, & Proeschold-Bell, 2020; Zarzycka & Puchalska-Wasył, 2020).

However, these benefits will be experienced through the effort put into healthy living, just as effort is invested in growing in Christ. Both health and spirituality are vital components of overall well-being. Physical health ensures the proper functioning of the body, reduces the risk of illnesses, and contributes to a higher quality of life. On the other hand, spirituality provides individuals with a sense

of purpose, meaning, and connection, fostering emotional resilience and supporting mental well-being. The integration of health and spirituality can create a holistic approach to well-being, addressing not only the physical aspects but also the emotional, mental, and even social dimensions of a person's life. This holistic perspective promotes balance, resilience, and a more fulfilling life experience.

Therefore, loving God is synonymous with caring for your health. Overall, the text effectively conveys its message on the importance of spirituality and health, with only minor improvements needed for clarity and style. Recognizing and nurturing health and spirituality can lead to a more comprehensive and sustainable approach to overall wellness.

For this reason, GC Youth Ministries has made several programs available to promote health among young people. Countless honors from Junior youth ministry are attainable. However, in Senior Youth Ministry (PCM, YA, AMB), the **Silver and Gold Awards** are prizes worth striving for. They bring together core aspects of physical, mental, and spiritual vitality. They present a clear plan and encourage young people to be well-rounded and fit individuals by excelling in all three areas. By encouraging physical fitness, good health practices, life skills, and more, the Awards are an ideal way to develop strong character qualities, clear thinking, and keen spiritual perception to prepare youth for life here and eternity. Now, as never before, we need an army of youth rightly trained to carry “the message of a crucified,

risen, and soon-coming Savior to the whole world (E.G. White, Education, p. 271).”

GOLD AWARD, <https://www.gcyouthministries.org/.../youn.../ay-gold-award/>

SILVER AWARD, <https://www.gcyouthministries.org/.../ay-silver-award/>

Additionally, **Youth Alive** is a program that youth leaders may implement. “It is a program designed to build resilience among teens and young adults by equipping them to make healthy choices. Through the Youth Alive program, young people can better understand their gifts and purpose (Youth Alive, 2023, Paragraphs 1 and 2).” The program liberates young people incarcerated by tobacco, alcohol, drugs, pornography, media, and gaming. Therefore, Youth Alive provides the necessary tools for leaders to nurture relationships that build pliancy against the illicit behaviors and addictions that dogged today’s youth. Find *Resources* at www.youthaliveportal.org. Another critical intervention that helps young people stay healthy is the **Adventist AIDS International Ministries (AAIM)**. AAIM is a special ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist church that brings hope, love, and compassionate care and support to the people touched by the HIV epidemic. They tackle human sexuality issues, HIV prevention, and supporting those affected and infected by HIV. *Resources*: <https://aidsministries.co>





YOUTH ALIVE

HEALTHY YOUTH CONNECTED FOR SERVICE
My Choice, Fully Alive!

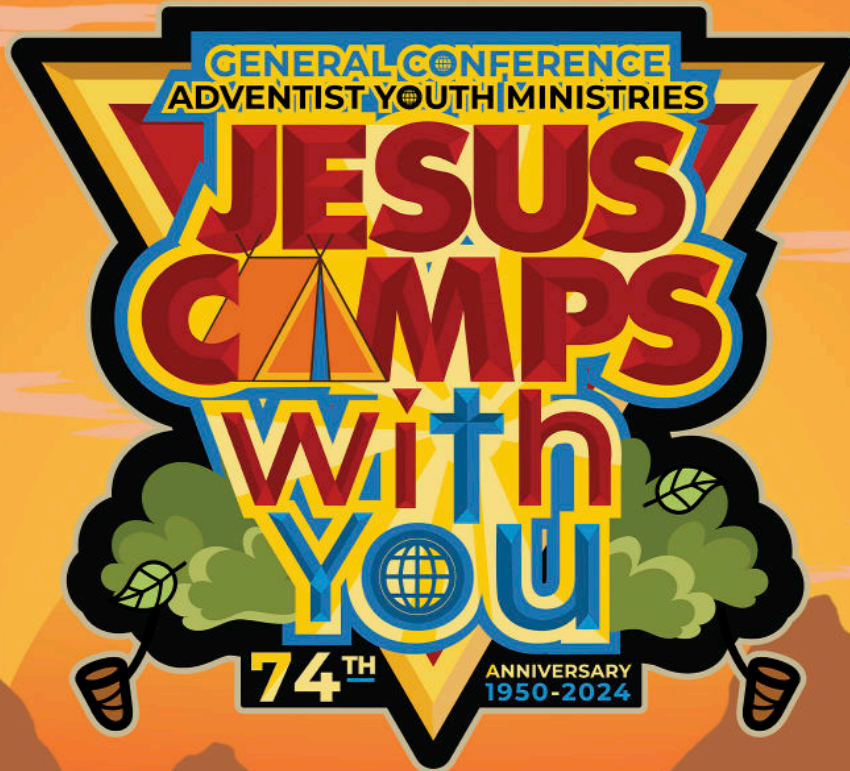


YouthAlivePortal.org

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WORLD PATHFINDER DAY



ADVENTIST YOUTH MINISTRIES
GENERAL CONFERENCE

SEPT 21, 2024

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BRIDGING FAITH AND SERVICE: THE SALT OUTREACH STORY – A JOURNEY OF FAITH, RESILIENCE, AND IMPACT

By: Ivonne Omaña



THE HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

In the heart of Orlando, a beacon of hope shines brightly for those experiencing homelessness, thanks to SALT Outreach. Founded in 2010 by Eric Camarillo, SALT has evolved into a pivotal force in homeless outreach, adapting to challenges and expanding its reach with the support of notable entities like Universal Studios Foundation, Doctor Phillips, Advent Health, and Elevation Church. Over the years, this organization has experienced exponential growth. Now boasting over twenty-eight employees and providing essential services weekly to 100-300 individuals grappling with homelessness, this ministry's journey is a testament to the power of faith, community, and unwavering dedication to service.

A VISION BORN FROM FAITH

In the genesis of SALT Outreach lay the personal transformation of Eric Camarillo, who embraced the Adventist Christian faith in 2010. Inspired by a divine calling, Camarillo sought to channel his newfound convictions into tangible action. The inaugural outreach event in September 2010—a simple act of

kindness towards the homeless—laid the groundwork for what would become a multifaceted endeavor aimed at addressing the complex issues surrounding homelessness. Motivated by this dream to create a measurable impact and harness the energy of young adults, Eric identified ways in which he could do this and also close the critical gaps in his community:

1. Multiple churches were bringing in resources to the same geographical area but lacked the collaboration that could make an impact in the community.
2. Consistent, meaningful, and impactful outreach was missing.
3. The energy and passion of young adults were underutilized, resulting in their departure from the church.

In response, Eric envisioned an outreach ministry that brought young adults together to make a difference in their communities—giving birth to SALT.

Over the years, SALT’s mission crystallized, sharpening its



focus and amplifying its impact on both individuals and the broader community. Through Eric’s vision, SALT sought not only to provide essential services but to also foster a sense of dignity and hope among the homeless population.

A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO SERVING THE UNSHELTERED

One of the many ways that the SALT Outreach programs operate is with a mobile drop-in center that goes beyond conventional aid. The program offers twelve different services, including showers, laundry, clothing, hygiene, food, haircuts, storage, charging stations, and mail services. These services not only meet the immediate needs of individuals, but they also foster trust and build relationships, gui-

ding individuals toward SALT’s case management, mental health counseling services, or spiritual care teams.

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES AND EXPANDING REACH

SALT Outreach’s journey has been punctuated by numerous obstacles, each met with unwavering resolve and a steadfast commitment to service. In an interview with Eric, he talked about SALT being denied a \$200,000 grant because those responsible thought it was too politically risky, and how that setback helped to galvanize the team’s determination to broaden their initiatives. Projects like the launch of a youth program in central Florida underscored SALT’s proactive approach to addressing

the evolving needs of the homeless population. Currently, the program has grown to provide mental, spiritual, and physical need of the homeless community in Orlando. They give out food, find housing, connect homeless people to free mental health and spiritual health services and are a staple in the community.

NAVIGATING THE PANDEMIC: A SURGE IN IMPACT

The onset of the pandemic presented a formidable challenge, prompting a swift pivot in SALT's operations. Despite the upheaval, the organization remained steadfast in its mission of providing services to the homeless population. Innovative solutions such as enhanced sanitation measures, mobile outreach units, and hazard pay for employees were implemented.

Since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, SALT has been a beacon of hope, serving over 5,000 people with an impressive 250,000 services and resources. From August 2020 to March 2022, the organization actively participated in aiding 1,050 individuals on their journey

to overcoming homelessness. The program provided them with access to mental health and health



services, food, hygiene services, and even housing. The work done by the organization helped change lives even when the world was shut down. This period of adversity showcased SALT's adaptability and resilience in the face of unprecedented challenges.

EVOLUTION OF SERVICES: RESPONDING TO COMMUNITY NEEDS

What began as a small-scale food initiative in 2010 grew exponentially, with hundreds of

volunteers feeding 200-300 people every other week by 2013. Surveys conducted by SALT identified clothing and hygiene as significant needs, that inspired the launch of a clothing trailer in 2016 and a shower trailer in 2018, raising \$4,000 and \$40,000, respectively.

By 2018, SALT's mobile drop-in center unofficially launched, providing showers, haircuts, clothing, hygiene, and food. The organization operated once a month in 2018, moved to twice a month in 2019, and by 2020, operated three days a month as an allvolunteer organization.

The additional funds raised enabled SALT to hire two part-time employees in February 2020, with plans to begin operations once a week. However, with the onset of COVID-19 in March 2020 the city enlisted SALT's services to provide the community with necessary aid three days a week to the tune of approximately \$200,000. In 2020 alone, SALT served 1,500 people with 30,000 services, and ended the year with ten employees and \$360,000 in funds.

EXPANDING HORIZONS

In 2021, SALT expanded its programs to include case management, laundry services, spiritual care, storage, charging stations, and mail services. The spiritual care program included pastors conducting church services, group Bible Studies, and one-on-one Bible Study. By the end of 2021, SALT had served around 3,000 people with 115,000 services, had a staff of twenty and raised over \$1.4 million.

In 2022, the organization further broadened its impact, launching a temporary shelter program through *Extended Stay Hotels* and a mental health counseling program. By the end of the year, SALT had served over 4,000 people with 150,000 services, employed 28+ individuals, and raised \$2.9 million, with \$1.1 million coming from local government support.

COMMUNITY AND INTERFAITH COLLABORATION:

SALT's impact extends beyond its immediate beneficiaries. The ministry has garnered support from a diverse array of donors and volunteers, including corporations, foundations, and individuals from



various faith backgrounds. This broad base of support has led to the establishment of SALT Day in Orlando, a recognition of the ministry's contributions to the community.

The interfaith collaboration facilitated by SALT is particularly noteworthy. Partnerships with organizations across different denominations and faith groups underscore the universal appeal of service and love. These collaborations have not only amplified SALT's impact but also fostered a sense of unity and mutual respect

among different faith communities.

A TESTAMENT TO FAITH AND VISION

As a young adult-led organization, SALT Outreach attributes its impact and success to divine guidance. Recognizing God as the ultimate fundraiser and motivator, the organization remains steadfast in its commitment to creating drop-in centers for people experiencing homelessness in every metropolitan area.

SALT's vision extends beyond its branches, aspiring to see drop-in centers in every metropolitan area. The ultimate goal is to ensure that every unsheltered person across the nation can have their basic needs met and experience the love of Jesus in their deepest time of need.

A CALL TO ACTION FOR YOUNG ADULTS: ANSWERING THE DIVINE CALL

For young adults contemplating the start of a ministry, SALT Outreach's journey stands as an inspiring testament to the transformative power of answering a divine call. The organization encourages aspiring leaders to seek confirmation from God, em-

phasizing that when convinced of God's calling, obstacles become mere speed bumps on the road to shaping a world driven by the vision and mission placed in their hearts.

LOOKING AHEAD

As SALT Outreach looks to the future, plans are underway to launch a youth program and expand into new metropolitan areas in Florida. The goal is to replicate SALT's successful model, addressing homelessness with a comprehensive and compassionate approach. This vision is supported by a data-driven methodology, en-

suring that the ministry's efforts are both effective and sustainable.

HOW TO SUPPORT SALT OUTREACH

For those inspired by SALT's mission, there are several ways to contribute. Donations, volunteering, and spreading the word about SALT Outreach through social media are all valuable forms of support. By engaging and partnering with SALT, individuals can play a part in a larger movement of service and love, making a tangible difference in the lives of those experiencing homelessness.

SALT Outreach's story is a powerful reminder of what can be achieved when faith, service, and community work together. As the ministry continues to grow and impact more lives, its legacy of compassion and dedication serves as an inspiration to us all. Through faith and resilience, SALT Outreach transforms lives and communities, one initiative at a time.

To delve deeper into the impactful journey of SALT Outreach or to explore ways to get involved visit: <https://www.serviceandlovetogether.org/>





PUBLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY DAY

MY CITY MY MISSION

JUNE 22
2024



MISSIONARIES IN THEIR OWN BACKYARD*

By **Martín Bernhardt**

*Article Obtained from magazine *Adventist, Dialogue* 33:3 (2021): 28-29.

A

group of Adventist students in Rosario, Argentina, supported the social and spiritual development of children through a soccer club.

“We would like the university students at your church to support our soccer club.” So wrote Marcelo Santos, the president of the Botafogo Soccer Club in Rosario, Argentina, to Nélide Ortega, director of the Anael Assisted Lunch Program that offered food and Bible studies to many children every Sabbath. One day, Nélide told Marcelo that she had observed two things among children playing soccer in the U-6 to U-15 categories that concerned her: First, many children seemed to display bad behavior during matches and sustained frequent injuries; and second, many children, although eager to play, seemed to be malnourished, either due to lack of food or poor eating habits. Marcelo knew that Nélide was a Seventh-day Adventist, and that Adventists are quite health-conscious and their church is committed to promoting healthy habits.

One day, Marcelo called Nélide to ask if some of her Adventist students, could help his Botafogo soccer club. As members of the Rosario-Argentina Adventist Students Center (CUAR), we could not ignore the request. A community soccer club was asking Adventist

university students to support their young members! We soon decided to make the most of the opportunity.

We arranged an information session with the club leaders to learn about their needs and concerns. Over the next two weeks, a proposal was prepared with a schedule of potential activities involving professionals and students from our student center. The idea emerged to meet twice a week to offer talks to the children and their parents. Botafogo Club leaders supported our proposal and adapted practice times to fit our activities into the children's schedule.



Photo courtesy of Martin Bernhardt

We launched our project in 2019, hoping for parents to start attending together with their children. Little by little, more and

more parents came and stayed for our meetings. Before long, 80 people, including parents, attended the meetings.

Throughout 2019, we offered seminars to teach parents about healthy life habits and foods, sharing vegetarian recipes and offering food-sampling sessions. An Adventist psychologist, Simone Walginsk, supported our project by discussing topics such as sexuality, strengthening friendships, and encouraging good sportsmanship. Parents learned how to enhance family relationships and were given advice on how to support their children's education. Matías Siri, one of the local Adventist pastors, closed every session with a brief devotional message and prayer.



Photo courtesy of Martin Bernhardt

It was very rewarding to see that families would come seeking

more information about healthful habits. Some of them contacted the pastor asking him to visit their homes for Bible studies. At the time of this writing, five families are taking such studies with Pastor Siri.

At the end of 2019, the Botafogo Club leaders asked us to repeat the experience in 2020 with a new group of children. They recognized how beneficial the project had been to the members of their club. And we recognized what an opportunity the project provided for many people to get to know God through our health message and how that message led people to seek and study God's Word. COVID interfered with our plans but the project will be reinstated when the pandemic is controlled.



Photo courtesy of Martin Bernhardt

And as Adventist university students attending a public school, we were greatly blessed through our involvement. God has indeed used a small group of Adventist students to penetrate their larger student community with the love of God and His caring message for all.

Often, we are not aware of the way God can transform our tiny grain of sand into a massive

beach of blessings. It was thrilling to witness how something so simple was able to touch so many hearts. We thank God for this wonderful opportunity of sharing His health principles. We want to encourage Adventist university students from around the world to share their expertise and energy by being willing to serve their society and their church, and by being missionaries in their own

backyards, close to where they live and study.

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ALWAYS ON A MISSION*

By Erton C. Löhler

*Article Obtained from magazine *Adventist, Dialogue* 35:2 (2023): 6-9.

To face the missiological challenge and reach everyone, we need everybody. Our major investment in mission projects should move from areas with more missional capacity to parts with less capacity.

I boarded the plane with just one concern: to finish preparing some urgent material without being bothered by anyone. I found my seat and began working, hoping the seat next to me would remain empty. Unfortunately, that hope was short-lived. A man slid in next to me with the words: “Excuse me, this is my seat.”

Without much enthusiasm, I said “Welcome” and quickly returned to my work.

But the man wanted to talk. “Where are you from?” he asked.

“Washington, D.C.,” I replied as I continued to type. Over the next several minutes, he continued asking questions, and I responded with short answers. Finally, he left me alone.

As we approached our destination, he started to talk again. “Are you a Christian?”

Surprised, I responded, “Yes, I’m a Seventh-day Adventist pastor. But . . . how did you know?”

“I just noticed some of the things you were writing,” he said.

“Really? Well, I’m a pastor, and I was just preparing some material to be used by the church.”

Now, I started to ask questions, too. “Where are you from?” I asked. He told me he was from the Middle East but was now living in Texas. My reluctance to talk gave way to curiosity. “So, what do you do in Texas?”

“I’m a university professor,” he said.

Because he had asked about my religion, I asked about his. Without hesitation, he responded, “I’m a Christian, too.” Then he asked a pointed question, “Are you on a mission?”

“Yes,” I said. “I’m traveling to an Adventist university in Mexico—Montemorelos University, for a mission festival. Are you on a mission?”

“Yes, I’m on a mission, too,” he replied enthusiastically.

“What mission?” I asked.

“I teach classes at a university in Monterrey,” he replied.

“Classes? What specific mission will you be doing during those days?”

“I’ll teach classes at the university. That will be my mission.” What he said next was very simple but greatly impacted me. “The university classes will be my mission because ‘Christians are always on a mission.’”

This statement still lingers: “Christians are always on a mission.” What a simple yet profound message! In every time and every place; intentionally or not; with words or without; among Christians or with any other group of people; in a university, home, or office;

in a house or on the street; for many people or just a few, “The true Christian works for God, not from impulse, but from principle; not for a day or a month, but during the entire life.”¹

WINDOWS ON THE WORLD OF MISSION

The complexity of our mission in different world contexts creates a considerable challenge. The world reached eight billion in population in November 2022,² while the Seventh-day Adventist Church grew to 22 million members the same year.³ It’s a joy to celebrate our great family, but it is almost nothing compared to the size of the global population. How will 22 million Seventh-day Adventists reach eight billion inhabitants in this world?

Every year the world’s population grows by around 83 million people,⁴ while the church gains just one million accessions. When we look at world languages, the challenge expands. There are around 7,100 languages in the world. The Seventh-day Adventist Church has oral work in only 496 languages, fewer than 7 percent of the world’s total. Of course, the world’s main languages are among the almost 500 languages we are reaching, however, consider the 6,600 languages in which we are not yet able to communicate the biblical message of hope.

The number-one missiological challenge is the 10/40 Window. It represents an imaginary rectangle that stretches between the 10th parallel north and the 40th parallel north of the equator on a world map and is where most of the world’s population is concentrated—more than 70 percent. It has

approximately 5.7 billion people,⁵ while the rest of the world has only 2.3 billion. This area is the birthplace of three great world religions: Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. The 10/40 Window contains the 10 most dangerous countries for Christians and includes many countries where religion and state are the same, threatening religious freedom. “Of the three billion people living in such poverty-stricken nations, 82% lived in the 10/40 Window.”⁶ In the same region, there are only around three million Seventh-day Adventists. At the same time, the rest of the world contains approximately 19 million Adventists.

Missiologists have added two more missiological “windows” besides the 10/40 Window: the post-Christian window and the urban window. The post-Christian window does not fit into a rectangle on the map as the 10/40 Window does, but it can be geographically delimited. This window includes Europe, the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and many other countries that are rapidly moving away from Christian values. The contrast between Christianity and post-Christianity is striking. Christianity believes that the best is in the life to come, while post-Christian or secular philosophy asserts that the best is in the present life. Christianity teaches that believing in the supernatural demonstrates faith, but for the post-Christian culture, believing in the supernatural demonstrates cultural limitations and intellectual backwardness. Such values and beliefs strongly impact the fulfillment of our mission.

The urban window is also a challenge for the fulfillment of our mission. This window reaches

every continent of the world and is growing rapidly. The world’s top 10 most-populous urban areas are Tokyo, Japan; Delhi, India; Jakarta, Indonesia; Shanghai, China; Manila, Philippines; Seoul, South Korea; Cairo, Egypt; Kolkata, India; Mumbai, India; São Paulo, Brazil.⁷ Only São Paulo and Mexico City have a significant Adventist presence. Of these cities, 543 have one million inhabitants or more, with an average of one Adventist for every 89,000 inhabitants, while the global average is one Adventist for every 358 inhabitants. Among these cities, there are 49 with fewer than 10 Adventists, and 43 with no Adventist presence. How can we reach these overwhelming masses?

To face this huge missiological challenge and reach everyone, we need everybody. Our major investment in mission projects should move from areas of the world with the more missional capacity to parts with less capacity. Some regions need to be helpers, while others need to be helped. And the global structure and unity of the church can readily facilitate this.

	Adventist Membership	Global Population
“BIG 6”	77.4%	21.1%
“DIVERSE 8+”	22.6%	78.9%

Divisions and unions attached to the General Conference organized into two groups by Prof. Gordon Doss.

RESOURCES AND CONSUMERS OF MISSION

Gordon Doss, professor emeritus in the Missiology Department at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological

Seminary at Andrews University (Berrien Springs, Michigan, U.S.A.), suggests ways that the producers of mission resources can help the consumers of mission resources. He organized all divisions and unions attached to the General Conference into two groups, the “Big 6”⁸ and “Diverse 8+”⁹. The “Big 6” divisions have 77.4 percent of all Seventh-day Adventist membership and just 21.1 percent of the global population. They can be considered areas of low strategic need. Despite many challenges, they have the tools to fulfill the mission in their areas. The “Diverse 8+” has 78.9 percent of the global population but only 22.6 percent of our membership. They are really in high strategic need.¹⁰

A reorganization of our mission resources, strategies, and missionary sending will enable us to be more effective in facing the immense challenge of global missions. We are calling this initiative Mission Refocus. It is an appeal for some regions that in the past received foreign missionaries to start the work that is vibrant and strong today to do the same for other challenging areas of the world. Ellen White urged, “Think of our missions in foreign countries. Some of them are struggling to gain even a foothold; they are destitute of even the most meager facilities. Instead of adding to facilities already abundant, build up the work in these destitute fields.”¹¹

Jesus will return not just to the territory of the “Big 6,” but also to the territory of the “Diverse 8+.” The entire Adventist family, in an integrated way, needs to take on the responsibility of bringing “salvation to the ends of the earth” (Acts 13:47, NKJV),¹² because “His

kingdom will not come until the good tidings of His grace have been carried to all the earth.”¹³

While the Seventh-day Adventist Church refocuses plans to fulfill the global mission in the context of enormous challenges, how are you dealing with your local opportunities? In a university setting, there are people from all three missionary windows. You can readily be in contact with non-Christian groups, secularized urban friends, and post-Christian colleagues. The church’s global challenges are reproduced in the place where you are now. You, too, are called to always be on a mission, whether in a classroom or with classmates, engaged in a complex discussion or at a social gathering, and when talking about faith or any other common subject. Remember that “the strongest argument in favor of the gospel is a loving and lovable Christian.”¹⁴

Show your love with respect and consistency before talking about your faith, and you will be able to open some hearts that appear to be closed but silently are searching for a meaningful life. Do what a famous evangelical pastor once said, “Build a bridge that connects your heart to the heart of another person and invite Jesus to walk across it.” Don’t forget that your colleagues or any other person you meet don’t want a slice of your brain but are looking for a piece of your heart. We need “to be like a fire on a cold night, which will draw others to its warmth.”¹⁵

People may be far from God, but close to you. You are God’s extension to them, with endless opportunities to share hope where you are. You just need to be an instrument and remember that your

“associations are to be for the purpose of drawing others to Christ.”¹⁶ Through you, the Lord can perform miracles and reach people who appear impossible to reach. You may even feel a call to go beyond your borders, reach out to one of the missionary windows, and volunteer in another part of the world. Pray about it and visit <https://vividfaith.com>, where you may find an Adventist Volunteer Service call that fits your expectations and allows you to make a significant difference in some area of the world. Remember that mission always begins where you are and can be extended to where you think you should be.

The mission before us—both local and global—is humanly impossible, but it is not our task alone. We are just instruments for a mission that belongs to the Lord. All our projects, strategies, and initiatives are important, but only His miracles will make it possible to reach hearts across the street and the globe. Missions are not a human process; missions are a miracle. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God’s people will see doors opened and miracles happen. Together we will be able to fulfill the mission “unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8, KJV).

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JESUS CALLS ORDINARY PEOPLE TO DO AN EXTRA-ORDINARY WORK*

By Richard Osborn

*Article Obtained from magazine *Adventist, Dialogue* 34:1 (2022): 13-15.

Which of the 12 disciples are you? Jesus chose each of His disciples in spite of knowing their weaknesses and potential for failure.

Before Jesus chose His disciples, He “continued all night in prayer” (Luke 6:12, NKJV).¹ He selected 12 ordinary men, some of whom He knew would abandon or betray Him. That simple fact alone gives me hope. If Jesus could have chosen such people to be His disciples, I have hope when I fail.

Consider briefly the Twelve that Jesus chose.

ANDREW AND SIMON

There was Andrew. Today we would call him a networker, someone who had a lot of friends. He was a disciple of John the Baptist who, in turn, pointed him to Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother and bring him to Jesus (John 1:40, 41). Do you know people who can talk to anyone about anything in complete comfort? Can’t you see Andrew striking up a conversation with a little boy who had five loaves and two fishes not knowing what was to come? He had an interest in becoming

everyone's friend, regardless of age. That's how Andrew even knew the little boy had the lunch bag.

Andrew is always mentioned with someone else—not alone by himself—because he wasn't an individualist. He was a quiet teamworker, a friend who showed interest in other persons regardless of their station in life. Andrew is around all of us; we just don't notice him because he goes about his tasks without a need for recognition, attention, or power.

In contrast, Simon was impulsive, dynamic, ardent, self-confident, independent, impetuous, and an extrovert. He would speak without thinking and was ready to correct others before he knew what he was going to say. Do any of you have mood swings? Simon represents you. But Simon had no question when his brother Andrew asked him to follow Jesus. Simon was an adventurer and explorer for God.

THE BOLD SONS OF ZEBEDEE

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were known as the “Sons

of Thunder.” Even though they were fishermen, they came from a higher social status; their father hired servants for them. They must have had a hot temper, as they were called “Sons of Thunder.” Recall how they wanted to call down fire on the inhospitable Samaritan village. When they were fishing, can't you hear their taunts of boastfulness to those who didn't catch as much?

Like James and John, some have mothers who think their children are special. It can be embarrassing as these mothers brag about their children's accomplishments and try to promote their status. Salome, the mother of James and John, did just this and went to Jesus with a plea: “Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom” (Matthew 20:21).

THE MAN FROM BETHSAIDA AND A RACIST

Philip grew up in Bethsaida, a town on the north side of Galilee, where many traders would pass through. With his Greek name, he

probably was very knowledgeable in world news brought from around the world by the traders. When a multitude of people needed to be fed, he showed a very practical yet skeptical business perspective when he asked how they could possibly feed so many people. While these traits are more associated with another disciple, Philip was also cautious, demanding clear and logical explanations. Every church needs a Philip or two.

Bartholomew and Nathanael refer to the same person. He would have probably been known as a racist. When Philip called Nathanael to follow Jesus, he asked, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” (John 1:46). He generalized the bad reputation of this town to anyone from that area. When I sometimes harbor feelings of racism, superiority, elitism, or sexism, I become Bartholomew. Yet he came to Jesus with an open mind, and Jesus immediately said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!” (John 1:47).

THE TERRORIST AND THE TAX COLLECTOR

Did you know that Jesus picked a terrorist to be a disciple? Simon, the Cananite, belonged to the Zealots, a violent nationalistic party who would give their lives fighting to get rid of the Romans. When Jesus lived, they used assassination and secret murder to get their way. They refused to pay taxes because that would be a recognition of submission to Rome and a repudiation of God. They considered themselves the most “patriotic” of all Jews. In A.D. 73 they were the Jews who died in mass suicide at Masada—an event still celebrated today by Jews. And yet Jesus picked Simon, the Zealot, to be a disciple.

It made no sense to call Matthew to be a disciple if Simon the Zealot were part of the group. Matthew had accepted an office from the Romans to collect taxes, a sign that he had betrayed his nation. He was seen as an apostate and the vilest of society. Matthew collected taxes from all who brought goods into the city. Scribes and Pharisees so despised tax

collectors that they would walk on the other side of the road to avoid looking in the same direction. Even though the tax collectors could be rich, their money was not accepted at the synagogue. They were seen as being so dishonest they couldn’t even testify in court. And yet, when Jesus saw him sitting at the gate collecting taxes, He said to him, “Follow me,” Matthew immediately left his lucrative job to follow Jesus. If Simon, the Zealot, had met him alone before following Jesus, he might have struck a dagger in his heart. And yet, Jesus called a Zealot and a hated tax collector to be two of the 12—as unlikely a pair as one can imagine.

THE CIPHERS

Having grown up abroad, I felt nearly invisible when I moved to third culture in my teen years, rather like the two disciples whom we virtually know nothing about. There is some inkling that James, the son of Alphaeus, in contrast to the James we mentioned earlier, was a very short man who went about life without fanfare or publicity. As for Thaddaeus, also

known as Judas, the son of James, not Iscariot, all we know is that he asked Jesus, “Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?” (John 14:22).

A QUESTIONING DISCIPLE

The disciple who would have been most comfortable on a university campus would have been Thomas. We disparagingly call him “doubting Thomas,” but he’s the one who was willing to ask the difficult questions. A science teacher at Pacific Union College once suggested that Thomas is the “patron saint” of all scientists. Thomas was constantly probing, not accepting the word of others, just as an academic is never comfortable with easy answers until he or she has explored all options. This is the Thomas who said, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe” (John 20:25).

“Unless I see in His hands... I will not believe.” And yet this is the same Thomas, who when all

the disciples didn't want Jesus to go to Jerusalem after the raising of Lazarus for fear they would be killed, said with courage, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him" (John 11:16). Because Thomas was so sincere in his exploration of truth, Jesus never condemned him for his questions. The questions he asked were a steppingstone to belief.

THE ONE WHO BETRAYED HIM

And finally, we come to Judas Iscariot, a man who saw Jesus as a failure because we know how the story turns out. However, let's not forget that he was the well-respected administrator of the group. In a corporation, Jesus would have been the chair of the board, and Judas would have been the president. He may have had the sharpest intellect of all the disciples. Judas knew how to care for money. He was the only disciple who was not a Galilean. When he followed Jesus, he was shut out from all his friends, which meant he lost his influence. He felt Jesus was going to restore the throne of David, and thrust himself to become a

disciple. And yet Jesus knew from the very beginning that Judas would betray Him. Why would He pick him if He knew what was going to happen? Even when Judas betrayed Him, Jesus still called him "Friend" (Matthew 26:50).

So we have 12 unlikely men who needed to be built into a team. Of course, they had the greatest Teacher ever to live with so it shouldn't have been a hard job. Dr. Harry Leonard from Newbold College in England analyzed Jesus as a teacher. He described Jesus as the kind that a chair of an Education Department would have wanted to hire to teach methods classes because Jesus was terrific in one-to-one tutorials, group seminars, lectures, and practical sessions. Yet, as Dr. Leonard points out, Jesus taught the disciples for three years, almost the time needed to get a bachelor's degree, and they still didn't understand what He meant.

Jesus was the perfect Teacher from whom a group could have received instruction, and yet they betrayed Him, slept, or ran off in fear.

What's more, we may suggest that all of them received an "F," a failing mark in the classes Jesus had been teaching them for three years. Is there anything worse than being a witness to a potential murder and running from the scene? And yet He knew this would be the outcome. In spite of that knowledge, Jesus hand-picked them. Likewise, He picks you and me although He knows we'll also receive a few "F's." Eleven of the 12 disciples retook their exams and passed with honors. So can we.

TRANSFORMED DISCIPLES

After His resurrection, Jesus continued to build on what He had taught them earlier. Except for one, all experienced a transformation the effect of which has lasted until today, which may be the best evidence of the risen Jesus.

Earlier, Jesus had renamed Simon as Peter, meaning "a stone or rock." After Peter had denied being a disciple, he came back to Jesus and received His grace and forgiveness, eventually taking the message of a risen Jesus to the world. His first sermon yielded

a baptism of 3,000 on the Day of Pentecost. According to tradition, he was martyred in Rome by death on the cross. Jesus turned Simon into Peter, the sinner into the saint, and He can do the same for us.²

James, called the Son of Thunder, was beheaded by King Herod Agrippa I. His martyrdom proved his long-term commitment to serving his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He passed the final exam with distinction.

John, the other Son of Thunder, became the disciple whom Jesus loved the most. Of him, Ellen White wrote: “In the life of the disciple John true sanctification is exemplified. During the years of his close association with Christ, he was often warned and cautioned by the Savior; and these reproofs he accepted... He yielded his ambitious temper to the molding power of Christ, and divine love wrought in him a transformation of character.”³

Bartholomew gave up his racist attitudes and became a follower of Jesus.

Matthew, the tax collector, and Simon, the Zealot, ended up

loving each other because of their love for Jesus.

When Thomas finally saw Jesus after the resurrection, he proclaimed, “My Lord and my God” (John 20:28) and became the evangelist of the frontier. He is believed to have spread the gospel all the way to the southern part of India.

After the ascension of Jesus Christ, these same disciples who fled in fear now showed strength preaching the gospel and going to jail. In Acts 4:13 we read, “When they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.”

Which of the 12 disciples are you? Jesus chose each of His disciples in spite of knowing their weaknesses and potential for failure. When you experience failure, remember that Jesus called His disciples—12 ordinary men who failed Him on occasion. He still calls ordinary people like you and me to be His followers today. He calls each of us to the extraordinary task of service to

others and furthering His mission until He returns.

Richard Osborn (PhD, University of Maryland, U.S.A.) was President of Pacific Union College at the time he wrote this. He has since retired as Vice-President of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and is living in Moreno Valley, California, U.S.A. E-mail: dickosborn47@gmail.com.

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MAKING CONNECTIONS: IT'S NOT THAT HARD*

By Olga Valdivia

*Article Obtained from magazine Adventist, *Adventist Review* Vol. 196. No. 01.

I used to say to God, “Lord, You know I’m a failure as an evangelist.”

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved” (Eph. 2:4, 5).

I still remember when I first encountered Gladys on my jogging route early one morning.

I was sure I was seeing an apparition: an all-white figure against the blue morning sky; small and frail, her body so bent by kyphosis that from a distance it was difficult to pinpoint her small white head that was bent so close to her chest.

I started getting used to Gladys’ uniqueness on my runs through the neighborhood. Neither the curvature of her spine nor her advanced age seemed to detain her. She walked long distances at what I thought was an impressive pace, considering my own small and stark trot.

As our paths coincided Gladys became a familiar, almost necessary figure. I was always happy to see her. Although our eyes never met, I greeted her, waved at her, and wished her a happy day on my quest to reach out. I wanted to believe that Gladys’

apparent unfriendliness had more to do with her hunchedover posture than anything else. How difficult it must have been to lift her head to return a smile or a greeting from a stranger.

SOMETHING TO SHARE

One morning as I passed Gladys, I felt this tremendous outpouring of God’s love for her. I reckoned how lonely and distressed she must have felt under the weight of her disability. I couldn’t let the prospect of sharing God’s love pass and keep to myself the glorious news of a sympathetic God who loved the world so much that He gave His only Son so that whoever believes in Him has eternal life.

Time was running out for Gladys, as it was for me, and for the entire world. So, one day, instead of just waving or greeting her as I usually did, I stopped, and for the first time met the “real” Gladys.

Gladys was the name I gave this woman for whom I hadn’t take the time to genuinely care. Her real name was Betty, and as with all of us, she, at times, felt lonely and frightened.

Her small blue eyes gleamed

as I talked to her about Jesus and how much He loved her.

After that, Betty seemed a different person. Whenever she saw me approach from a distance, she would lift her head (as much as she could) just to greet me.

GRACE TO SHARE

We are called to bless others. We are called to strike a chord in the heart of those who feel as if love has abandoned them. Christians are called to share God’s love by words, but also by deeds. It takes telling, and showing, to share the love of God as expressed in Jesus Christ.

“God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8). This is the purest form of love—love by grace. In the same way, our love for others ought to be gracious, sacrificial, and truthful, because that is how God loves us. God asks that we love others graciously because His love for us is gracious.

I used to say to God, “Lord, You know I’m a failure as an evangelist. I don’t know how to give Bible studies. How can I reach this

indifferent, sometimes antagonistic society?”

“Just follow My example,” said Christ. “I’m not simply seeking converts; I’m engaging hearts.”

How easy! How fantastic! “Go and make disciples,” said Jesus (Matt. 28:19). But He was really calling us to make disciples, as we live our busy lives, through a kind word, a listening ear, a hug, a smile, a good deed, a prayer, and a sincere interest in helping others.

All too often our evangelism reduces people to projects. As destitute and deprived as they are—as we all are—the good news we have to share is that God’s love as demonstrated in Christ is more than enough to find us and win us for His kingdom.

“How priceless is your unfailing love, O God! (Ps. 36:7).

Olga Valdivia is a freelance writer and legal assistant. She and her husband, Miguel, have three adult children and three granddaughters.

PUBLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY — 10TH ANNIVERSARY

By Pako E. Mokgwane, PhD



Over the past decade, we have tirelessly worked together, achieving milestones and positively impacting the lives of countless Adventist students and staff on public campuses. May we reflect on our journey with gratitude, honor the dedicated individuals who have contributed, and look forward to a future filled with continued growth, service, and success. Glory to Jesus! Thank you for being an integral part of this incredible journey!

We also celebrate the leaders of PCM over the years, particularly Dr. Gilbert Cangy and Dr. Jiwan Moon, for kickstarting PCM beautifully in 2014. God bless them immensely. We have produced PINS to observe this momentous year-long celebration. Please order through your Division or Union.

#Mission #PCM #Youth

#YoungAdults #ambassadors

#Senioryouth #students

#iwillgo #FollowJesus #embraceHisMission

#ChangeTheWorld #Leadership

Resources: <https://www.gcyouthministries.org/events-and-projects/pcm-day/pcm-10th-anniversary/> (The file shall be updated every month).

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BUSI KHUMALO, MA
DIRECTOR



PAKO MOKGWANE, PhD
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

PCM Anniversary

2014 - 2024



CURRENT AND PAST PCM LEADERS.



Adventist Youth Ministries
GENERAL CONFERENCE