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the resource for adventist youth leaders



top 10 reasons
YOUNG leaders
FAIL

starter kit : 2010 year of leading

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**Everyone
follows
someone.**

THE
QUESTION

IS...

**Who are
YOU
following?**

INTRODUCTION

American general Dwight D. Eisenhower liked to demonstrate the art of leadership using a simple piece of string. He'd put it on a table and say, "Pull it and it will follow wherever you wish. Push it and it will go nowhere at all." Then he'd add, "It's just that way when it comes to leading people. They need to follow a person who is leading by example."

At other times, he'd say, "You don't lead by hitting people over the head—that's assault, not leadership."

Everyone follows someone. The question to ask this year is, "Who are you following?" When it comes to life, there are two possible leaders. Only One offers eternal life.

Actions have always spoken louder than words, which is a good thing because words are cheap. It doesn't take much fortitude to stand up and say "I'm a Christian." But to *act* like a Christian; to work, play, build relationships, create a life using Christian principles requires much determination, commitment, and resolve. To be an effective Christian leader takes even more. It requires a total sacrifice of self and an all-encompassing surrender to God. Only then will people have the confidence necessary to follow you to the foot of the cross.

This year, our goal is to open the eyes of our youth to discover the leadership roles that are waiting for them in God's church and prepare them to accept the responsibilities of those positions by strengthening their relationship with Christ. This can be accomplished if you, the youth leader, will show them how it's done. By your example, you can help prepare the spiritual leaders of tomorrow.

quarter 1: LEADING WITH GOD

prayer guide

Assign a member of your youth group to lead out in a weekly prayer session. Have him/her gather prayer requests prior to the prayer session and compile them for presentation to the group and to God. Teach participants that prayer changes the heart of the supplicant, too.

youth council

Create a small committee of individuals from your youth group to serve as a sounding board for spiritual issues in your church. Using the Word of God as a resource, have the group discuss the challenges people face and vote on the best course of action to meet those challenges. Issues can include dating, work, home life, school, witnessing, aging, etc.

quarter 2: LEADING THE FAMILY

homeland

As a group, visit a retirement home and ask the guests who live there this question: What makes a great family leader? Invite them to share their experiences growing up under the leadership of a parent or guardian who followed Biblical principles (perhaps unwittingly). The idea here is to discover that a great family leader has the same qualities as a great spiritual leader.

family day

Hold a “Family Day” at church, inviting people from the neighborhood to share their stories of coming into contact with great leaders of their time. Sing songs and present skits of powerful family men and women of the Bible (Abraham, Issac, Jacob, Ruth, Mary the mother of Jesus, etc.) and show how their leadership carried forward the truth of God.

quarter 3: LEADING YOUR PEERS

leading with outings

Schedule various activities (ski trips, camping, visits to national parks, etc.) and have the young people plan the entire package, making sure that all personal and financial needs are met. Have them lead the entire group through the activity, acting as organizer and guide. Let them make mistakes (the safe kind) and learn from their errors.

youth meet

Invite your youth group to create and hold an entire series of meetings on health and wellness. They will be the presenters, cooks, greeters, musicians, marketers, and follow-up personnel. It’s important that they do everything themselves. Only advise if asked. Be prepared for some rather unusual events to take place, but you’ll discover that their witness will be very effective to other young people in your church.

quarter 4: LEADING THE CHURCH

posters

Using a computer or local artist, create a series of “leadership posters” that herald the attributes of a true, spiritual leader. Make them colorful and full of action. Include the following words: “committed,” “dedicated,” “willing to serve,” “Godly,” “prayerful,” “meek”. Hang these posters in the church lobby and make them available to local schools.

on the board

With your pastor’s blessing, make sure that a young person sits on every board or committee in the church. Have that person present a report to the youth group of the activity and decisions of the committee and discuss the implications. As a group, pray for each committee member. ●



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editorial : leadership



Baraka Muganda,
World Youth Director

GET INVOLVED

It's no coincidence that the 2010 General Conference Session (GC Session) and the Youth Ministries departments yearly theme is leadership. It's how God wanted it to be.

The GC theme "Proclaim His Grace," reminds me of the Adventist Youth Society's aim. It says, "The Advent Message to All the World in My Generation." This GC Session theme, along with our emphasis on leadership, underscores the need to remind our youth at every level of our church of the importance of getting involved in evangelism and leadership now. Taking the message of God's grace to the whole is the challenge every young person should accept.

Years ago Ellen White wrote, "Educate the youth to help the youth; and in seeking to do this work each will gain experience that will qualify him to become a consecrated worker in a larger sphere." *Messages to Young People*, p. 208)

Contrary to what the world tells us about leadership being only about power and commanding others, leadership refers to becoming involved, being a part of the mission of the church, and lending your influence to make things happen.

We must create and provide leadership opportunities on all levels for youth to serve and become part of the decision making process. Seventh-day Adventist youth are full of energy and new ideas. With proper motivation, and careful guidance by seasoned leaders, these young people can become effective leaders in our church. It is with this in mind that Elder Jan Paulsen, President of the General Conference, embarked on a series of "Let's Talk" sessions around the globe. He wanted to listen and challenge youth and local entities to involve young people in the mission of the church. It is not enough to only invite youth to be observers on our committees. We need to involve them in shaping the way the church operates.

This church was founded by young pioneers and I believe strongly that as we approach the end of the world, it is with the same energetic spirit of our youth that the work of proclaiming God's grace to a dying world will be finished. Then, and only then, will Jesus return. ●



César's passion is to make disciples for Jesus. He worked at the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists for over a decade specializing in discipleship and young adult issues and received the 2007 Adventist Ministries Award for Excellence in Young Adult Ministries. **César González** now lives with his wonderful wife, Grace, on Maryland's Eastern Shore where they enjoy sailing and he serves as pastor of the Cambridge Seventh-day Adventist Church. His first book, *The God I Saw*, will be released next year. You can reach him by email at c4gonzo@mac.com. [pp. 12–16]

Patti Emanuele is a freelance writer and author of six books who has contributed to *Guide* magazine and many other Christian and non-Christian publications. Patti enjoys writing for youth and young adults and was the recipient of the *Guide's* 2008 Outstanding Writer award. [pp. 36–40]



Troy Fitzgerald is the Young Adult pastor at the Walla Walla University Church. He is also the founder and director of *Leadout Ministries*, an organization devoted to producing resources that engage youth and young adults in the mission of the Adventist Church around the world. He adores his family that started with his wife Julia, and produced two fine sons, Cameron and Morgan. As a pastor/teacher, writer and leader he has sought to tighten the grip young people have on the pace and direction of local church life. [pp. 23, 44–47]

Kimberley Tagert-Paul is a free-lance writer and author working from Muskegon, Michigan. She has published over 350 articles/stories/devotionals, but enjoys writing for young people the most. [pp. 31–34, 41–43]



Debbonnaire Kovacs has written over eleven books and nearly 100 stories and articles, including lots of stories for *Primary Treasure*. She speaks at camp meetings, women's retreats, and other events. Mrs. Kovacs strongly encourages young people to follow their dreams, and not wait until they are grown up to do something God is calling them to do. [pp. 8–10]

A graduate of Southern Adventist University's film school, **Scott Fogg** has been writing skits and plays since he was in seventh grade. He wrote the book *Power Skits for Youth & Young Adults*, and co-wrote the screenplay for the feature film *The Secret of the Cave*, as well as the feature-length play *Nighthawks*. He has a passion for writing and is always looking for new and interesting ways to get the gospel message to those who would rather sit in a movie seat than a church pew. [pp. 29–30]





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COVER by Jonatán Tejel

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leadership : discipling others



Jonatán Tejel
Editor

“COME TO ME” (MATTHEW 11:28)

As a pastor, leader, church member, worker, father, mother, etc. you can sometimes find yourself in a situation where you are tired, burned out, stressed, and sad. You may feel that you cannot continue your responsibilities anymore.

In Matthew 11:28-30 Jesus said, “Come to me...” Get away with me and you’ll recover your life, your strength, and your dreams. I’ll show you how to take a real rest, just walk with me, and learn from me. Jesus is calling His followers into a deeper experience with Him.

It is always a learning opportunity to walk with God and to be taught by Him. Jesus calls us to be His students and in the Bible He called His students disciples. These disciples were the leaders of the church at the beginning and they began to spread the Word of God and make more disciples.

This has been the command giving by Jesus in Matthew 28:18-20; ¹⁹Therefore go and **make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and **teaching them** to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Jesus is telling us that as His disciples—the leaders He has prepared—we need to continue learning from Him. At the same time, we have to teach others how to be disciples of Jesus. Most people think that leaders have to have followers.

Spiritual leaders reproduce other spiritual leaders.

There is people who continue seeing leaders as the ones to obey, the ones giving instructions, and everyone else should only obey.

But when we seek to understand leadership from a Biblical perspective, we see a different model. We see a flatter model where the aim is not for followers to do the bidding of the leader, but instead, for the leaders to dream, innovate, and work together. Leadership is like discipleship. True disciples seek to disciple others who will in turn disciple others. Likewise, valuable leaders are those who seek to empower others to become leaders who develop other leaders!

Generally speaking, leadership and discipleship are synonymous. And as a church, we can view discipleship and leadership as one in the same thing. Perhaps it would be best if we in our church begin to see discipleship and leadership as similar things! Spiritual leaders are disciples who make disciples. Spiritual leaders reproduce other spiritual leaders. Ultimately, our focus in the church should be to make disciples. And if we fail at this, we have failed the mission Jesus gave us in Matthew 28:18-20.

We all have to be followers, but followers of Christ. And we all have to be leaders and teach others to lead others to follow Jesus. Too many people look at leadership as a position, but leadership is not only a position. It is a mission that every single Christian has to fulfill.

Be a leader. Follow Jesus. Make disciples. ●

leadership : praying for our youth

PRAISING LIKE DANIEL

by Debbonnaire Kovacs

What
can I do
to show
I care?

It's evening, and all over the land, youth leaders are bowing before God in heartfelt prayer for their charges.

"Lord, I think Joe and Geraldo might be experimenting with drugs. Oh, God, what do I do?"

"Father, Ella seems to know all the right answers, but is it from her heart? I sometimes think she thinks she has to be right all the time so I'll like her and approve of her. Maybe even so You will like and approve of her. . ."

"Jesus, help! I'm pretty sure Jenny and Luis are going further in their relationship than either of them really wants to. They don't understand the heartache they're setting themselves up for. What can I say?"

"Oh, God, what can I do to help them *care*? How can I interest them without encouraging them to think they must be forever entertained? Is there something I can do differently?"

Lord, is it me? Am I the right leader for them? I'm so aware of my own sin! . . .

**YOU
LORD
HAVE
NEVER
FORSAKEN
THOSE
THAT
SEEK
YOU.**

Psalm 9:10

An Old Testament leader named Daniel would have understood. Decade after decade had passed as the aging prophet did his best to faithfully minister, do his civil work without compromising principle, stand for his people and for his God. Kingdoms rose and fell around him. Daniel had a front row seat as the prophecies in Nebuchadnezzar's old dreams came true, one after the other. His understanding of those dreams brought him more comfort than perhaps it ever had to the king himself.

Then there were his own dreams and visions. For several years now, each one had been more disturbing than the last. Some, during Belshazzar's time in Babylon, had literally made Daniel sick (see Dan. 7:15, 28, during Belshazzar's first year, and Dan. 8:27, during the third year). In his youth, Daniel had acted as God's interpreter for Nebuchadnezzar, so imagine how he felt to write in 8:27, "there was none to explain it."

Now, Darius the Mede was in power. Daniel was very old, and no doubt feeling worn out. He knew—and he looked it up again in Jeremiah's scrolls just to make sure—that God promised to bring His people home after 70 years. That time was nearly up, and now God was sending visions of more wars, more hostile takeovers, and heavenly judgments:

Daniel "gave [his] attention to the Lord God to seek Him by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes" (Dan. 9:3.)

📌keypoint: PRAYER IS ABOUT RELATIONSHIP & PARTNERSHIP.

Daniel 9 contains one of the most beautiful and powerful prayers in the Bible, and it holds tremendous insights for any leader who longs to bring his or her flock closer to the God of heaven. First, Daniel opens with words of humble praise: "great and awesome God," as well as words of trust and faith: "who keeps His covenant and lovingkindness." (v. 4) In the next nine verses, the greatest body of the prayer are abject confession—holding nothing back. Daniel is one of the most devoted, godly people in the Bible, yet he includes himself in this comprehensive list. "We have sinned, committed iniquity, acted wickedly and rebelled" (v. 5). "Open shame belongs to us . . . our kings, our princes and our fathers." Indeed, Daniel says that "all Israel has transgressed" (v. 11, all emphases added).

Verses 13-15 list all the reasons why God has a perfect right to leave "all Israel" stewing in its own iniquity. But then Daniel comes to the heart of his prayer: "for Your sake," (v. 17) Daniel pleads with God to have mercy. Hear his tears and

breaking voice in these words from verses 18 and 19:

“O my God, incline Your ear and hear! Open Your eyes and see our desolations and the city which is called by Your name; for we are not presenting our supplications before You on account of any merits of our own, but on account of Your great compassion. O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and take action! For Your own sake, O my God, do not delay, because Your city and Your people are called by Your name.”

Before he finished praying, Daniel received a personal answer from God, one that included amazing reassurance: “you are highly esteemed” (v. 23).

📌keypoint: PRAYER IS ESSENTIAL TO SEEKING GOD’S WILL FOR YOUR LIFE AND YOUR MINISTRY.

What if youth leaders everywhere

took this pattern to heart? What if, instead of seeing ourselves as role models—the ones with spiritual knowledge, insight, and experience to pass along to young people in need of our guidance—we turned around, aligned ourselves with our charges, faced God beside them and take their condition, their stumbling, and their questions on ourselves?

What if our prayers became:

“I’m afraid Joe and Geraldo might be experimenting with drugs. Oh, Lord, we are so weak, so prone to seek the approval of our peers, to reach for what we think will feel good, without regard to the cost to ourselves and others. Please forgive us and help us find our way back!”

📌keypoint: PRAYER IS YOUR WAY BACK TO GOD.

“Father, Ella seems to know all the right answers, but is it from her

heart? We are all afraid. We think we have to be right all the time so You will love us. Show us differently, Abba!”

“Jesus, help! I’m pretty sure Jenny and Luis are going further in their relationship than either of them really wants to. I know so well the power of sexuality You placed in all of us. You have great dreams for us. How can we see that more clearly?”

“What can I do to show I care? Can I share interest and passion without feeling I must be forever entertained? Is there something we can do differently?”

What if our young people could see with their own eyes that we speak to them for God *and speak to God for them?*

What if we left our world behind and stepped into theirs, as Jesus did for us?

I wonder what would happen? ●

All scripture quoted in this article was taken from the New American Standard Bible (NASB).

Christian Leadership is in Touch With God

Those engaged in the work of God cannot serve His cause acceptably unless they make the best use possible of the religious privileges they enjoy. We are as trees planted in the garden of the Lord; and He comes to us seeking the fruit He has a right to expect. His eye is upon each of us; He reads our hearts and understands our lives. This is a solemn search, for it has reference to duty and to destiny; and with what interest is it prosecuted.

—Ellen G. White, *Christian Leadership*, p. 4

PLEASANTLY PLUMP...NOT!!!

by Gloria Beecher

So tell me, is it really a problem if you weigh too much for your height, or, are you just pleasantly plump? Unfortunately, the Centers for Disease Control's definition says being too heavy for your height makes you overweight or obese.

Make no joke about it, obesity has become a huge problem—forgive the pun, in our society.

How Can You Tell if You are Obese?

The BMI or Body Mass Index is a measurement that is used to indicate obesity. BMI is calculated by comparing your height with your weight. Adults with a body mass index of 25 to 29.9 are said to be overweight. If the BMI is 30 or greater they are obese. For those younger than 19, there is a slight difference in the way their BMI is calculated. (Visit <http://www.cdc.gov/healthyweight/assessing/bmi/index.html> to calculate your BMI).

What Causes Obesity?

Some cases of obesity might be linked to an underlying health condition, medication usage, or possible genetic pre-disposition. There is overwhelming evidence, however, that in most cases obesity

is related directly to life style choices. Increased intake of unhealthy foods and physical inactivity are two main causes of obesity.

When you consume more calories than your body needs, or uses, the body stores the extra calories. If you are physically inactive the body simply hangs on to the calories. Generally, for every 100 unused calories a day the body gains about 1 pound in a month.

Problems with being obese

Some conditions that obesity may lead to include:

- High blood pressure
- Diabetes
- Heart disease
- Respiratory problems
- Sleeping problems
- Osteoarthritis

There might also be social prejudices and emotional consequences a person encounters as a result of being overweight or obese.

How to Fight Obesity

A great place to start is with food choices. Remember Daniel's friends in Babylon? When they were offered fine, fattening foods from the king's table they turned it down, preferring instead to eat simple, natural foods.

Include or increase your intake of fruit, vegetables, and grains. It might not be a bad idea to skip dessert too. Go meat-less or eat less meat; choose baked or broiled instead of fried foods, and brown is always better than white bread and pasta. Go easy on dairy products and choose low fat or fat-free when you do consume dairy.

After you have chosen the right foods, begin to watch your serving size. Stop eating when you are full. Skip the free re-fills and avoid 'all you can eat' restaurants. Let the late night snack go, or opt for a very low fat snack such as unbuttered popcorn.

Get moving! Become physically active—take a hike, ride a bike, walk, swim or choose some other form of aerobic exercise. Commit to an activity and start with 10 minutes a day then work your way up to a minimum of 30 minutes per day, five days per week.

Be patient with your efforts and don't give up even if you mess up. Keep going.

Start today, become a leader in the fight against obesity. Help others to lead healthier lives. Go on, lead the way and inspire others to follow! ●

CONTENT FOR THIS ARTICLE WAS BASED ON INFORMATION FROM THE CDC WEBSITE, [HTTP://WWW.CDC.GOV](http://www.cdc.gov).

leadership : pitfalls to avoid

TOP 10 REASONS YOUNG LEADERS FAIL



BY CÉSAR A. GONZÁLEZ

Not many people want to talk

about it, but over the years I've seen it hundreds of times— young, energetic and talented leaders that start a church ministry with a bang but then fizzle out. The sad thing is that with a little guidance, this is totally avoidable. You see, God wants new leaders to succeed because that's what He made them for! But little problems and even good traits can get in the way of leadership. Young leaders have to learn what's important and disregard the many small pitfalls along the way.

IF YOU ARE A YOUNG LEADER THAT IS HAVING DIFFICULTY CARRYING OUT YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES, TAKE AN HONEST LOOK AT YOURSELF AS YOU READ THIS LIST. YOU MAY HAVE THE BEST IDEAS, PLANNING, AND ORGANIZATION, BUT IF YOU MAKE THESE MISTAKES YOU WILL DOOM YOUR MINISTRY BEFORE IT STARTS.

pitfall # 10. YOU THINK PROBLEMS ARE A BAD THING.

Don't be discouraged by opposition, Jesus faced it all in His ministry. Critics and unsupportive leaders are always going to exist. Jesus said that we would be persecuted in His name, so you should expect to have problems as part of a vibrant ministry.

It is when everything is rosy that you have to ask yourself if you are actually making a difference or just killing time. Many ministries go on for decades without a single problem but never spur any spiritual growth *in* the church.

Although reliable and hassle free, eventually even these ministries will die out as the members do.

pitfall # 9. **YOU THINK EVERYONE** **SHOULD BE/FEEL/** **THINK LIKE YOU.**

Only God can separate the chaff from the wheat.

Always strive to be inclusive and impartial, especially if you have not been treated that way. Don't do to others what has been done to you, even if you feel you are right. If what you are doing causes division in the Church community it is not the Lord's work.

Leadership isn't an all-or-nothing affair; you must allow people time to grow. Change is very hard for some and fighting over it defeats your holy purpose and undermines your leadership. Even the best-laid plans cannot work if your congregation will not follow them.

pitfall # 8. **YOU THINK YOU** **KNOW WHAT** **YOU'RE GOOD AT.**

The more you give to God, the more He gives you in return. If you take time to expand your ministry, God will give you talents and develop skills that will amaze you.

Too many people never advance past a certain stage because they only play to their strengths. This type of leader eventually becomes ineffective and burns out. There is always work to be done and as you mature into new responsibilities, new leaders can rise to learn and grow in your wake.

pitfall # 7. YOU **DON'T INVEST IN** **LEADERSHIP.**

Jesus invested in the 12 disciples and they in turn invested in others. That is how a movement that started with a handful of average and unremarkable followers exploded into a worldwide church.

But there is much that remains to be done and you cannot do it alone. Always be on the lookout for people to mentor into leadership. More important than ability is a receptive heart, but no one will be receptive to you unless you are Christ-like to him or her.

Remember that investing means that you give of yourself. You can't expect people to be excited about leadership simply because you ask them to be, you must be willing to share time and energy to this venture. People run when they see a leader coming to ask for help with their program, but are much more receptive to a friend in need of help.

pitfall # 6. YOU DON'T THINK YOU CAN.

The talents that allow you to be a leader were given to you by God for this very function. By using them to help others, you are glorifying His name! Nothing is more fulfilling than carrying out the purpose for which you were created. Keep this in mind when you feel inadequate or unsure of your calling to serve.

Before you start your duties, take a moment to reflect on the wonder that is God working through you. Pray with your team for forgiveness and guidance and ask God to cleanse your mind of anything that may stand in the way of your work. Then go into your task confident in the knowledge that God made you for that very moment.

pitfall # 5. YOU THINK YOU CAN HELP GOD.

You are to be a conduit for the Spirit to do His holy work, a work you could never do. This is an important distinction; God can change people, you cannot. Your job is simply to bridge the gap between people and God by creating an atmosphere that is inviting to both parties—just as Jesus did.

You should always go out of your way to craft an environment that is warm and inviting to all. Keep in mind that not everybody is at the same point spiritually, so try to cater to the basic and advanced. Remember there are some people that will never be what you want them to be; it is your job to help them find what God made them to be.

pitfall # 4. YOU THINK BIGGER IS BETTER.

Too often success is judged by the amount of attendees or by the size of the production. More lives have been changed by a small prayer group with no program at all than by a grand show with professional lighting and staging. Starting small and growing a close-knit community is often more productive in the long run than putting on a big show.

The important thing is that you learn to adapt to the situation. Learn to do your job whether you are in a large auditorium or small room. Jesus said, “For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”

pitfall # 3. YOU LIVE TWO LIVES.

You cannot give what you don't have. This principle seems simple enough but many people don't understand that God—although kind and loving, forgiving and long-suffering—can't be made a fool of. Trying to pretend that you are something you are not will always end in failure. >>>

>>> In order to affect any spiritual progress in the lives of the people you are leading there must be steady and continuous spiritual progress in yours. A daily devotional routine and strong prayer life are the corner stones of a strong spiritual leader. You cannot carry out your tasks successfully on your own, so keep God close and learn to depend on His power.

pitfall # 2. YOU THINK THE PROGRAM/EVENT IS YOUR MINISTRY.

Many people think—and most of our training events and conferences teach—that leadership is about programming. This is absolutely the wrong focus and leads to the mindset that the word “church” refers to a building when in fact it is a *community of believers*.

Programming is the means, not the ends. It is a conduit to gather people together, and is certainly a unifying cause, but not as important as the actual gathering. Too often a program is treated like a concert or a play. The problem with this is that people attend and depart these events as strangers. That is not ministry.

We should view programs and events like a family dinner, an excuse to be together with the ones you love. If we focus on the event, we lose sight of the family. Would you rather have a five-star, gourmet Thanksgiving dinner with strangers or your mom’s dry turkey with your family?

The people in the pew are infinitely more important than the program. Everything that happens on stage should be weighed against the benefit of the group. We can never compete with the world in terms of entertainment, but the world can never compete with the power of the Holy Spirit to move people through holy gatherings.

pitfall # 1. YOU THINK IT’S ABOUT YOU.

This is the most common problem that young leaders face; too many leaders confuse their own ambition with the call of the Holy Spirit. There is simply no room for pride in true leadership. The best, most honored leaders understand that their competence is measured by the accomplishments of those they are leading. It is their ability to bring out the best in others rather than their own talents that makes good leaders special. A good leader leads the very best and the very worst equally well, and can guide a unit to become greater than the sum of its parts. You alone could never achieve what a group of people can. Remember that.

Whether you’re a Pathfinder director or vespers coordinator, you must never forget that the most important person is not the one speaking up front but the individual sitting in the pew.

As such, it is essential that you know whom you are serving. Take time to get to know your audience and their needs and always put them before your preferences. Chase away the black pangs of jealousy that come when others succeed with honest and humble prayer. The moment you care more about yourself than the child of Christ in the pew next to you, is the moment you have stopped being a leader. You may ask God to give you a ministry and be surprised—as I was—when instead, He gives you a love for people. ●

leadership : an open letter to our leaders

TRANSCENDING TALK WITH TITHE

by A. Allan Martin, PhD, CFLE



A. Allan Martin, PhD, CFLE
Associate Professor of
Discipleship and Family Ministry
Seventh-day Adventist
Theological Seminary
Andrews University

Dear Fellow Leader,

Again I have been impressed by the strong and succinct conviction of Elder Jan Paulsen (2009) as he articulated in the October 2009 edition of *Adventist World*, “We must give young adults meaningful roles within the church (p.10).”

And notably, Elder Paulsen has re-initiated the *Let’s Talk* series that he has been conducting around the world for over half a decade (Lechleitner, 2009). Even though I support these fine and admirable verbal gestures, I feel we fail new generations if we only offer another round of conversations and compelling articles.

So I share this open letter with you leader—whether you offer volunteer leadership in your local church or campus or serve as a ministry professional, educator or administrator. Leader, I

implore you to move beyond conversations about youth and young adults to conspicuous and calculated action.

Although I admire the outspoken positions our leaders have taken on this issue (Martin, 2009), I want to invite you and every leader in the Seventh-day Adventist Church to transcend talk with tangible action. Specifically I’m asking you to tithe. Tithe one or more of the following beginning today: (a) Travel, (b) Time, (c) Timothys, (d) Telecasts, (e) Talents.

Tithe Your Travel

Divert one of your travel appointments, and instead sponsor a young adult to go to IGNITION, April 2010 in Columbus, Ohio, or IGNITION Atlanta, June 2010. Instead of taking on that tenth speaking appointment or attending another committee meeting, invest

that trip’s budget into the leadership development of a young adult. IGNITION is especially formulated to deepen the discipleship and leadership development of young adults. Go to <http://ignitionblog.wordpress.com/> for the latest details on these young adult training opportunities.

Tithe Your Time

Offer a tenth of your time each week to mentoring a young adult. If you average a 40-hour workweek, then set aside four hours this week and each week to nurture, apprentice, and encourage a young adult. Begin to pour yourself into the next generation. If you are working a 60-hour workweek and are saying to yourself, “*There is no way I can offer six hours each week to mentor a young adult,*” it may be that you need to change your work habits/schedule.

Tithe Your Timothys

Empower a tenth of your young leadership to develop new generations. You may be in the situation where you have a large team of young ministry leaders [i.e., a campus ministry or student association for an Adventist college or university]. Ask your team to train, mentor, and nurture the young people that follow them in age. Set aside a tenth of the resources and efforts you give to minister to your campus/church and invest it in the next generation of leaders.

Tithe Your Telecasts

Dedicate a tenth of your broadcast time to intentionally disciple young adults. Knowing the integral role media plays in young lives, invest in nurturing their spiritual growth through music, television, film, drama, comedy, photography, literature, art, production, etc. Overtly involve young adults in the production, creative, and technical aspects of the tithed endeavor.

For some of you, the pulpit is where you broadcast the Gospel. Afford at least a tenth of the worships in your church to involve young people. If you don't have any youth in your church, more radical tithing may be in order.

Tithe Your Talents

Begin today to let a young person take your place. The classic parable admonishes us to multiply our talents, not bury them in the sand. Although often referring to talents as money, I would offer here a hybrid application, noting that your skills, abilities, giftedness, and wisdom need to be invested in the next generation. Allow “up and coming” young adults to take roles you might have easily and competently taken. Give them the opportunity to take your place—at least begin with a tenth of your place.

Do one or more or all of the above. Dear colleague, I am personally appealing to you to instigate this “tithing” conspiracy today. If you or someone else calls you a “Seventh-day Adventist leader,” this talk-transcending-tithing request is for you. Whether travel, time, Timothys, telecasts, or talents, I ask that you put your tithing into motion today.

Thank you for your kind consideration, and in advance I share my gratefulness for your immediate action. I believe that leaders best represent the Christ who relentlessly pursues new generations by transcending talk with tangible transformational relationships. May the GOD young adults seek be found living among those who love Him with all their heart (Martin, Bailey, & LaMountain, 2009). May Jesus be found in and through...you.



Lead, Love, Live,
A. Allan Martin, PhD, CFLE

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Hiskia Missah
GC Associate Youth Director

LEADERSHIP FOR TODAY'S YOUTH

by Hiskia Missah

the importance of youth leadership in the 21st century

The 21st century is an interesting era, which is known by many as the era of digital technology, the era of information. People are communicating far and wide with limitless numbers of people around the globe with much ease and amazing speed. There are no limits, no borders, and no hierarchical boundaries. People can communicate to anybody in the world without following any protocol and procedures. This is the era of modern technology where knowledge is in abundance. Young people are sending and receiving messages through blogging, e-mails, texting, etc. They are continually making connections and do a lot of networking and sharing of information with everybody else on earth.

But there are several things we need to be aware of:

1. Modern technology cannot eliminate all problems in the world, such as the problems of disease, poverty, financial crisis, crime, drug addictions, etc.
2. The basic needs of the youth remain the same from one generation to another—they need to be loved and recognized as individuals, yet they love to work together as a group. They need to belong to a group or organization which can accommodate their aspirations and utilize their knowledge, skills and talents to make a better world for mankind.
3. With the abundance of information young people get from the internet, they need guidance and supervision. Therefore, this is a great challenge for youth leadership in the 21st century to lead, guide, and direct youth in the right path.

profile of the 21st century youth

MILLENNIAL GENERATION

The youth of the 21st century are called the millennial generation. They are the youth who were born between the years 1982 to 2001. They are a generation who has grown up with structure and supervision, and with parents who were their role models. They are the youth who are looking for leaders with honesty and integrity. They are the youth who would like to emulate them and they adapt very well.

CIVIC MINDED PEOPLE

This millennial generation is the most civic-minded people with high ideals—wanting to eliminate AIDS, raises money to help the hungry, and they want to see justice prevail. They are ready and willing to be involved in any humanitarian efforts. When they receive information about natural calamities, disease, or poverty, they are eager

This is a generation who believes in putting their minds, talents, ideas, and challenges together.



Their key word is "We." We can work together, we have the same goal, together we will create a better world.

to do something and to have their contributions change the world for the better. They have dreams of a world with no more sickness, pain, and suffering. They readily join themselves in any community service done outside of their own countries.

INTERNET SOCIETY

According to *The Pitcairn Journal*, December 2009, "There are 190 billion e-mails sent daily—more than 2 million per second, by 1.2 billion e-mail senders. About 70 percent (133 billion e-mails) are spam and viruses. There are about 1.4 billion registered e-mail addresses." Most of these e-mail senders are young people. They can easily and quickly come together because of networking through the internet, telephone, SMS, MMS, Blackberry Messenger, etc. They spend much time in chat rooms, even with people they do not know.

THEY ARE LOVERS OF NEW IDEAS AND NEW THINGS

They love to know and try new things—things they have never done before, things that are difficult, new ideas that have to be developed—and they love to be challenged.

A NETWORKING SOCIETY

They love the idea of working together in a group setting. They want to work with people they click with and they like the idea of supporting one another. This is a generation who believes in putting their minds, talents, ideas, and challenges together. Their key word is "We." We can work together, we have the same goal, together we will create a better world. They love to have brainstorming sessions where they can come up with ideas bigger than themselves. Direction of Leadership is now prone to cooperative involvement rather than an individual one.

strategies for the youth leadership in the 21st century

DEVELOP ROLE MODEL OF LEADERSHIP

Dictionary.com defines the term “role model” as “a person whose behavior, example, or success is or can be emulated by others, especially by younger people.” Leaders should be good role models for youth. Leaders should be trusted. Young people want to see action and not only instruction. One of the most powerful things you can do is to lead by example. Teach them by showing and not by telling, because as leaders, we have to practice what we preach. The way you lead and live will be the most you can possibly expect from the youth. Whatever you do, young people will follow. “The youth should be educated by precept and example that they are to be agents for God, messengers of mercy, ready for every good word and work, that they are to be blessings to those who are ready to perish.” E. G. White, *The Review and Herald*, November 21, 1893.

PROVIDE HEROIC TASKS FOR CIVIC MINDED YOUTH

Provide activities for this millennial generation in community service. This will benefit the public as well as the church community. These activities can give much satisfaction to youth knowing that they can make a difference in the lives of others. In doing these kinds of activities, they gain other benefits such as knowing their surrounding better, making friends with many people, and gaining access to civic leaders that will prove to be beneficial to them and to the church in the future. There are various community service ideas which can be done by our youth. To learn more, visit: <http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/serviceideas.shtml>.

HAVE THE ABILITY TO MASTER NEW TECHNOLOGIES

Leaders should have the ability to master new technologies, especially in the area of information

technology. The world we live in has significantly changed. New digital technology has been introduced to every place around the globe, and the internet has radically changed the way we communicate with one another in all parts of the world. Young people love and support leaders who are proactive, creative, and innovative. Technology is developing rapidly every day and people’s lifestyles are changing as well. Leaders should know how to use modern high tech gadgets or at least learn *about* them. Leaders should make themselves aware of technologies used by youth pertaining to social networking, blogging, e-mail, Myspace, Face Book, Twitter, Bebo, Ehow, YouTube, etc.

LEARN AND KNOW HOW TO CREATE NEW IDEAS AND NEW ACTIVITIES

Leaders should know how to create new ideas and new activities for youth

in the 21st century. New ideas and activities are countless. We are living in the modern world where information is in abundance and much information is easily available. Take time to surf through the immense amount of ideas by using the Internet and learn from many sources how to generate new ideas and activities for the 21st century youth. Involve young people these goals as well.

WORK TOGETHER IN SHARED LEADERSHIP

Leaders will work together in shared leadership to learn how to partner with others to achieve goals. In shared leadership, each member of the group contributes. Sharing visions, setting goals and achieving them together, attract youth to join the group and support its endeavors. A group functions more effectively when all its members are involved and actively participating. ●

leadership : youth outreach

YOUTH AND CHURCH GROWTH

Our young people are a vital part of our church growth. All the evangelism your church can produce is meaningless if your young people are slipping out the “back door” of the church just as new converts are being brought in through the “front door.” The church grows when its children grow up to become young people who value their church family and its beliefs and who choose to join the church through baptism.

These same young people provide another wonderful opportunity for growth when they reach out to their young friends and neighbors. A warm, welcoming church with a lively youth ministry and a concern for youth in all their programs is attractive.

CREATIVE APPROACHES TO YOUTH MINISTRY

Young people value creativity and variety. In most countries, it is difficult

to attract teens and young adults with a traditional lecture-style evangelistic series. Approaches such as street ministry, music ministry, drama, “java house”-style events and recreational ministry have proven successful in attracting young people to church-sponsored events. If your youth group and their leaders are motivated to reach your community for Christ, they will probably come up with creative and nontraditional methods for doing so.

You may have doubts, but once you have discussed the planned program with youth leaders, be willing to take a chance and trust the young people’s instincts—after all, they know better than adults what appeals to other youth. Their results may surprise you!

YOUTH AND COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECTS

Adventist youth should be visible in their community as young people who care about

others. Encourage your youth leaders to get young people involved in worthwhile projects in the community such as feeding and assisting the homeless, visiting hospitals, nursing homes, and orphanages; and building or maintaining homes for low-income families. There are endless possibilities.

When you hear of a need in your community, ask yourself, “How can our church help? How can our young people help?” Encourage your youth leader and community services leader to work together to involve young people in service. When youth initiate a service project, adults in the church can also become involved. Inspire your whole church to support the young people’s efforts to help in the community.

YOUTH MISSIONS AND SERVICE

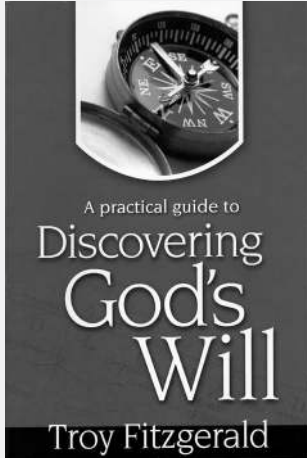
Most youth leaders have found that youth are empowered and inspired by service opportunities. Among the most popular service activities for

youth are short-term mission trips (for groups), and one-year volunteer mission terms as a student missionary (for individuals).

It is vitally important that the church and its leaders wholeheartedly support both individuals and groups of young people who choose mission service. If your youth group is raising funds for a short-term mission trip, throw your support behind them as publicly as possible, and church members will follow your example.

Although short-term missions can be tremendously beneficial to Christian young people, experience has shown that they are only permanently effective when they occur as part of a long-term commitment to service. In other words, a two-week mission trip will not effect lifelong changes unless youth continue to be involved in service and ministry in their own churches and communities. Talk to your youth leaders about making service and missions a permanent part of their programs. ●

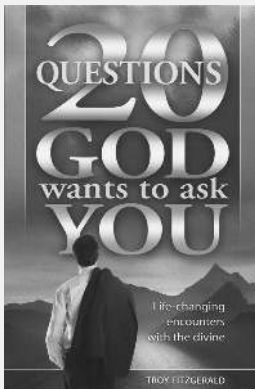
SOURCE: *Pastors and Elder’s Handbook*—Chapter 7, Youth Outreach



In this very insightful and helpful book, Troy Fitzgerald shares his conviction that you can know God's will and live happily in it. He challenges each of us to live each day as Abraham—traveling to the Promised Land—traveling only by faith.

**THESE BOOKS BY TROY FITZGERALD
ARE AVAILABLE AT:**

adventistbookcenter.com,
amazon.com, borders.com,
and barnesandnoble.com.



Sometimes we think that God exists merely to answer our questions when we are in trouble or perplexed. Quite often we become very upset when the answer is not forthcoming. In this book, it will be God asking the questions and waiting for an answer. How each person responds to the questions asked is of enormous importance. Anyone who has read the Bible knows God's questions transform lives and have eternal consequences.

discussion ?s : 2010 year of leading

more information at <http://gcyouthministries.org>

REFLECTIONS ON CHRIST OUR EXAMPLE leadership



essence

[Jesus] refused to be guided by anything other than his high call. His heart was purposeful. Most lives aim at nothing in particular and achieve it. Jesus aimed at one goal—to save humanity from its sin. He could summarize his life with one sentence: “The Son of man came to seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10 RSV). Jesus was so focused on his task that he knew when to say, “My time has not yet come” (John 2:4) and when to say, “It is finished” (John 19:30). But he was not so focused on his goal that he was unpleasant.

Quite the contrary. How pleasant were His thoughts! Children couldn't resist Jesus. He could find beauty in lilies, joy in worship, and possibilities in problems. He would spend days with multitudes of sick people and still feel sorry for them. He spent over three decades wading through the muck and mire of our sin yet still saw enough beauty in us to die for our mistakes.

— Max Lucado, *Just Like Jesus*

Why did Jesus rise early to pray? He knew that maintaining an intimate relationship with his Father was the single most important thing He could do. Why did Jesus occasionally escape the crowds in order to spend time teaching his disciples? He knew it was important to invest time training His disciples. Why did Jesus associate with outcasts and sinners such as Zaccheus and the woman at the well? He knew it was for the spiritually needy that He had come. Why did Jesus spend time with friends such as Mary, Martha, and Lazarus in Bethany? He knew it was good to have close friends. Jesus enjoyed such a close relationship with his Father that He always recognized what His Father considered to be important. Since Jesus understood what was critical, He knew how and where to invest His time.

Once leaders clearly understand God's will, deciding how to invest their time becomes much simpler.

Spiritual leaders ask questions such as:

What is God's will? In light of his will, what are the important things? What are the tasks he's asking me to do? Leaders always begin by investing their time in the most important things. If anything must be neglected in leaders' lives, it should always be the less critical activities. If leaders never take time to determine their priorities, however, they will invariably spend inordinate amounts of time on projects that are extraneous to their main purpose. Knowing God's will is indispensable for spiritual leaders.

– Henry and Richard Blackaby, *Spiritual Leadership*

scripture

Christ's calling was ultimately to die, yet this didn't seem to overwhelm Him or make Him depressed or cynical. Discuss the following verses in light of this:

Luke 4 :18 _____

Matthew 4:1 _____

Luke 4:1 _____

Luke 4:14 _____

What do these verses *mean*? How can you apply them as you follow God's calling in your own life?

Discuss, "Without the Spirit's activity, people may be leaders, but they are not spiritual leaders." – Blackaby

Look up the following verses indicating some of Christ's habits, from whom he took instruction, and the results:

Luke 4:16 _____

Luke 4:4,8,12,21 _____

Luke 5:16 _____

Mark 1:30-39 _____

Luke 6:12-13 _____

John 5:19 _____

John 5:30 _____

Look up the following verses and identify others that address Jesus' purpose for coming to earth:

Matthew 20:28 _____

I John 3:8b _____

John 3:16-17 _____

How does understanding Jesus' purpose on earth help put everything else He did in context? If His purpose had been anything else – teaching, healing, alleviating hunger – His death on the cross would have cut that short...

Read the following Scripture and discuss the role prayer played in these leaders' lives:

Nehemiah 1 _____

2 Chronicles 30 _____

Acts 10-11 _____

Contrast with 1 Samuel 12:6-23 and 1 Chronicles 10:13-14.

breakout time (divide in small groups)

Contrast, “Apart from Me you can do nothing” (John 15:5).

“It’s fine to pray and ask God what He wants to do through your church. But I prefer to be proactive rather than reactive.” – *anonymous pastor*

Discuss how leaders—busy people of action who want results and are on tight schedules—can realize the importance of prayer instead of resenting what may feel like a waste of precious time.

Discuss, “Biblical praying can be the most challenging, exhausting, laborious, and yet rewarding thing leaders ever do.” – *Blackaby*

consider

What is your mission, your purpose on earth? Why have you been placed here? How does understanding this put everything else in your life into proper perspective? What boundaries are necessary to establish to say ‘no’ to the ‘good’ at times in order to say ‘yes’ to the ‘right’? (Mark 1:35-39)

Take time to determine your priorities, identifying those things central to your main purpose and those extraneous.

Are there “less critical activities” you need to neglect to ensure you’re investing your time in the most important things? ●

32:8

FOLLOW THE LEADER

PSALM 32:8...I WILL INSTRUCT YOU AND TEACH YOU IN THE WAY YOU SHOULD GO; I WILL COUNSEL YOU AND WATCH OVER YOU.

Youth Week of Prayer March 20 - 27, 2010

Throughout the New Testament we find that leadership is not just the calling of the first twelve disciples, but our calling as well.

1st Sabbath : The Call

Sunday : The Passion

Monday : The Expert

Tuesday : The Gifts

Wednesday : In The Spotlight

Thursday : Along The Sidelines

Friday : The Torch

2nd Sabbath : Empowered



PROCLAIMING GOD'S GRACE
59th SESSION
OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

SOURCE: www.gcsession.org

A HISTORY OF SESSION

What is Session?

The General Conference Session is the forum for electing world church officers and voting changes to the church's constitution. Delegates also hear reports from each of the 13 administrative regions of the church. Voting delegates for session represent world regions both by church population and the self-sustainability of administrative regions. The Constitution states that at least 50 percent of delegates shall be laypersons, pastors, teachers, and non-administrative employees, of both genders and representing a range of age groups and nationalities. Church members also have the opportunity to reconnect with friends from around the world.

Transformation over time

While sessions are now held in football stadiums, pictures from

early sessions show delegates lined along the entrance to a small church. Back then, the movement's leaders came to session in the U.S. state of Michigan mostly from the Midwest and Northeastern United States by train or by horse and buggy. Today, about one-third of the movement's membership now resides in Africa, with another third residing in Central America and South America. Brazil now has more Adventists than any other country—1.3 million.

Session beginnings

Seventh-day Adventist leaders met in Battle Creek, Michigan in 1863 "for the purpose of organizing a General Conference," the minutes from that meeting say. The meeting began on the evening of May 20, during which delegates chose a chairman and a secretary. During the session, delegates drafted a constitution and bylaws. They also established leadership of the conference comprised of a president, secretary

and treasurer. Today, the same officer structure remains at all levels of church administration.

Battle Creek was the site of 26 of the first 31 GC Sessions. The first Session held west of the Mississippi River was in November of 1887 in Oakland, California. Session has been held outside the U.S. three times: in Austria in 1975, the Netherlands in 1995 and in Canada in 2000. Atlanta will be the 59th session.

Frequency

The time between Sessions has lengthened over the years. Session was held every year until 1891. Session was then held every other year until 1905. Session then took a four-year break followed by another hiatus during World War I before meeting again in 1918. Afterward, session was held every four years until the Great Depression—session was held in 1930, but then not again until 1936 and then in 1941. Since

1970, session has been held every five years, as is mandated by the Adventist Church Constitution.

Meeting venues

Recent General Conference sessions have been held in baseball and football stadiums in the U.S., Canada and Europe. Few other venues in the world offer the necessary amenities for such an event: seating for 70,000-plus attendees, venue support staff who speak English (the official business language of the church), reliable and cost-effective transportation, and food safety for a large group.

Next Session

While Adventists hope the Second Coming of Christ will take place before the next GC Session in 2015, the denomination has reserved the Alamo Dome in San Antonio, Texas.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Seminars

Lunch-time seminars will be presented for all attendees during the noon and evening meal hours. The schedule will be posted when available. The 45-minute presentations will use the experience and gifts of ministry leaders from around the world. They will take on practical concerns such as improving Sabbath School attendance or new methods of creative teaching. Attendees will

also benefit from the experience of different countries and cultures and their approach to these ministries. Some of the sessions will be available in Spanish as well as English.

Exhibit Hall Hours

The hall will be open 9:00 am to 7:00 pm. These are general daily programming hours. Please note there is no business session during the two Sabbaths.

Be sure to visit the youth booth #161.

Translation

This is the current list of languages that will be translated at the General Conference session. The list will be updated as languages are confirmed. Adventist World Radio (AWR) will sell small, digital AM, FM and SW radios for \$20 each that can be used to receive the translation services. Official Delegates will receive one free radio.

- Czech
- English (for the hearing impaired)
- French
- German
- Japanese
- Korean
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Russian
- Serbian-Croatian
- Spanish
- Sign Language

Air Travel

Enjoy the benefit of specially negotiated airfares! To obtain a fare quote and to buy your airline ticket, please click visit, https://www.logiforms.com/formdata/user_forms/6791_3553951/74639/

Entry into the United States

Citizens from countries outside the United States must contact their local U.S. Consulate for entry requirements.

Tours

For information on registering for tours visit <http://www.dmcnetwork.com/events/59thSessionOfTheGeneralConf/>

Medical Services

Atlanta hospitals and medical services are excellent. It is recommended that visitors to the United States obtain traveler's health insurance prior to arrival in the USA.

Services for Disabilities

All lower gates of the Georgia Dome are at street level and are accessible for entrance by people with disabilities. There is accessible chairs and space for wheelchairs, strollers, etc. The Georgia World Congress Center also has street level entrances and elevators which will accommodate movement between various floors of the building. ●

Proclaim His Grace Tu Gracia Cantare

Words and Music: Bruce Ashton
Versión en Español: Juan R. Salazar L.

Sav - ing grace, sweet fa - vor from the Lord a - bove; win - ning grace that
Gra - cia que me sal - va, y vie - ne del Se - ñor; Gra - cia que, en su a -

draws us to His heart of love. Won - drous grace that He should care for
mor me ha - ce ven - ce - dor; Gra - cia tan su bli - me, pro - tec -

you and me; Bound - less grace so deep, so full, so rich e - and free. Re -
cion to - tal; Gra - cia tan pro - fun - da, am - plia, y ter - nal. Tu

deem - ing grace His par - don frees us from our sin; Trans - form - ing grace His
gra - cia me per do - na, y li - bra de ca - er; Tu gra - cia me trans -

Spir - it makes us new with-in; Tri - um - phant grace He comes! and we shall
for - ma, y ha - ce re - na - cer; Por gra - cia, oh Dios, triun - fan - te, un dl - a

see His face and ev - er more pro - claim God's match - less grace!
te ve - re; por siem - pre de tu gra - cia can - ta - re.



IDEAPAC



29 The Map

by Scott Fogg

Focus: The Bible

31 Fighting the Pandemic

by Kimberley Tagert-Paul

Focus: Gossiping, Lying, and Profanity

33 How to Purchase War Gear

by Kimberley Tagert-Paul

Focus: Spiritual Warfare

34 Weeding Out The Bitter Roots

by Kimberley Tagert-Paul

Focus: Forgiveness

36 Spiritual Development of Youth

by Patti Emanuele

Focus: Developing God's Character

>>**Focus:** The Bible

The Map by Scott Fogg

Cast: One-Eyed Eddie, Peg Leg Bill

Props: Pirate Costumes. Map, Certificate of Authenticity

Basis: Matthew 13:44-45; 1 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 119:105; Isaiah 8:20; Hebrews 4:12

Central Biblical Truth: The Bible is the inspired word of God and God's word is a "lamp to my feet and a light to my path," not unlike a treasure map.

Aim: To illustrate the purpose and nature of the Holy Scripture.

ONE-EYED EDDIE, a scurvy pirate captain, waits impatiently as he studies a map. He's got only one good hand and one good eye. Finally, PEG LEG BILL enters from stage left. Seeing him, Eddie rolls the map up.

Eddie: Gar! Peg Leg Bill! It's about time ye be showin' up. I s'pose it took ye so long to get here on account of ya'r peg leg.

Bill: I don't have a peg leg.

Eddie: Never mind that, Peg Leg Bill! I've got something I'm needing to show ya'!

Bill: I wish you wouldn't call me that.

Eddie: Call ye what, me lad?

Bill: "Peg Leg Bill."

Eddie: And why is that?

Bill: My Christian name's James, not William.

Eddie: Would ya' prefer Peg Leg Jim?

Bill: Sure, but . . .

Eddie: But what?

Bill: I don't have a peg leg!

Eddie: All in due time!

Bill: What does that mean?

Eddie: I s'pose you're wondering why I've called a meeting with ya', Peg Leg Jim. Well, it just so happens that I've found a treasure map.

Bill snatches the map from Eddie.

Bill: What kind of treasure map?

Eddie: Do ye ever listen to your thoughts before speakin' them? Or do ya' just spit them out, wanting to be part of the group that hears them for the first time? Only reason I ask, me bucko, is that ye just asked me "what kind of treasure map" I had and as far as I've ever discovered, there be only one kind of treasure map! The kind that leads to buried and/or sunken treasure! You keep askin' questions like that, and we be likely to call ye "Peg Brained Bill."

Bill: "Peg Brained Jim."

Eddie: Be that as it may! The particular treasure you so rudely snatched from me one good hand just so happens to lead to the legendary Pearl of Great Price!

Bill: "Pearl of Great Price?"

Eddie: Aye!

Bill: The Pearl of Great Price.

Eddie: What are ye, me echo? Aye, the Pearl of Great Price. The very thing countless men have sacrificed their lives for. Men have died and men have killed for it. They've dedicated every fiber of their being to the finding of said Pearl, but it is only this map – this very map – that shows the way!

Bill: And how did you get this map?

Eddie: It was given to me by me father, No-Eyed Eddie.

Bill: Does that make you No-Eyed Eddie the Second?

Eddie: I've got one good eye, you daft bilge rat! Count 'em! One! I'm One-Eyed Eddie, the

Scourge of the Six Seas!

Bill: There's seven, you know.

Eddie: What?

Bill: There's seven seas.

Eddie: Ah. Yes. Well, I only manage to scourge six of 'em. I only mildly annoy the seventh.

Blasted Caspian. But that be neither here nor there! This be the map to the Pearl!

What say you? Will you join me?

Bill: Can I think about it?

Eddie: What's to think about?! Don't ye have any idea what you're holding in your hands?

This is *the map!* Passed down from father to son ever since the dawn of time! Those who drew the map did so having seen the Pearl itself! They drew what they saw, and not a doodle more! It's directions are so precise that to ignore even one could have the most disastrous of consequences! There be monsters in them there waters! You see these torn corners and burnt edges? That be where others tried to attach warnings of their own—warnings not consistent with the original mapmaker's. They were cut out or burnt off, so as to not

lead us astray. There even be some who say the map has a life of its own, that to study the map is to look into the face of the Pearl itself. There are those who have spent their entire lives studying this map and it is said the map spoke to them most directly, cutting to the heart of each and every one of them, finer and sharper than me own cutlass. So what say ye, me lad? Whilst thou joinest me in my most noble of quests?

Bill: That's all very mystical and everything but . . . how do you know? How do you know all that stuff is true?

Eddie pulls a certificate of authenticity out of his coat.

Eddie: It came with this Certificate of Authenticity.

Bill: Really?

Eddie: It be embossed.

Bill: Really?

Eddie: Faith, me lad. Ya've got to have it. But I'm off. I am going to find this Pearl of Great Price.

Bill: You better be taking your map then.

Eddie: You keep it, lad. I've committed it all to memory. Spend some time with it. Go over it. In time, you'll see as I do.

Bill: What? With one good eye?

Eddie: Or with no eye at all.

Eddie gives Bill a wink and heads off. Bill studies the map and slowly finds himself exiting the stage in the same direction Eddie did.

THE END (of the skit) ●

PROGRAM PLANNER

>>**Focus:** Gossiping, Lying, and Profanity

Fighting the Pandemic by Kimberley Tagert-Paul

Bible Texts: **Lying:** Col. 3:9, Math. 15:16–20, Proverbs 6:16 - 19

Gossiping: Romans 1:28: 32, 1 Tim. 5:13, Proverbs 26: 20–22

Profanity: James 1:26

General: Ephesians 4:29

Aim: To encourage youth to look at lying, gossiping, and profanity and examine where they stand on these issues.

To Prepare: Copy the discussion quiz questions for each of the group.

Introduction: In the 1400's a terrible pandemic ravished Europe. It was known as the Black Death, but today we know it as the Bubonic Plague. It is estimated that it killed between 30–60% of the European population at least 1 in 3 people succumbed to this disease which spread through all social classes. It was thought that trading ships brought the plague - but the spreading of it was a mystery. At all levels of society rats ran throughout homes and flea bites from them were considered just an annoyance. But this was the very thing spreading the disease. They weren't just annoyances—they were causing the pandemic.

Today we are facing just such a pandemic. It has spread throughout the

world in exponential numbers. There are very few people who are not infected with the disease. It's symptoms have become so commonplace they are accepted even among the church. Most people do not even recognize the symptoms of it. It can be prevented. It can be treated. It appears harmless but has terrible consequences. What is this disease? (Ask if anyone has an idea.) It is the sins of lying, profanity, and gossiping. Romans 1:28–32 tells us that gossiping and lying are in the same league with murder. Most people don't even think about them as sins.

How do these diseases affect you? Do you have any of the symptoms? What can you do? That is what we are going to discover today.

To Do: Give each youth a copy of the quiz. Let them fill in their answers. The rest of the time in your program is for an open discussion of the dilemmas and responses to them. If you have a very large group you may want to divide into smaller groups so that everyone that wants can participate. There are no correct answers, but the "C" responses are closest in line with scripture. Encourage the youth to explore their ideas on these issues.

DISCUSSION QUIZ

You are at the grocery store picking up a few things for your mother. You're in a hurry. On the way out of the store, you start to put away your change and find that you were given .26 cents more that you should have been give. You look at the long line of people and ...

A. You shrug your shoulders and pocket the change. They already charge too much anyways.

B. You decide that you'll make note of it and give it back next time. After all, you are in a hurry.

C. You go all the way back. It isn't your money and the cashier's drawer will be short.

The phone rings. It's your best friend, but you are studying intently. You ignore the call because you have caller I.D. But then, you hear footsteps and your mother has picked up the phone. When she comes into the room ...

A. You tell her to say to your friend that you are not home.

B. You tell your mother to say that you'll call back later, and forget to do it.

C. You take the call but tell your friend that you are studying and you'll call her back, and you do!

One of the members of your youth group just arrived in an outfit. You haven't seen anything like it before. It isn't the right color for your friend and it makes them look frumpy. They are rather proud of

the outfit and ask everyone what they think. It's your turn to respond.

A. You say it is wonderful and ask where they bought it, because you want to shop there.

B. You tell them it is different. Hey, different is good—especially on them.

C. You say it's an interesting choice then point them to the mirror and hope they see what you see.

Your team just got a big score on a huge project. The teacher is proud of all of you. She especially points out that it was your idea and congratulates you on it in front of the class. Problem is it wasn't your idea. You contributed, but the idea was really someone else's but they are absent today.

A. You nod your head and accept the thanks but don't say anything out loud. That's O.K., right?

B. You wait until after class and then tell the teacher in private it wasn't all your idea and others helped.

C. You stop the teacher and fess up. You helped, but the idea for the project was someone else's.

You've heard that someone in your youth group is

pregnant. It makes you sad. You immediately . . .

A. Call a friend in the group and share your concern for your friend. After all, you have a heavy heart for your pregnant friend.

B. You call your pregnant friend and find out all the details about her pregnancy. Then you can share the truth with others when they ask.

C. You immediately pray for your friend. You'll let them know that you are praying and offer to help where you can. The details aren't important.

It's lunch time at school. Your friends have just shared a funny story about someone in your group of friends. It's really funny. You pass a friend in the hall and are dying to share the laughter. You know that if you add a few details it will be more funny.

A. You add the details. After all what is creative license for?

B. You tell the story as close as you can remember it.

C. You wait for your friend to share their own story. Let them enjoy laughing about it.

No way! That's what you

are thinking. Boy - your friend sure surprised you. You would never do what you were told they just did. It doesn't seem right that your friend did this but, they shouldn't have. You don't ask questions but you do . . .

A. Share the info with your other friends. After all, you wouldn't want them to be caught in the vices of your ex-friend.

B. You avoid your friend. What can you say. You'd never do that and you can't believe they did!

C. You pray for your friend. You also go to them to verify the story you just heard, and are happy when they say it isn't true. You believe them.

He's big and mean looking. He's dressed in leather and carries his motorcycle helmet. And he keeps blaming God for everything bad because he is using God's name in a bad way. You know that God didn't do what he is saying and you don't like hearing God's name used that way. So you . . .

A. Mind your own business. Didn't we just say he is big and mean looking?

B. Pray that God will change the man's heart—and his mouth.

C. You gather up your courage and tell the biker that God didn't do any of those things. That God creates, not condemns. After all your angel can handle the biker.

“When a man uses profanity to support an argument, it indicates that either the man or the argument is weak—probably both.”
Anonymous. Reading this you are thinking . . .

A. I hate quotes. Nobody ever knows what another person is thinking.

B. O.K. I guess that whoever said this may have been right. But not in all circumstances.

C. Wow. That person was brilliant. I agree. I don't like hearing profanity.

Conclusion: As you can see through scripture, the Bible is very clear that we are not to practice lying, gossiping, or profanity. (Read Eph. 4:29 out loud). Our speech should build each other up, not tear each other down. Maybe it's time that we each make an effort to stop this pandemic that is infecting our world.

End with prayer. ●

SKIT

>>Focus: Spiritual Warfare

How to Purchase War Gear by Kimberley Tagert-Paul

Central Bible Truth: We are at war, spiritually. We need to put on God's armor in order to stand against the enemy.

Bible Text: Eph. 6

Teaching Aim: It is important to put on the armor of God daily.

Setting and Props: A chair and table with materials like foil, poster board, scissors, etc., a phone and phonebook, and a Bible.

Characters: Colin the main character who is trying to assemble his armor. Tyler, his friend, and Sarah, his sister.

Colin is in his room pacing about, thinking how he can assemble his armor.

Colin: There has to be some way to get this all together. I need shoes, a belt, a breastplate. Wait a minute, what's a breastplate anyway? *(He looks like he is thinking hard.)* Oh, maybe it's like those vest things that police officers wear. Okay. Let's see. *(He pulls out a list.)* Oh yeah, I need a helmet, a sword, and a shield. I think I saw some old swords for sale at the flea market. Maybe one of those would do. *(He stops and looks into a full length mirror.)* I don't think they'll let me into school with all that.

But it says right here in God's Word that I need to put these on. I have to do what the Bible says.

(He sits down in the chair and grabs the phone book. He looks furiously through the business pages hoping to find a listing for armor.) It has to be here somewhere. Where would I look for armor?

Tyler: *(Enters the stage followed by Colin's sister Sarah.)* What are you looking for? Looks like you are trying to find something really important.

Colin: I am. I'm trying to find a place that sells armor.

Sarah: *(Giggling)* Armor? What's got into you?

Colin: The Word of God. That's what. It says we need to put on armor. So I'm trying to find some. Got any ideas where to look? Maybe an antique store. That's it. They have to have armor. Of course!

(He finds a number and calls it. Sarah and Tyler look on in disbelief.)

Yes, Hi. I'm looking for a suit of armor. Do you have anything like that?

You do? Great. How much does it cost? *(Pretends to listen.)* You've got to be kidding. I don't have \$10,000 dollars. What am I going to do? *(He listens again for a few seconds)* No, I need it today. It would take me years to save up

that kind of money. No I don't want you to hold it, but thanks. *(He hangs up the phone in defeat.)*

Now what do I do?

Sarah: *(Giggling)* I guess you could use a credit card?

Tyler: That's not funny. *(But he laughs a little too.)* Colin, why do you think you need real armor?

Colin: It says so. Right here in Ephesians 6. Put on the armor of God. Don't you know that we are in a spiritual battle? Come on. We need to be prepared.

Sarah: *(Picks up the poster board and cuts out the shape of a small shield.)*

We could cover this in tin foil. See. *(She starts to do just that. As the conversation continues, she makes a small cardboard sword and covers it with tin foil for later.)*

Tyler: Come on, Sarah. Stop being funny.

Colin: Trying to be, you mean. *(He gives his sister a brotherly look.)*

Tyler: This is serious. You're right about one thing, Colin. We are in a spiritual war that we can't even see. And we need God's armor to stand against the enemy.

But Paul wasn't talking about literal armor. Things made of iron or brass won't save us in this war.

Colin: But what about the battle field?

Tyler: You mean the mission field? That's what it is for us. We are in a unique position to share the gospel with our friends. But peer pressure, well, you know how hard that can be. So if we put on God's armor: prayer, reading His Word, and growing in our faith, we can stand strong against not only the devil, but all the things our friends throw at us, too.

Colin: That makes sense. I guess I shouldn't take everything so literally.

Tyler: It's O.K. We can learn together.

Sarah: *(Suddenly finished with her sword, she holds it up in a fighting stance.)* En guard.

Colin: Does that mean that I don't have to take her as my sister, literally? *(The two boys walk out of the room while Sarah still stands ready to fight but looking disappointed.)* ●

SKIT

>>Focus: Forgiveness

Weeding out the Bitter Root by Kimberley Tagert-Paul

Central Bible Truth: Learning to forgive before bitterness takes root in your life.

Teaching Aim: When we are hurt by others, it is our choice to forgive. If we choose not to, the lack of forgiveness may cause more hurt in our lives than the initial pain the person that hurt us caused.

Setting: A very simple stage—either blank, or if desired—a real plant that the people can be pretending to uproot. (Much pulling is going to be taking place on this “plant” so it might be better just to pretend to be pulling one.)

Characters: Four teens. As written, two girls and two boys, but names can be changed to make the skit usable in your situation. Marley, the teen with the bitter root; Mason, Marley's friend; Jessica, a friend of Marley; and Tyler, Marley's brother.

Props: A large plant if desired, and gardening tools such as a hoe, shovel, hand spade, and gardening gloves.

Marley is at the middle of the stage pretending to pull at a stubborn root in the ground. It would be helpful to have props around her such as a shovel, hoe, hand spade, etc. She can also be wearing gardening gloves to help with the setting.

Mason: Whatcha doing, Marley?

Marley: *(Working furiously)* I'm working on trying to pull out this stubborn root. *(She sighs)* I've tried and I've tried but I can't get it to come out.

Mason: What kind of root is it? I've never seen one that big before.

Marley: I'm not sure either. But it is big. And it is deep. I've pulled and pulled . . . *(She tries to pull it up again – then collapses back onto the stage.)* but I just can't get it out of here.

Mason: Want me to try to help?

Marley: I guess you can try if you want. But it doesn't seem to matter who pulls on it. It is a stubborn one.

Mason: *(He reaches past Marley and tries to pull at the pretend root.)* Boy, I see what you mean. It is stubborn alright. Maybe if we try the hoe?

Marley: *(Marley grabs the shovel while Mason grabs the hoe and they pretend to work on the root for a while.)*

Mason: *(He stops trying to hoe and wipes his brow.)* Boy, you weren't kidding. It sure is one stubborn root.

Jessica: *(Enters from off stage and walks over to where the two teens are standing.)* What are you guys doing? Looks like you've been working hard.

Marley: I've been trying to get this root out of the garden for a while. But it won't even budge. You know about plants. Seen anything like this before?

Jessica: *(Gets down on the stage and pretends to study the root carefully. She looks at Marley with a sad face.)* Oh, oh. You've got trouble my friend.

Mason: Why. What kind of root is it?

Jessica: It's . . .it's one of the worst kinds. A bitter root.

Marley: No, you can't mean it. Not a bitter root?

Jessica: I'm afraid so. When did you first notice it growing here.

Marley: *(Thinking hard)* Well, I think it was about the time that I had that fight with my brother. He was so mean. I still haven't forgiven him, you know.

Jessica: I see the problem now. You let the bitter root grow and that's been how long?

Marley: At least . . .well, almost a year.

Mason: That's not good, Marley.

Jessica: Maybe you need to make things right with Tyler. Forgive him. Then I think you may be able to get at that root of this thing.

Marley: I . . .I guess it's time. It's just he hurt me . . .you know. But I guess, it's not worth having this stubborn thing growing in my garden. To tell you the truth, I don't even remember how the fight started. *(Jessica and Mason both are shaking their heads)*

Tyler: *(Entering from off stage)* Hey, what are you guys looking so worried about. *(He notices the root.)* Oh, that looks pretty bad. Want some help?

Jessica: You may just be the right person to help.

Tyler: Huh?

Marley: Jessica thinks it's a bitter root. *(Tyler looks surprised, then nods his head in understanding.)* Remember the fight we had almost a year ago? *(Tyler shakes his head "no.")* Well, I do. And I need to ask for your

forgiveness. Will you forgive me Tyler for being mad at you for so long.

Tyler: Sure, sis. I didn't even know you were mad. I'm sorry if I hurt you. I didn't mean to.

Marley: I forgive you, too.

Jessica: *(Pulling at the root)* Hey, I think it's moving already.

Mason: Here. Let me give you a hand. *(He too pulls with Jessica at the pretend root. Marley and Tyler each grab on and the root finally gives way and all collapse onto the stage.)*

Marley: Thanks everyone. It's good to have friends like you to help me. And Tyler? I love you.

Tyler: *(Rising and brushing himself off)* I love you too, sis. Let me help you up. *(He reaches down and gives Marley a hand up as Mason and Jessica stand and brush themselves off. The four teens pick up the hoe, shovel, spade, and gloves and walk off the stage smiling.)* ●

Take a look at your **FAITH** a little closer!

Youth Week of Prayer: **March 20 - 27, 2010**

PLAN AHEAD:

get your
copy of the 2010 Junior Youth Week of Prayer
: <http://gcyouthministries.org>

- day 1: **Faith**
- day 2: **Goodness**
- day 3: **Knowledge**
- day 4: **Self-control**
- day 5: **Perservance**
- day 6: **Godliness**
- day 7: **Brotherly Kindness**
- day 8: **Love**

<http://gcyouthministries.org/MediaPublications/YouthWeekOfPrayer/tabid/100/Default.aspx>



SKIT

>>Focus: Developing God's Character

Spiritual Development of Youth by Patti Emanuele

Central Bible Truth: God has entrusted us with the responsibility of implanting God's truths in the lives of our youth.

Bible Text: Ephesians 6:4

Teaching Aim: To recognize every opportunity to teach youth God's ways. To be conscious of the example we set before them.

Setting: A large hardware and paint store.

Characters: Cara, Joyce, Dan, Evan, Jim and Rob. Rob is a student at the high school. The others are youth group leaders.

Props: A large plant if desired, and gardening tools such as a hoe, shovel, hand spade, and gardening gloves.

At a large hardware and paint store, friends meet.

Cara: Hey Jim, who've you got with you tonight?

Jim: This is my friend Rob. He's a senior in my youth group at our church.

Joyce, Dan, and Evan: Hi Rob.

Dan: So Rob, why in the world would you decide to hang out with this guy?

Jim: Thanks Dan.

Rob: He's cool. We're going to paint the youth group activity room so we thought we'd run out and get more paint. Do you know this guy agreed with me that black would be a cool color?

Jim: Hey, it was your idea.

Joyce: You're kidding right Jim?

Jim: Rob always has great ideas for the kids to do. I listen to him now. He tells me the kids would like a black wall. I'm old, what do I know?

Evan laughs.

Evan: You've been working with the youth group for awhile now Jim. How's it going?

Jim: They're awful. (Jim winks). I don't know how I've stood it. I've had to go on camping trips, roller coaster rides, and endure marathon game nights. I've been forced to eat tons of pizza, and laughed at jokes so hard my ribs hurt. It's been rough.

Jim: I'm just going to go look for that paint. I'll see you guys later.

Rob: I'll be right there.

Rob leans forward toward Evan, Joyce and Dan.

Rob: If you want to know the truth, meeting Jim was the best thing that happened to me. He's been kind of a big brother. We do fun stuff yeah, but he also teaches us Bible studies, and how to live right for God. He's been a great influence on plenty of kids including myself. I consider myself really blessed to have met him. When I go to college next year I'm going to still try and keep contact with him. He's been a great friend.

Rob leaves to join Jim.

Joyce: That is so nice to hear. Sometimes I forget that we have a responsibility to teach and mentor our youth. It's easy to get caught up in all the fun activities.

Evan: You're right. Our first job is to teach them by our words and actions about God and how He expects us to act in the world.

Dan: This has been a great day. Who knew going to a hardware store would be so educational.

Joyce: You bet. I feel great.

The three friends continue down the aisles, each satisfied that they had already found what they needed. ●

>>**Focus:** leadership and delegation

Contributor: *Patti Emanuele*

LEADING AND DELEGATING

Joshua sat down with a thump in his office chair. Once again it had been a small group of bored and non-communicative kids who stared back at him while he talked. He had prayed for his youth ministry, planned hard, and dreamed big for this evening. What he got in return was a group of young people who were clearly there because their parents brought them. *What to do?* Joshua wondered. He sighed and absently rifled through a stack of books sitting on his desk. He read the titles, “Thriving Youth Groups,” “Exciting Youth Ministry,” and finally, “Perseverance, the Key to Long-term Youth Ministry Service.”

“What are you doing in here?” Bud, his coworker said as he poked his head through the half-opened office door.

“I guess not a whole lot,” Joshua sighed. Joshua spent the next ten minutes emptying his heart to his fellow youth worker about his frustrations with his ministry.

Bud nodded and said, “Have you read any books on this topic?”

Joshua laughed and pointed to his stack of books sitting on his desk. “Just these,” he said.

Bud shook his head and then reached across the stack of books and picked up one that Joshua had overlooked, it was his Bible.

“What about this one? I bet there’s something on leadership in this book,” Bud said, handing it over to Joshua.

Joshua blushed a deep red, “Thanks, friend,” he told Bud and began to read what God said about leading others.

THE SPEAKER

“Bud has over 10 years experience in youth ministry. He has agreed to speak to us today and share his insights at our workshop,” Joshua told the group of youth leaders and volunteers who had come to the Leadership/Delegation workshop.

THE STORY

“Long ago in a far away land, there was a man named Moses. As we all know Moses was a big shot in the Pharaoh’s house. Despite the fact that he had been born a lowly Jew, Moses had been adopted into the royal house. Eventually Moses killed a man who had been abusing a slave, and then he fled into the desert. He knew who he was, a Jew, not a royal. He knew that the Jews were held captive in Egypt and used as slaves. He knew that God had a deliverance plan for the Jews. Let’s take a look at a new spin on a familiar story,” Bud said.

SKIT

Scene: *Moses discussing God’s plan for the Jewish people.*

Characters: *Miriam, Moses wife, Moses.*

Moses: “Miriam, you don’t understand. I was up on this mountain and God spoke to me. You have to believe me. Look at my hands they’re still shaking.”

Miriam: “So what did your God tell you to do?”

Moses: “He told me to return to Egypt and lead His people, the Jews, out of slavery and out of Egypt.”

Miriam: “That’s a tall order. I mean, you are just a shepherd here. Stay here, Moses, you are safe. We have a nice life, no problems, no stress. No one is bothering us. Your God will never know if you don’t go.”

Audience laughs.

Moses: “I can’t do that Miriam. When God speaks, you answer. When He tells you to do something you better do it. I’ve heard stories about the wrath of God.”

Miriam: “What will you do when you get to Egypt? How will you free the slaves? Do you have a plan?”

Moses: “I don’t have a plan yet, but God does. I don’t have much, but I have faith. I know I need to obey God in this path that He is sending me on.”

Miriam: “Okay then, let’s go. Now what should I pack? It’s a long hot walk back to Egypt.”

***skit ends

“What have we learned from this skit?” Joshua asked the group before him

A lady raised her hand.

“Moses was obedient. He listened to God even though he was afraid,” she answered.

A man then said, “Yes, he had faith in God to achieve what he told him He would do. He feared the Lord too,” the man said.

Another woman said, “He had a mission. His mission was to return to Egypt and free the Jews from slavery and the Pharaoh.”

“Do you think it was easy for Moses to return to a country where he was no longer a member of the royal family, a wanted man for killing another man, and a member of a group of people that were hated and used as slaves,” Bud asked.

Two women in the front row shook their heads no.

“So, to sum it up, Moses listened to God, was obedient and had faith in God, and proceeded down a path that God told him to follow, even when the world would deem it dangerous or foolhardy,” Bud said.

“Yes, I wouldn’t want to be him,” a young youth worker replied.

“We are him,” Joshua said.

“Every day that we in obedience follow God’s plan serve Him in youth ministry, a plan that is fraught with disappointment, conflict, and demanding of physical and emotional energy, we are like Moses. We have been called to be leaders like him. Was he special? Was he the bravest of the brave? The smartest man around that God could use as a leader? No, he was a murderer, a coward for hiding in the desert, a human being with weaknesses only made strong by meeting God face to face and experiencing a rebirth of faith in a living God to proceed on a godly mission,” Joshua told the group.

“Let’s take a moment and write down at least three things in your life that you are afraid of,” Bud instructed the group.

A few moments pass and Bud asked, “Is anyone willing to share their weaknesses with the group?”

There’s silence. Then a man in the back of the room stands up and says, “I will. Number one is a fear of failure to succeed as a youth leader. Number two, I have a fear that I didn’t hear God right when He told me to go into this ministry, especially when things don’t run smoothly or the kids are unresponsive. My last one is I run out of ideas and energy to keep this group engaged. I can also add, that it is easy to feel discouraged,” the man said. He sat down. All around him people were nodding in understanding.

“Let’s look at this list. Fear of failure, Moses doubted his ability to achieve God’s mission for him, then fear of not hearing God about what He wants us to do ministry wise. Moses had the same doubts and questioned the Lord. Finally,

running out of ideas and energy is only human. I am pretty certain that after Moses and his family trekked across the desert and arrived in Egypt he was beat,” Bud said.

“Let’s move on and look at another scenario regarding leadership,” Bud said as he sat down in his chair and watched three young men come to the front of the room.

SKIT

Scene: *Egypt*

Characters: *Moses, and the Pharaoh*

Pharaoh: “Let me get this straight. You have come back across the desert after hiding there for murdering a man and have a request for me? You’re lucky I don’t just have you killed.”

Moses: “I know, I know, it doesn’t make sense. I’m pretty scared right now, but I have this mission that God has told me to do. I feel strongly that He will help me through this and protect me.”

Pharaoh: “You keep asking me to free the slaves. I need those slaves. How can you be so sure that your

God isn't wrong or that you didn't mishear His instructions?"

Moses: "I've met God. I listened to his words. I am clear on what He wants. Free the slaves or it will get much worse."

A man steps out of the shadows and begins to read.

Man: "We all know what happened eventually. The Pharaoh gave in and freed the Jews. Moses led them through the desert and through the Red sea. They wandered in the desert, had the same boring food day after day, suffered from heat and exhausted and began to complain. Then they made idols that they had worshipped back in Egypt."

Question: Was Moses a failure in his mission? Had he misheard what God wanted for him? Weren't the Israelites supposed to be grateful and obedient to his leadership?"

*****skit ends**

"Let's take a look at this skit," Bud said. "With all the wrong things the Hebrews did, complaining, making idols, etc. was it still God's will for Moses to lead them out of Egypt? Was it still important for Moses to follow God's plan?"

A woman answered, "Of course. Just because some plan doesn't flow the way we expect doesn't mean that it isn't the right plan. It just means that we need to have faith to keep on the mission that God wants us to achieve."

"That's right. Also, things that don't go smoothly can be used by God to teach us lessons or strengthen our faith, or grow us as Christians," Joshua nodded.

"Time for lunch," Joshua announced.

WORKSHOP: PART 2

"Now that we're all together, I think we should take a look at the natural byproduct of leadership—delegation."

"This time, let's take a look at the best model for leadership—Jesus Christ. Jesus had an ability to attract people of all levels. He demonstrated who He was, God's son, He told the disciples His mission, to die for us and take away our sins, so that we could dwell with God, and He had a plan for all of us about how we should live after He left the disciples. As we look at the group of people, His disciples, we see a group of very flawed human beings. Most were poor, some were arrogant and impulsive, (Peter), but each when gathered together served Christ with their own unique gifts and talents. Jesus picked them specifically for these gifts. He had a plan to use these gifts for His ministry. He understood who they were, where they came from, their weaknesses and strengths. He had a plan that was formed that only these people could achieve with Him. For example, Peter was a strong individual. He became afraid when they arrested Jesus and denied knowing him. Yet, Jesus said,

"On this Rock (Peter), I will build my church). Jesus knew Peter's frailties, and yet saw that he had strength and would be important to His mission in the future. Another example was God choosing Saul for His plan. Saul was a terror, a well-educated Pharisee who delighted in persecuting Christians. Later God renamed him Paul, and he was a major figure in converting non-Jews to Christianity. What does this mean in our ministries as we choose people to delegate tasks to in youth group?" Bud asked.

"We should pray over who God would have us to choose when we need volunteers," a man offered.

"We should try and understand and get to know the volunteer at a personal level, not just what we see on the outside," a woman said.

"Why is that important?" Bud asked her.

"Because then we can try and match the person's gifts and skills with the task we need done. If the person is not suited to it, it can be a disaster," the woman answered.

"So very true," Bud answered. "Let's watch this next skit and see if anyone can identify with it".

SKIT

Scene: Pre-youth group meeting.

Characters: Youth director, Bob, Carrie and Zack, two volunteer youth workers.

Bob: “I really appreciate your offering to help me today. I have so much to do to get set up for this rally and fundraiser for our youth group.”

Carrie: “Glad to help. Now what can we do?”

Bob: “Let’s see, someone right now could put some names into the computer, and then one of you could plan out our snacks and lunch menu.”

Zack: “Naturally, since I am a great cook, I’ll work on the food items.”

Carrie: “I guess that leaves me to input data. I do it all the time at work. Glad to help.”

Bob, who is not listening: “Uh, yeah, Carrie, you work on the food, and Zack, the computer and the list of kids are over there.”

Zack confused: “Bob, you’re really not listening...”

Bob was reading a memo on his desk: “Thanks for helping. Why don’t you get started on those tasks, okay? I have a meeting and I’ll be back in a little while. Thanks for all of your help.”

Hours pass. Bob returns after his meeting. His office is empty.

Note from Zack: “Sorry, but I couldn’t figure out how to turn on the computer. Let me know what else I can do for you some time.”

Note from Carrie: “I am stumped in planning meals. Maybe someone else could help you with this. You don’t seem to need my skills here, so good luck. I’m sure you’ll find someone to help with the meal planning.”

***skit ends

ENDING THE WORKSHOP

“As you leave today, please pick up the handouts by the door. May God richly bless your ministries,” Bud concluded. ●

ON BEING A LEADER

1. Pray and seek God’s face in your ministry
2. Listen and Obey God when He speaks.
3. “Be strong and of good courage for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Remember this, and be strong in your faith, even when things are not going as planned.
4. Persevere and cling to God’s original purpose.
5. Remember to thank Him for this path, rejoice in all of it.
6. Always thank all participants for their help.
7. Expect God’s will to be perfect and to achieve all that He says it will.

HAND OUTS ON DELEGATION

1. A good leader understands what he/she needs in order to fulfill the mission
2. Seek to understand your volunteers or workers at many levels. Recognize gifts and weaknesses.
3. Utilize talents and avoid weaknesses.

FINAL OUTCOME FOR YOU

1. Your faith will be strengthened in your God-given mission.
2. You will have peace even when disappointments come your way.
3. You will be able to persevere during confusing and discouraging times.
4. You will be refined as a youth minister.
5. You will gain skill in managing people.
6. You will gain confidence in the Power of God as He works all out for His good purpose.

MY COMMITMENT TO THE CHURCH

Baptism, Communion, Evangelism

Contributor: Kimberley Tagert-Paul

LEADERS NOTES:

This study is intended to review the baptism vows and the young people's commitment to the church and to God. It can be used for those that haven't yet chosen baptism. It is meant to help them understand how being a citizen here is like being a citizen in heaven. We have commitments that we need to fulfill.

Ice Breaker: Ticket Your Laughter

No matter where you live in the world, there are laws that your government has made that you must obey or you will get a ticket, or worse. When most are enacted, it is for a clear purpose: to keep the citizen's safe. But looking back through the archives, we have to wonder what our forefathers were thinking!

Did you know that it is illegal in Palm Springs, California to walk a camel down the main street between 4 and 6 p.m. No camel walking during rush hour. Now, that's a problem. Speaking of animals, next time you drive in Arcadia, California, watch out for peacocks. They have the right away on public streets. So if you see one, you have to yield to it. Somebody in California must really like animals!

Want to visit a Bed and Breakfast? You can in Derby, Kansas if you screech your tires. And the price is right. You can get up to 30 days free at the Bad Boy's B&B (the local jail). And while we are on cars, be careful if you are in Oregon. Shut your car door as quickly as possible because otherwise you might just get a ticket for keeping it open too long! Makes you wonder what prompted this one!

If you live in Denmark, watch how you order that all important glass of water. A law there allows the restaurant to charge you only if they put ice and lemon in your glass. How do you tip for that? And watch how you drive around horses, there. If the car you are driving comes upon a horse-drawn carriage and the horse becomes agitated, you must pull over and cover the car so the horse can not see you. Now there's some horse sense!

Ever have the urge to do something funny? Like pay your bill in pennies? Well, forget it if you live in Canada. Any debt over 25 cents cannot be paid in pennies. The beauty is in the details in Toronto where it is against the law to ride a streetcar on Sunday if you've been eating garlic! Yep, you read that right. If you've been around someone eating raw garlic you'll probably agree. It may be healthy for them but not so much for you!

Dig-In

All kidding aside most laws are made with a benefit in mind. And God's laws are no exception. His laws are made with us in mind—our safety, our happiness, our completeness. But sometimes desiring them in a sinful world is about as easy as yielding to peacocks. Possible, but not probable.

Why is it so hard to do what God asks? On the day of our baptism into God's family, we stand before a congregation and agree that the 28 fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist church are something that we have read, studied, and agree to—both in our minds and our hearts. How long is it before that vow has less meaning to us? How long before the world's allure pulls us subtly, or not so subtly, from keeping those vows?

Hot Potato: Broken Vows

Making a commitment to God on the day of your baptism is much like making a wedding vow. To God, that vow is sacred. You have become part of His covenant and inherited the promise of that covenant and it's a promise that He keeps forever. Only His commitment doesn't end with "till death do us part." His promises last way beyond what the grave can do. His promise is eternal life and He wants to give you that gift. Oh, how He longs to give

you that gift. So why the broken promises on our end?

This world is full of sin. So often we make promises rashly. Then we let this thing called life pull us away without giving it a second thought. But shouldn't we give it a second thought? Maybe laws like this one in Michigan have become archaic: it is illegal to hitch a crocodile to a fire hydrant. But the vows that you took at baptism are not only worth honoring, but they were taken straight from God's Word. They will never become archaic because God is not archaic and His law's and His word will be valid throughout eternity.

Hot Potato Question

Have you already made the decision and have been baptized into God's family? If you haven't, what is keeping you from making this all important decision? Were you baptized because it was something you desired, or did you feel pressured into doing it? Did you understand all the fundamental beliefs? Which ones are the hardest to understand and perhaps implement in your life? Do you think you should honor the vows that you have made? Do you think God understands that it may be hard to keep our commitment in a world full of sin? Do you think He forgives us when we make mistakes?

Do you think we should do our best to honor God and not just rely on His forgiveness? What can making a habit of relying on forgiveness do to our commitment to God? Should we make an effort to change our ways? Do you believe God's laws of love are valid and worth putting into practice in your life?

Apply It/ Bible Text Discovery

Psalms 85:10

What do you think it means that "righteousness and peace kiss each other?" Where can you find the best example of love and faithfulness meeting? Is it at Calvary? Looking at Christ's sacrifice for us, is it easier for you to keep the choice you made when you took your baptismal vows? If you haven't been baptized, can understanding God's law as love and faithfulness help you to reach a decision about joining God's family?

Ephesians 4:14-16

Why should we continue to study after we have made our commitment to the church? Does studying bring growth? Can the devil try to trick us into not honoring our commitment if we don't continue to study from God's word? Why is it easy in this world of sin to get tossed about in respect to our faith?

Ecclesiastes 5:1-5

Why doesn't God want us to make vows unless we intend to keep them? What do you think the Bible means by the "sacrifice of fools?" Do you think it means a literal sacrifice? Does this remind you of the story of the publican and the pharisee? (See Luke 18:9-14) Which one in that story offered the "sacrifice of fools?" Why do you think God would rather us wait until we mean our vows before we say them? Is making them part of building a relationship with God? Should we wait until we are perfect to begin that relationship and be baptized? Why or why not? Is it possible to keep all your vows to the church? Is it probable? Does God understand?

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Why do you think participating in communion is like a miniature baptism? How is this an obligation to God and to the church? Does communion, especially with the foot washing service, put us all on level ground? Is this what God wants for us to help build unity in the church? Can obeying your commitment to the church make you a servant? Is that a good thing or a bad thing? Why do you feel this way? Why do you think Jesus instituted the last supper and asked that we follow it until He comes?

1 Peter 3:15-16

What hope is this verse speaking of? Are you prepared to be able to explain to others the reason for your hope? Why or why not? What do you need to do to be ready? How is this an obligation to God and to your church? Is telling others a part of your commitment when you accept Jesus as your Savior? Do you want to share Jesus with others? What are some ways that you can do this—either together as a group—or as individuals? Are the baptismal vows important to you and do you want to do your best to honor them, God, and your church?

Extra Gem

Ellen White wrote about searching the scriptures to find God's truth. Read what she wrote . . . "Do you ask, What shall I do to be saved? You must lay your preconceived opinions, your hereditary and cultivated ideas, at the door of investigation. If you search the Scriptures to vindicate your own opinions, you will never reach the truth. Search in order to learn what the Lord says. If conviction comes as you search, if you see that your cherished opinions are not in harmony with the truth, do not misinterpret the truth in order to suit your own belief, but accept the light given. Open mind and heart that you may behold wondrous things out of God's word." {COL 112.3}

Sharing Time

1 Peter 3:15 isn't just a nice verse. It is a command. How can you prepare an answer to help you when others do ask about your faith? Write down some of the ways you can answer about your faith. What are some simple answers, and how would you answer more complicated questions? Don't be afraid if you don't know the answer, just say so and tell others you will look for the answer, and then do it. Knowing in your heart why you believe is important in making your faith your own.

This Week's Challenge

Review your baptismal vows this week. Or if you aren't yet baptized, look them over. Do you understand them? Are there some of the vows that you aren't quite sure about and need to review? Ask someone to help you so that you can understand them and make a renewed commitment to God and your church. ●

You can make more friends in two months by becoming interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get other people interested in you.

—Dale Carnegie

Whether you are discovering what Seventh-day Adventists believe for the first time or re-discovering it again as young adult Christian, *Hope Full* will:

1. Expose you to Christ as the source and center of every teaching of Scripture.
2. Engage you in a thoughtful, personal study of the Bible.
3. Invite you to think hard and feel strongly about the unique Adventist message.
4. Deepen your experience with the Savior and His calling in your life.

HOPE FULL

The Scope of Truth The Hope of Life **Young Adult Bible Studies on the 28 Fundamental Beliefs**

Contributor: Troy Fitzgerald, PhD

Editor's Note: This is the first of a seven yearlong series of Bible studies that explore our 28 Fundamental Beliefs as Seventh-day Adventist Christians. The entire series of studies will be ready for purchase Summer 2010 and will be available at your local ABC, Advent-Source or online at www.gcyouthministries.org.

This journey is designed to prompt you to think and flesh out the message of Scripture for yourself and to integrate the truth you discover to your life. The 28 fundamental beliefs are postured for you clearly and unashamed. As you study, by yourself or in a small group, know that your earnest seeking will be rewarded with new insight and a rich experience through the Holy Spirit's guidance.

Each topic/teaching has four parts: **Engage, Discover, Relate, and Express**. Because everyone favors a unique style of learning, the different components allow you to customize and emphasize what works best for you.

● **Engage**

An open-ended introduction to the doctrine with stories, value shaping activities, and a personal, thought provoking connection to the doctrine.

● Discover

The simple doctrinal statement, as embraced by the Adventist Church, with the verses that support that teaching listed for you to read or look up in your Bible. A brief focusing question prompts the seeker to practice studying the text carefully and personally.

● Relate

A look at how the storied life of Christ and others in Scripture flesh out each doctrine in a relevant way. This section offers a narrative connection to the doctrine as well as a few devotional points to think about.

● Express

A set of questions for personal or small group use that engages the student to not only experience the major tenets of a particular truth, but to find ways to express it to others and live it out in their daily life.

Because a study on the *28 Fundamental Beliefs* will be used around the world in a variety of settings, the following section offers various ways to use this resource. You can use *Hope Full* in a **small group** or for your **personal study**.

Hope Full attempts to urge young adults to experience a life of devotion to Christ as their Savior and the Head of His church. Young adults are not called to simply obey commandments, but rather, the Risen Christ. They are not compelled to mindlessly keep a day of the week but to become loyal to The Lord of the Sabbath. The long awaited hope of the second coming is not simply an awareness of last day events, but a deep desire for Christ to come and personally take His children home. May God bless you and bind you close to Him as you lead others to “love the Lord with all your heart, soul, and strength.”

LESSON ONE

The Holy Scriptures

Engage

He glued the leather cover of a Bible over a cheap romance novel. The original Bible had been ruined by water damage in a flood and only the cover was still in tact. While speaking to a gathering of young adults the young pastor opened the pseudo Bible and began to tear pages irreverently as he read, tossing the pages casually on the ground. The crowd gasped. Leaders stood up looking nervously for someone to remove the heretic. Just as they became agitated enough to leave, the young man cleared his throat holding up his hand for order, saying, “Please know that I would never mistreat a Bible. This book is a fake and not a real Bible at all.” The crowd looked only slightly relieved still wondering what the point of the unholy display. “Why did you react the way you did when I tore the pages?” he asked patiently.

“Because it is God’s Word” and “It is a holy book” came responses from the still suspicious youth.

“I agree,” the young pastor said confidently. “The Bible is God’s word and I believe it is, without question, holy.” The curious mob of youth listened carefully as he continued,

“But let me ask you, what is worse? Tearing the Bible out of disrespect or completely ignoring it knowing full well it is God’s message to you?”

One of the most important questions you will ever answer has to do with what the Bible means to you. Is it more to you than just an ordinary book? Is it holy? Think about it.

Discover

The Holy Scriptures make many explicit claims about its own power and purpose in revealing who God is to people. Read the statement below and read the core passages of scripture that describes the nature and purpose of the Holy Scriptures.

I. Holy Scriptures

“The Holy Scriptures, Old and New Testaments, are the written Word of God, given by divine inspiration through holy men of God who spoke and wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. In this Word, God has committed to man the knowledge necessary for salvation. The Holy Scriptures are the infallible revelation of His will. They are the standard of character, the test of experience, the authoritative revealer of doctrines, and the trustworthy record of God’s acts in history.”

Read the passages of the Bible that speak directly about what the Bible is, how it came about, and what is its purpose in our lives. Make a list of the bold claims the Bible makes about itself in seven words or less for each passage (The Bible...).

2 Peter 1:20-21

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Psalms 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Proverbs 30:5-6

“Every word of God is flawless; He is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Do not add to his words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar.

Isaiah 8:20

To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn.

John 17:17

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

1 Thessalonians 2:13

And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Relate

In Hebrews 1:1 the Bible says, “In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways...” Why would God speak to us? What is this urgent desire to communicate with humanity? How did God choose to convey His message to people? Prophets like Moses, Isaiah, Daniel, and Jeremiah wrote the message God gave them to say to people. But words were not enough! The writer of Hebrews continues saying, “but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son...” (Hebrews 1:2) John echoes the same truth saying, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth,” (John 1:1,14).

The Holy Scriptures are not simply sacred writings scribbled on a page but a revelation of God to people in the Person of Christ. While knowing what the Bible says is important, but knowing its purpose is primary. Jesus said to those who knew the Bible by memory, from cover to cover, “You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.” (John 5:39,40)

While some responded, others throughout history are so steeped in their sin they have a deep disregard for God’s message to people. Take a look at the story of the king in (Jeremiah 36) who had the Scriptures publicly read to him and then immediately burned each scroll. Read the parable Jesus told about how we should relate to His word in our lives in Matthew 7:24-27. Maybe you are more persuaded by supernatural events than the simple message in Scripture. Read the parable Jesus told about the rich man in Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31 and note the preeminence of God’s word over the sensational. James 1:22-25 urges us to “do what it says,” while Romans 15:4 punctuates the purpose of the Bible saying: “For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” More could have been written says John but what we have is enough to “believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name,” (John 20:30,31).

Express

What are some of your greatest discoveries you have found in God’s Word? What have you read that is worth sharing?

What parts of this study/story really spoke to you personally? Why?

Who do you know that really loves and lives by God’s word? How do you see their lives changed by their devotion to the Bible?

If you had to choose one story from the Bible that conveys the most compelling picture of God, which story would you tell? Why?

In Romans 15:4 Paul states that the Bible is meant to give us hope. When in your life has the Bible been a particular source of hope for you?

What specific text or story from the Bible about the Bible will you take to heart this week and live out in your daily life? ●

Extra Quotes

“Believers are not to rest in suppositions and ill-defined ideas of what constitutes truth. Their faith must be firmly founded upon the Word of God.” —*Ellen G. White*

Spouting scripture has no magic to dispel the devil. Scripture has phenomenal power but unless you submit your mind to its inerrant truth, its power is largely lost to you. —*Martha Kilpatrick*

The Word of God is a Person. When you read it, do you see words or do you see Him? —*Jacquelyn K. Heasley*

“The Holy Scriptures are our letters from home.”
—*Augustine of Hippo*

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reach
connect
reclaim
TRAIN
involve
RETAIN *and*
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