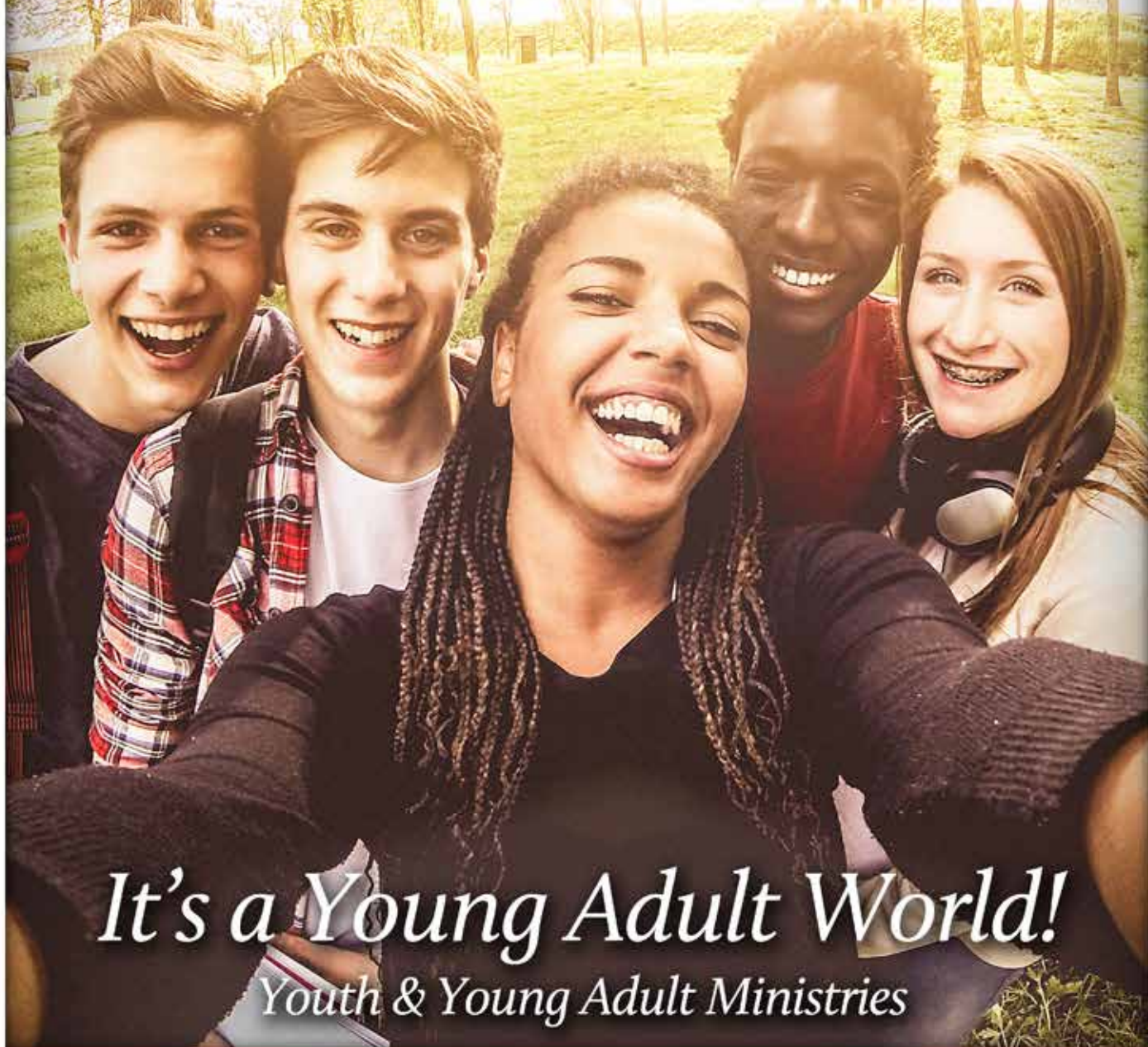


SOUTHWESTERN UNION

Record

MARCH 2015



It's a Young Adult World!

Youth & Young Adult Ministries

HELPING THE NEXT GENERATION INHERIT THE CHURCH



In this Issue...

DEPARTMENTS

To Your Health 4
 Pass It On 6
 MyFaith 8
 Visión Hispana 9

FEATURES

Youth and Young Adult Ministries in the Southwestern Union 10
 Get Involved, Stay Involved 12
 How You Can Get Involved in Youth and Young Adult Ministries 14

NEWS

Arkansas-Louisiana 16
 Oklahoma 19
 Southwest Region 22
 Texas 25
 Texico 28
 Southwestern Adventist University... 31
 Southwestern Union 32
 North American Division 33

ETCETERA

Classified Ads 35
 Announcements 37
 Obituaries 38
 On the Record 39

Youth and Young Adult Ministries in the Southwestern Union

8

Navigating the social media jungles without losing your sanity

4

Striking a Healthy Balance in the Social Media World

Get Involved, Stay Involved

Find resources, events, and more...

12

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On the Cover

It's a young adult world! Youth and young adults are quickly reaching the point of leadership, and with so many new trends and innovations in technology, social networking, and mass media, it's easy to get lost in it all. With this in mind, it is important to empower and equip young adults for a life with Christ and the journey that awaits them. The NAD, along with several Seventh-day Adventist churches, have done a great job at developing multiple resources for Youth and Young Adult Ministries, and we share them in this issue of *The Record*. With so many action-packed activities and events coming up, there are many ways to get involved. Flip through to see just how many ways you can get involved in this vital ministry.



Point of View»

BY LARRY MOORE » SOUTHWESTERN UNION CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



Lessons We've Learned

In the fall of 2013 the Seventh-day Adventist Church commissioned the Barna Group to do a nationwide study on young adults. The survey examined their church engagement during childhood, their current faith engagement, and their perceived barriers to church engagement. The findings reveal poignant insights that I believe can help us as we seek to more fully engage young adults in the life of the church.

I won't attempt to summarize the entire 60-page report, but I'd like to highlight some key themes that surfaced from this research. One concept is that "Intergenerational relationships are a big deal to both engaged and unengaged young adults—and not just in a good way." The report noted with regard to intergenerational relationships that "for every positive interaction there seems to be a negative one, as well." In some instances, though not in every case, young adults felt judged or rejected because of their ideas or behaviors, and they were reluctant to attend or had stopped attending church because of this. Others simply felt excluded socially, as evidenced in this young adult's response: "If you

aren't a child, or don't have a child, the church doesn't know what to do with you."

There was good news, though. Not every young adult feels isolated or rejected, and indeed some churches are creating an environment where young adults feel accepted. Listen to what a couple of them said: "I love my home church. Our older members are very supportive of our youth." Another young adult shared her experience after being invited to attend a different church: "I went, though I was quiet and uncertain there was acceptance. This new church . . . accepted me and allowed me the time and space to heal. I finally felt I could be me and that I was not being judged."

I hope that's the experience of the young adults at *your* church. It is my prayer that every Adventist congregation will be a place where young adults are loved, accepted, and fully engaged in the work and ministry of the church. You and I can help make that happen.



Leading up to San Antonio

January–March	Evangelism Refresh Bootcamps in San Antonio
Already ongoing	San Antonio canvassing initiative (June 2014–August 2015)
March 6–21	San Antonio Homeland Mission Project
March 14–15	Depression Recovery training by Paula Reiter
Mar. 21–29	School of Evangelism during Jose Rojas meetings
March 22	Diabetes Undone training by Dr. Randy Bivens
March 28	Pathfinder Rally, will include training and passing out 50-60 thousand flyers for Your Best Pathway to Health
April 8–10	San Antonio Medical Mission "Your Best Pathway to Health" at the Alamodome
April 11–12	ASI Rally with Mark Finley and Ted Wilson
April 11–15	Training for Natural Lifestyle Cooking School by Teenie Finley Follow up with Bible workers and small group leaders By Mark Finley
April–May	Local churches to hold seminars, cooking schools, etc., as follow up to "Your Best Pathway to Health"
May 7–12	Follow up with all lay workers including lay Bible instructors, small group leaders, health ministry workers, etc.
May–June	Evangelism Reaping Events: Carlton Byrd, May 15–20; Mark Finley, June 6–27; Alejandro Bullón, June 20–27



To Your Health

BY GREG HOWELL

Striking a Healthy Balance in the Social Media World

My fingers hovered over the glowing touchscreen, and I was just itching to pull the trigger on a nasty little one-liner that had been brewing in my mind all day. Having followed the argument most of the morning, at first I had enough presence of mind to keep my comments to myself. The back and forth seemed to be focused between three individuals who very clearly were unwilling to back away from the confrontation. Every post was replied to within seconds, and even though I had started following out of sheer amusement and curiosity, now the steady stream of replies had started beckoning me to jump into the fray.

But this is not what my day needed. I had business to attend to, real colleagues to contact, and an agenda to work on. I truly didn't have *time* for this! But there I was. Having just spent several minutes composing the perfect retort, I was now prepared to heave my little digital grenade into the foxhole.

If you haven't succumbed to the same temptation, or at least followed along with a conversation on social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, or Pinterest, you may not be able to relate to what I'm describing. The genius of social media is that it is designed to keep us engaged and then rewards us for over-engaging in a digital form of sociality. The constant barrage of tweets, friendship requests, notifications, and photo-tagging creates an irresistible pull that keeps inviting us back in to see what's going on.

In fact, the attraction to checking Facebook updates and messages is more of a chemical reaction than simply unbridled curiosity. The chemical that is responsible for our constant urge to check social media and texts is the neuro-chemical dopamine. According to behavioral psychologist Susan Weinschenk, PhD, "Dopamine causes you to want, desire, seek out, and search. It increases your general level of arousal and your goal-directed behavior...[It] makes you curious about ideas and fuels your searching for information."

So if the chemicals in our brains are pushing us forward here, is there no hope of ever finding a healthy balance between our real and digital lives? The good news is yes, there is hope, but like everything worthwhile it takes a little effort and some knowhow. Here are some easy tips for striking a healthy balance in the world of social media.

1. Avoid negativity—your own and other people's. There's nothing that can mess with your day faster than getting hung up on other people's hostile rhetoric. An unfortunate side effect of being able to instantly say what you're thinking without the self-regulating effects of having real people around is that a ton of nasty things get said. Don't participate, and don't let others' negativity crowd your mental space.

2. Don't spend time online while on your employer's clock. Studies confirm what you've probably already noticed: the vast majority of people check social media at work. Employees often ignore company policy, but the policies exist for good reason: if you're constantly distracted with checking social media you aren't fully focused on the tasks at hand.

3. Turn off the updates. At least sometimes. All electronics have an off button, and the notifications for social media apps can be turned off. For the sake of your face-to-face relationships learn how to turn off the beeps and buzzes. Nothing makes a person feel undervalued faster than being ignored during a conversation.

4. Be careful what you post, the Internet never forgets. The best way to avoid having an embarrassing post on social media is to never put up anything that you wouldn't want your grandmother to see. Frankly, your grandmother is probably the least of your concerns. People get fired, kicked out of school, and in some cases sent to jail because of the poor decisions they've made when posting things online. Keep it clean, and don't post emotionally.

5. Take the time to learn about your privacy settings. Social media sites are notorious for constantly changing their privacy controls. It's important to keep up with the changes so that you are the one determining who can see your information. If you don't want your family vacation photos to be seen by everyone on the Internet, you can give yourself peace of mind by regularly checking those ever-changing privacy filters. Just dive in, and ask questions if you get confused.

THE KEY TO SOCIAL MEDIA HAPPINESS

Striking the balance of healthy social media usage and real life relationships is a matter of knowledge and choice. For some people the dopamine-laden urge to check their devices has pushed them

further and further into a split personality, making them less interested in truly engaging in the real life that is happening around them.

If you feel your relationship with social media is getting a little unhealthy, remember that having a healthy online experience is like any other healthy habit: it requires a desire to change followed by a consistent attempt to make the change. In that way, it's no different than getting yourself in the habit of drinking more water, or starting a regular exercise program. A runner is someone who gets up in the morning and runs, whether they want to or not. If you want to live online in a healthy way, you have to just start doing it (and the suggestions in this article are a good starting point).

There is one more element to living healthfully in the world of social media. You have to cultivate a positive attitude in your regular life, as well. Proverbs 17:22 says, "A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones." We have to tend the garden of a positive attitude as if our health depends on it—because it does! This isn't to say that we refuse to let ourselves be upset, or avoid everything that bothers us. But dwelling and focus-

ing our attention on those things slowly erodes the happier habits we might have planted in their place.

Ultimately, I decided not to launch my negative comment into the caustic mishmash that was transpiring on my phone. It wasn't because I had somehow found the inner stamina to refrain, nor was it out of some sense of moralistic propriety. It actually was because the guy behind me started honking wildly, because I was missing the green light.

But that's a subject for a totally different article, I'm sure.

Greg Howell is working on creating his own social network from scratch with one wife, four kids (including twins), one puppy, and a cat. A pastor by profession, he spends his spare time pursuing photography, writing, and a graduate program. This article is reprinted with permission from the January/February 2015 issue of *Vibrant Life*.

"Weinschenk, Susan. "Why We're All Addicted to Texts, Twitter and Google." Psychology Today: Health, Help, Happiness Find a Therapist. Psychology Today, 11 Sept. 2012. Web. 13 Sept. 2014.





Pass it On...

A Monthly Focus on Evangelism in the Southwest

BY JESSICA LOZANO

Let's Start Something!

There are many types of ministries that reach our youth and young adults, and not all of them start within the church administration. Many of these ministries start when a young person sees a need and takes the initiative to meet that need. Jodie Bryce and Amy Regester are two young women who both saw a similar need in their respective communities and decided to do something about it. As you read their stories, think about needs in your own community and what skills or ideas you have that might address those needs.

MODEL ME MINISTRIES

Model Me Ministries began in the mind of Jodie Bryce, a young adult from Keene, Texas, who works as a licensed clinical social worker. Bryce took her ideas to the youth department at the Texas Conference, and was delighted when they were enthusiastic about helping sponsor the project. The ministry's mission is to point young women to the one true model, Jesus Christ, by mentoring, counseling, and strengthening families.

"I started Model Me because I knew that the young girls I worked with every day would benefit tremendously from being able to speak with and be mentored by older, college-age women. It was a lot of work to put together a program with a curriculum and to gather the mentors, but it has been worth it."

In the several years that the program has been available, she has seen the positive difference in many young girls' lives. For example, she says that many of the young girls that she has worked with don't realize the opportunities that are available to them. One young girl who was in the program for several years did not apply herself in school and showed little interest in college. That girl was able to grasp that her future was in her hands and now attends college.

Model Me Ministries helps junior high and high school age girls by motivating them to finish school while lifting their self-esteem with the goal of helping them to achieve their dreams and goals. The mentors are college females who have been thoughtfully chosen to ensure girls will have the best influence possible. Once a week, the girls meet with their mentors and discuss any negative and positive situations, problems or temptations they



Jodie Bryce founded Model Me Ministries, a mentoring ministry for young girls.



have faced at school, home, or elsewhere, and are given advice on how to handle the situation if it should occur again. The hope of this program is that after participating in this mentorship these girls will grow up to be respectful, motivated, and successful women.

Angelica Melendez, a former mentor, said, "Having the privilege to work with these girls was an experience I could never forget. Hearing about the situations and problems they faced, sometimes broke my heart, but seeing the overall progress and transformation of these young ladies was worth the tears. I had the chance to make a difference in those girls' lives and what they didn't know was that they were also making a difference in mine."

In addition to the mentoring program, Bryce and her team are available for church workshops.

Anyone interested in starting a chapter of Model Me or learning more about the process is welcome to contact Jodie at 817.680.0053 or at natalieb_002000@yahoo.com.

GREATER THAN RUBIES

Now based in Conway, Arkansas, Amie Regester says she spent her public high school years defending her faith and her vegetarianism in rural Arkansas. After getting a degree in corporate communication, she proceeded to get jobs in everything but communication, including modeling, sales, crisis hotlines, fitness, and economic development. She realized that her favorite jobs (Union College resident assistant, assistant girl's dean, and youth leadership coordinator) all had to do with helping young women figure out "life's tough stuff."

After attending Arise Australia in 2013, the idea to provide resources and experiences that empower young ladies (14-20) to live their most successful lives for Christ was hatched and Greater Than Rubies (GTR) was formed. GTR does this through live



Amie Regester is the founder of Greater Than Rubies, a ministry for young women who want to live their best lives. She provides online resources and is also available as a speaker.

training events and video-based online courses that focus on practical ways to develop each girl's character and talents to launch them into the life of adventure that God has planned for them.

According to Regester, "The idea for Greater Than Rubies came in pieces, but the big 'aha' came after returning from Arise Australia in Spring of 2013. The program awakened a desire to serve more on the 'front lines' of ministry and I thought that working with young ladies would be a natural fit. As I let some of my friends know about this interest, I was recruited to provide encouragement over the phone to their little sisters, friends and cousins who were going through a rough patch. These phone calls provided some deep insights into what our young ladies need guidance on, as the same questions about life-purpose, careers, and boys kept coming up." These conversations paved the way to Regester's Greater Than Rubies Web site, where she offers videos on her YouTube channel, a blog, a newsletter with free printables, and a quick-start guide to starting your own ministry. She also offers a paid, interactive online course called Rock Your Life. In addition to her work online, Regester is available for speaking engagements and conferences.

Regester's goal is to train at least 500 through the online program over the next three years, and in the long-term, to develop a traveling summer camp program, annual "mission-cations" (mission trips with fun stuff, too), and eventually a training center that teaches success strategies, leadership principles, and social skills.

If you are interested in sharing your wisdom and love with the young women in your circle of influence, don't hesitate. If you're interested in incorporating Greater Than Rubies materials into your currently existing program or using it to launch a girls club, please visit www.greaterthanrubies.org/startsomething.

One Year in Mission

WE SCANNED THE BUSY NEW YORK CITY STREETS FOR KEITH, a man my friend had seen only once a few weeks before when she and our other teammates had prayed with him, and whom I had never met. Now, the Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church in Harlem was holding a Week of Prayer, and we felt that Keith needed to be there. We had no way of contacting him and didn't even know his last name, so we did the only logical thing to do—we prayed.

After praying, we decided to walk up and down the streets to look for him and ask people if they knew him. We got plenty of strange looks, but continued our course. Suddenly, we started to meet people who surprisingly knew who Keith was and kept pointing us in the same general direction. Finally, we stopped at where we presumed he would be and bowed our heads once more.

“Dear God, I don't even know what he looks like and my friend doesn't really remember,” I prayed.

“He is your child. If it is your will, bring him to us for the Week of Prayer.”

As we opened our eyes, Keith was walking toward us!

This story was one of many personal stories experienced during my mission service time in New York. We were part of the first international task force for One Year in Mission, a group of 14 young adults from around the world living in New York City in 2013 for six months to learn how to do evangelism in our modern world. The task: learn how to do evangelism in six months, then return to your home countries and teach others to do likewise! It was a challenging commission, one that ultimately comes from Christ. Here are the “secrets” to evangelism that we learned:

- 1. PRAYER IS OUR FOUNDATION.** The first few weeks in New York City had me and three of my other teammates just talking to people in the streets and praying with them. It was through this experience that we got to learn about the community so that later we could build projects to meet their needs.
- 2. PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY IS A MUST.** “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against the principalities, against the rulers of the darkness of this world” (Ephesians 6:12-18).
- 3. WE MUST SHARE OUR FAITH.** “As we anchor ourselves in Christ and his love, we should always be ready to share our faith” (1 Peter 3:15).



We read in *The Ministry of Healing* about the way Jesus ministered to people. “Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior **mingled** with men as one who desired their good. He showed **sympathy** for them, **ministered** to their needs, and **won their confidence**. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me’” (p. 43, emphasis supplied).

It turns out that there really are no secrets to modern evangelism. It's all about following Christ! As Seventh-day Adventists, we have a unique message

for the world in these last days and by following Christ and His example, we are assured that all will be drawn unto Him.

So what is One Year in Mission? It's a movement of young adults following Christ wholeheartedly giving not just a year, but a year of service that becomes the catalyst for a lifetime of service! Young adults started the church and the work isn't going to finish without us!

Janina Irving loves mission service and has served all over the world, including in the U.S., Guatemala, India, Haiti, and Ukraine.





Con Dios las Dificultades Me Ayudan a estar Activa en Su Servicio

Conoce a Gisel Méndez, nacida en Nuevo Laredo, México, de veinte años de edad, con el sueño de estudiar medicina. Toda mi vida estude en escuelas públicas donde los adventistas éramos sólo dos o tres. Soy la primera de mi familia en estudiar más allá de la secundaria. Mientras esperaba el permiso para empezar mis estudios en la universidad, me incorpore al programa de colportaje de Southwestern Adventist University (SWAU) en Keene, Texas. Fui a Oklahoma a colportar como parte de mi plan para recaudar fondos para asistir a SWAU tan pronto recibiera mi permiso de estudiante. Después del primer día colportando, me enamore de el colportaje. Conocí amigos que me inspiraban a tener una relación más profunda con Dios. A sólo unas pocas semanas de que empezaran las clases llego mi documentación. Pensé, si los papeles hubieran llegado antes del viaje a Oklahoma no hubiera obtenido esa experiencia en el colportaje la cual cambio mi vida.

Me inscribí en SWAU donde mi vida espiritual aumento con la influencia positiva de otros a mi alrededor y tome la oportunidad de aprender de ellos. Seguí colportando por dos años más, e invite a a otros a hacer lo mismo. Con el apoyo de Dios estude tres semestres en SWAU y durante este tiempo pude, con mucho apoyo, iniciar un grupo pequeño llamado "First Light" (Primera Luz), a donde han llegado estudiantes, de los cuales gracias a Dios tres ya se han bautizado. Comenzábamos el día cantando, orando y buscando la dirección del Señor por medio del estudio Bíblico y después salíamos a correr alrededor de las instalaciones de la universidad para recibir aire puro. Los sábados asistíamos a diferentes iglesias ayudando en la escuela sabática,

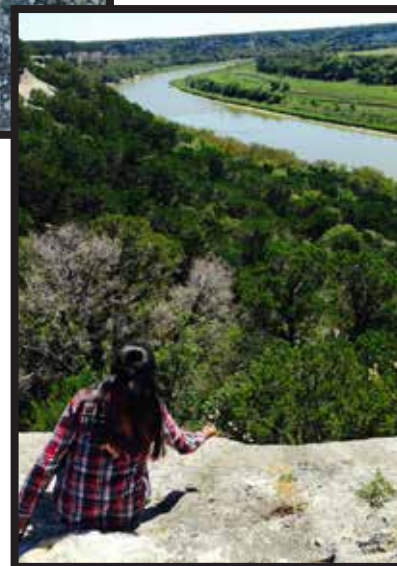
sociedad de jóvenes, con estudios bíblicos y en la obra misionera. Algunas veces salíamos un grupo de jóvenes a pasar tiempo en la naturaleza.

Deseo servir a Dios y a llevar a otros a Sus brazos llenos de amor, en 1 Pedro 3:1-2 leemos, "... también los que no creen la palabra, sean ganados sin palabra por la conducta... considerando vuestra conducta casta y respetuosa." Tristemente no pude regresar este semestre, por falta de fondos, a SWAU. Estoy legalmente en Estados Unidos, y califico para algunas becas, pero el gobierno no me ayuda, por que no soy residente, mi mama apoya con lo que puede, pero aun no es suficiente. Trabajo como tutora y colporto. Gracias a Dios, con este trabajo estoy ahorrando para pagar lo que debo en SWAU y poder seguir estudiando. En el medio de estas dificultades le agradezco a Dios por enseñarme a valorar mis estudios, mi familia, amigos, e Iglesia. Estoy aprovechando que tengo tiempo libre para apoyar a mi Iglesia, distribuyendo despensas, visitando jóvenes que se han alejado de la iglesia y haciendo todo cuanto puedo para ayudar a otros. También he recibido una invitación para trabajar como obrera bíblica en una iglesia cercana. Mis ex compañeras dirigen First Light en SWAU y el ministerio sigue. Por lo pronto espero en la gracia y misericordia de mi Señor para poder regresar a la universidad y

continuar con mis estudios si es Su voluntad.

Si deseas comunicarte con Gisel, su correo electrónico es Vr_mendez@yahoo.com, teléfono (469) 583 5457, o escríbele a 2740 Cypress Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75227, permitamos que Dios dirija los corazones de quienes puedan ayudar a Gisel.

Por Gisel Méndez y Rocío A. López



YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES IN THE SOUTHWESTERN UNION

As we look at ways to increase the awareness and reach of Christ's love and His offer of salvation throughout the Southwestern Union, we realize there are people who are falling through the cracks. People who slip out of church one Sabbath and never come back. Who are they? And why have they left the church?



Helvis C. Moody was curious. As a pastor and youth director for the Southwest Region Conference, he wondered how many of the young people that he'd gone to church with as a youth were still in the church. As he started asking around, he was startled to learn that there was just one—himself. How could this be?

Moody served as pastor for approximately 14 years for the Southwest Region Conference before becoming its youth director in 2012. Last October, he joined the Southwestern Union as its youth and young adult director. In this position, Moody has plans to utilize information gathered from the five conferences within the Southwestern Union to understand the needs of the youth and young adults, and how to help fulfill those needs in ways that are relevant and authentic.

“We are working to create and support ministries that appeal to the young adults—not in superficial ways—but in ways that get to the heart of the matter. Our young people want real, authentic relationships with Christ. We want to help them have that relationship.”

To accomplish these goals, Moody says the conferences and union will work with youth and young adults to foster leadership and mentorship programs. According to recent groundbreaking research by the Barna Group, young people in the Adventist Church will be most positively affected by relevant and authentic interaction with the church, along intergenerational

mentorship. This study confirms to the older generation what most of the millennial generation already knows—that youth and young adults don't just want to be entertained. They want to be a part of something bigger! They want to lead the change!

A link to this report as well as other valuable resources is available at SouthwesternUnion.org/youth.

Moody encourages young people to get involved with their local youth and young adult programs—and if there isn't one, to start one! The union and the conferences are ready and willing to support the needs of the young adults. If you don't know where to start, the following pages are dedicated to serving as a resource of current and upcoming events, ideas, and resources. Contact your conference youth and young adult leaders for the very latest about what is available in your area.



Local Conference Youth and Young Adult Ministries Directors



Jeff Villegas
Arkansas-Louisiana



Apple Park
Oklahoma



Tyrone Douglas
Southwest Region



Gary Blanchard
Texas



Armando Miranda
Texas



Fernando Villegas
Texico



Mike Razon
Texico

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Texico

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Mike Razon
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GET INVOLVED, STAY INVOLVED

One of the best ways to stay connected is to become involved with your local church's youth and young adult ministries as a team member or as a participant. If you can't find a ministry to get involved with, maybe it's time to start one in your own church. Pray, and talk to your pastor and church leaders about your desire to be involved.

Every Sabbath

Depending on your location, there are various outreach activities and fellowship opportunities available to you. Check out the events listed on the Southwestern Union Conference Youth and Young Adult's Facebook page, and while you're there, submit your own event to let others know what's happening near them.

Are you near an Adventist academy, or near Southwestern Adventist University? Outreach is promoted as an excellent mission and service opportunity, where students and community members can share the good news of Jesus, while fellowshiping

with classmates. At Southwestern, a different outreach activity is planned each week. Similar programs are happening at our Adventist academies. These programs have young people going door-to-door praying for people, feeding and donating clothes to the homeless, visiting the sick, and singing for the elderly in nursing homes.

Want to experience a more youth-centered Sabbath worship service? Younger Generation Church is a service of the Arlington, Texas, church, and reaches youth and young adults through meaningful worship services that are available to anyone with an Internet connection. Join YG church online on Sabbath mornings at ygchurch.org, then head over to YG University to learn about how you can start a YG church in your own location. If you're able to visit YG church in person, join them in their outreach activities, such as assisting the North Texas Food Bank to pack lunches for school children in need, or supplying the homeless in downtown areas with food, water, and friendship.



Annual and Special Events

Gathering together yearly as a united church is a blessing and privilege. These events bolster our faith and create strong bonds among believers. Such gatherings have the opportunity to cement a young person's faith in Christ. The following are just a selection of the events and opportunities that are available.

Generation. Youth. Christ. (GYC)

Every year, the NAD hosts GYC, a youth-initiated and youth-led movement that brings together young Adventists from diverse backgrounds who are united in a common commitment to serious Bible study, intense prayer, uncompromising lifestyle, and boldness in sharing Christ with others. At each GYC session, there are conferences, which serve as a venue to be inspired by speakers and receive valuable trainings. Massive evangelistic endeavors are then led by youth in the host city of the event. GYC is also an opportunity to network with others from a variety of backgrounds, ethnicities, and geographic locations. GYC is an occasion to be inspired by other young people sharing testimonies of what God is doing in their lives, a moment to experience a sense of God's call for your own life, and a time to start or renew your commitment to live daily for Him.

On The Calendar

2015 is a special year for the Adventist Church and for the Southwestern Union, as the 60th General Conference Session will be held in San Antonio July 2-11. In preparation, the Southwestern Union and its conferences are offering many opportunities for evangelism and involvement.

Global Youth Day (GYD): March 21, 2015



An inspiring, new initiative of the General Conference's Youth Ministries Department, GYD is dedicated to youth and young adults spending time as the hands and the feet of Jesus in serving others. The main objectives are: to help us recapture the reality of the Seventh-day Adventist youth as a global movement, to lead our youth to rediscover the sense of belonging to a global army, and to reaffirm mission at the heart of Global Youth Ministry.

Visit gcyouthministries.org for more information.

SWUC Pathfinder Bible Experience: March 28, 2015

The Pathfinder Bible Experience is an opportunity for youth to enhance their Biblical knowledge and grow in Christ through a competition. Pathfinders are already studying, memorizing and preparing.



Staff are busy writing questions and entire churches are getting involved in preparation for the Pathfinder Bible Experience testing program for the 2014-2015 Pathfinder Year!

Visit <http://www.pathfindersonline.org/> to register.

San Antonio Mission Trip – Your Best Pathway to Health: April 8-11, 2015



There are volunteer opportunities for youth at the Your Best Pathway to Health event in San Antonio, this Spring. Volunteers are needed for audio/visual, registration tables, greeting, and promotions.

Visit <http://www.pathwaytohealthvolunteer.org/> for more information.

Tour de Youth: June 28-31, 2015

Tour de Youth is a health initiative and cycling event, developed by the Southwest Region Conference, serving to promote healthy living among youth and young adults. The cycling team's goal is to raise awareness about the evident obesity problem in the Southwest and motivate change, by cycling from Dallas to San Antonio. The ride will consist 325 miles from the Southwest Region Conference office in Dallas Texas, to the 60th General Conference Session in San Antonio.



Visit <http://mysouthwestregion.org/tourdeyouth2015> to register.

IMPACT San Antonio (iSA): July 2-11, 2015

Impact San Antonio (iSA) is a window of opportunity for the global Seventh-day Adventist young adult community (18+) to bring hope to the city. Organized in conjunction with the General Conference Session, iSA is an initiative of the GC youth department, hosted by the NAD youth department.



Young Adult Summer Camp Retreat: July 27-30, 2015, Camp Yorktown Bay

This young adult retreat is for those who feel that they are “too old to go to summer camp” but really need a break from life and work, where they can relax, unwind, and spiritually recharge. This retreat will focus on encouraging young adults spiritually, emotionally and mentally, while also discussing how to be effective in ministry; including in campus ministries, whether in Adventist campuses or public campuses.



HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED IN YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

As Seventh-day Adventists with a world community of believers, leaders, and contributors, we have bountiful resources available to us to further the mission of the church. The following are resources and opportunities that will equip youth for a lifestyle of honor and service to Christ and assist leaders of youth and young adult ministries. Find links to all of these resources at our Web site, SouthwesternAdventist.org/Youth.

Youth (Middle School through High School)

Summer Camp: Summer camp is a great opportunity for youth to experience fun and adventure that glorifies God. Through the examples of their counselors, activity instructors, and directors, youth have the opportunity to be positively influenced in a very real way. Because camp is mostly organized for youth by youth, it is often considered a very safe place for young people to grow, learn, and develop spiritually. Camp is also a great opportunity for young adults to minister to children and youth of various ages.

Transitions: Transitions is a resource to help high school seniors transition into college. It is part of the Adventist Youth Transition Network and is a 30-minute presentation with a booklet designed to help them take personal responsibility for their own faith and to connect them with supportive ministries on their campus.

Evangelism

SENT (School of Evangelism in North Texas): SENT is a school for youth and young adults who are hearing God's call to work the harvest in the last days. This year, SENT will be held in San Antonio, Texas at Scenic Hills Seventh-day Adventist Church, where a series of evangelism trainings will take place.

Literature Evangelism: Literature Evangelism exists to build connections within local communities to share the Word of God with ev-

eryone. Young adults have the opportunity to canvass in several parts of the country, sharing the good news of Christ to others. This also serves as a scholarship program for college students.

ARISE: Lightbearers' ARISE programs center on the Great Center: Jesus Christ. The programs are designed for anyone who wants to be better equipped for everyday ministry. The highest quality instruction, vigorous personal study, and hands-on practical ministry characterize these training programs.

OYiM (One Year in Mission): One Year in Mission is a mission opportunity for young adults, which focuses on evangelism in the biggest city in America, New York City.

Campus Ministries

Adventist Christian Fellowship (ACF): Adventist Christian Fellowship is the official organization of Adventist ministry on public university campuses in the North American Division. ACF represents approximately 150 campus ministry groups across the United States, Canada, Bermuda, and Guam-Micronesia. ACF is also a fellowship of Adventist students living and sharing their faith on college and university campuses. ACF helps students grow in their faith and stay connected to the mission of their church during the college years of their life.





Campus Catalyst: Campus Catalyst is a stand alone or series of interactive weekend events designed to help launch new college ministries, for growth and to share faith on a public campus. Experienced trainers and detailed resources are brought to students wanting to start a chapter at their university.

AFC Mission Year: Through ACF Mission Year you can spend an academic year of your college life practicing and sharing your faith on a non-Adventist college or university campus. You will learn how to live your faith in the real world of today's secular university by taking a few classes, making friends with fellow university students, participating in dorm bible studies, retreats, and on campus outreach. You can also help launch or strengthen Adventist student groups on campus and connect students to local church communities.

Southwestern Adventist University Spiritual Life and Development: The mission of the Office for Spiritual Life and Development is to develop responsible Christian leaders to serve on campus and in the world. Their vision is to actively involve the Southwestern Adventist University family in the mission and ministry of the gospel.

Developing Youth and Young Adult Ministries in the Church

YG University: YG University [YGU] is YG Church's endeavor to be a life-long learning community of disciples, seeking to deepen the Christ-centered devotion of next generations, beyond the contours of Arlington Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Young Adult Life: Young Adult Life is the official young adult ministry movement of the North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. With several internal ministries, Young Adult Life is a full-throttle force across the North American Division sharing the hope and love of Jesus with the largest young

adult generation in the history of the world. Programs within the movement include:

Overflow: Formed by Benjamin Lundquist, young adult ministries director for Arizona Conference, Overflow is a proven mentorship/discipleship model for young adults. Any church, university campus, for summer camp can apply this ministry model to help young adults grow in their relationship with Jesus and expand their influence as leaders for His cause.

Mission Lifeguard: Mission Lifeguard is a resource relaunched by the North American Division Youth and Young Adult Ministries Leadership to save lives. It's about church people connecting with young people who are drowning or missing. It's about connecting young people with Jesus the "abundant life-giver."

The Locals: This local church initiative was created to provide a local church with the opportunity to apply for funds to invest in their young adult ministry. The grant was created to invest in what's working, innovative, and reclaiming young adults. This grant also provides the opportunity for other churches who may not have an active young adult ministry, or may be in need of help, to see what others are doing across the division. We want to encourage young adults in the church to push the limits and do something big for God that reaches the core of young adult ministry.

Youth-focused Church Services in Your Region

Churches across the Union provide youth-focused and youth-led services every Sabbath. To see what's available in your area, visit SouthwesternAdventist.org/Youth.

A Powerful Force For The Church



ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE

They are a potentially powerful force for the church. They are talented, confident, and eager to participate in something that they are convinced will make a positive difference in the end. They are not looking for “busy work,” nor are they interested in doing something for the church that they feel holds no relevance. They love God and are seeking to know Him better. They believe that faith grows through prayer, family, Bible study, having a relationship with Jesus, and a number of other things of which the top ten does not include church—because the church holds no meaning for them. Who are they? They are young adults. They are what sociologists call “millennials.” They are young adults that were born between 1980 and 2000.

They are a generation that has global access through technology. They are

“plugged-in” and always on. They have a hyper-linked life that is overwhelmed by data overload and media consumption like no other generation before them. This generation of young adults has also experienced terrorism like no other before them. They have grown up in repeat years of recession. Because of all this and other current events that are distinctively different from generations past, millennials look at life very differently than the generation groups that are older. Because of how they view life, they are largely misunderstood.

Because today’s young adults are not afraid to ask questions and challenge the status quo, because they are skeptical of leadership and institutions, and because they allow their peers to be their moral and spiritual compass, they are not just misunderstood, but often ignored or disregarded. Obviously none of this is conducive to bridging the generation gap.

They want meaning and relevance in their church which is largely filled with members of an average age of 55 and older who are satisfied and comfortable with things as they are. Because of this, a large majority of young adults stop coming to church.

Young adults want to have genuine relationships with fellow church members, which means we must listen to them, be willing to accept change, and allow them to grow in their walk with the Lord. They are not “the church of tomorrow”; they are “the church of today”! If we can’t embrace them today, we may not have that opportunity tomorrow. We need these young adults! They are a powerful force for the church that must be trusted, empowered, and engaged.

Steven Orian, president

Hot Springs Adventist School Presents The Nativity Story

HOT SPRINGS, ARK. » On December 13, 2014, Hot Springs Adventist School presented a full-scale theatrical production titled *The Nativity Story*. This original production, written by Aaron and Alisa Hall, told the beautiful story of the birth of Christ while incorporating modern arrangements of many Christmas carols.

Although they spent an enormous amount of time practicing and helping build their very own set, the students loved being involved in such a large production and were honored to be able to perform this play in front of a packed church audience.

Plans are already in the works to produce another play for Easter this year to celebrate the life of Christ. For more information or to order a DVD of *The Nativity Story* production, please visit www.hotspringsadventistschool.com.

Aaron Hall



Top left: Shepherds adore the baby. Top right: The Nativity. ▲ The cast and crew.

When Christ Passes By—Bonnerdale Camp Meeting

BONNERDALE, ARK. » The Bonnerdale church held its 6th annual Cowboy Camp Meeting on October 17-19, 2014, utilizing its new outdoor pavilion and bathroom complex. There was a lot of food and great singing. There were cowboys, horses, buckboards, and a little locomotive pulling a load of delighted children. Many local performers, along with the group Southern Sound, from Nashville, shared music with the congregation, and the preacher wore a black cowboy hat.

Bonnerdale's own pastor, Brandon Westgate, wore the black cowboy hat. His message was "What Happens When Jesus Pass-

wash and came back seeing. He had never seen anything but suddenly was able to see everything. Westgate also shared the story of Jesus traveling through the crowds to

He called the elders up and invited those who needed healing in their physical bodies, spiritual relationships, and broken personal relationships to come forward to be anointed. He pointed out that there was no healing power in the oil he used, but there was power in faith.

As he rubbed the oil on my forehead, I did feel the presence of God, and it was an unforgettable experience. I had had a particular request for a few weeks prior to this weekend. I had been



Top: Preaching to the camp meeting crowd.

Middle left: Small trains go slow.

Middle right: Wagon rides in the country.

► Nashville group Southern Sound shared their Southern Gospel music with the congregation.

es By," and he promised that Jesus would show up that weekend. Westgate told the congregation that when Jesus passes by, good things happen. He used three examples from the Bible where Christ showed up and good things happened. One story came from John 9, when Jesus healed the blind man. Jesus anointed the man's eyes with "spit-mud" and told him to go wash in the pool of Siloam. He went to the pool to

heal the Centurion's child when a woman reached out to touch His hem and was healed by just touching His garment. All three of these people believed in the divine power of Jesus, and by faith in that power, they were healed.

Westgate challenged the audience to have faith in the healing power of Jesus.

diagnosed with lymphatic cancer. They found the cancer from biopsies in my bowel and my bone marrow. A week after Cowboy Camp Meeting, I had a PET scan performed. With this test, cancer cells are supposed to "light up" as opposed to normal cells. No cells lit up!

I don't know what lies ahead in my life, but I am very grateful for the opportunity to be anointed. I do feel that Jesus passed by in Bonnerdale on Sabbath, October 18, 2014, and as always, when Jesus passes by, people are healed and lives are forever changed!

Pat Ewing

Arkansas-Louisiana Pathfinders Join the World at Oshkosh Pathfinder Camporee

OSHKOSH, WISC. » On August 11, 2014 more than 45,000 Pathfinders descended on Oshkosh for the Forever Faithful International Pathfinder Camporee. From the start the energy level was high with expectation. The Pathfinders were excited to meet other Pathfinders from around the world. Pathfinders came from across the United States, as well as from Africa, Hong Kong, Australia, Philippines, and other far-away countries.

The Arkansas-Louisiana Conference had around 425 Pathfinders in attendance. The excitement of setting up camp and beginning to trade pins was the focus for many on the first day. For others it was exploring all the different events on the grounds, in the hangers, and experiencing the long walk between the camp and the event area. Many signed up for various honors they could earn in the hangers or different locations on the campground. Other activities included outreach projects, water sports, and even visiting the Experimental Aircraft Museum where there were all types of large and small airplanes on display.

“Remember the Sabbath” and the “Loui-

siana Purchase” were two very popular honors our conference sponsored. The “Remember the Sabbath” honor taught the participants about the Sabbath persecution within the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference in the early years of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Others led participants in

vided food for as many as five of their Pathfinders each meal. The clubs had a great time learning the Zimbabwe culture, as well as sharing their own.

The story of Daniel was played out during the evening programs by a well-prepared team of actors. Each night, a portion of Daniel’s life was portrayed, depicting how he remained forever faithful to God during all his trials. On Friday evening and Sabbath morning there were more than 600 young people who decided to follow God and were baptized in the pools in front of the stage. What an awesome sight it was to see the sparkle in the eyes of the young people after they were baptized.

As the camporee drew to a close on Sabbath evening, we could see how God had blessed the camporee participants. They are anxious to return in 2019 and many clubs are already making plans for fundraisers to allow them to come back. The Pathfinders are thankful for all the support and prayers on their behalf. We all were blessed for attending the Forever Faithful International Pathfinder Camporee.

Lloyd Clapp, Pathfinder-Adventurer director



Arkansas-Louisiana Pathfinders at Oshkosh.

learning about the history of the Louisiana Purchase. Both honors allowed the participants to earn a special patch for their sashes.

One highlight for our conference was hosting 30 Pathfinders from the country of Zimbabwe. We were able to provide them with tent lodging and food. Each club pro-

Baton Rouge Church Celebrates 90th Anniversary

The Baton Rouge Seventh-day Adventist Church announces its 90th Anniversary to be celebrated April 4, 2015. All current and former pastors, members, and friends are invited to attend this special celebration. Please submit copies of old photographs or stories that you may have to Joycelyn Fautheree, c/o Baton Rouge SDA Church, 4455 Jones Creek Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70817, or e-mail Pastor Mike Martinez at rusti.nail.mm@gmail.com.

Texarkana Church Gifts Pastor

TEXARKANA, ARK. » On October 18, 2014, on behalf of the Texarkana Seventh-day Adventist Church, head elder Jack Johnson presented a gift card worth more than \$1,000 to Daniel and Edith Supler to provide additional financial funds to enable them to attend the ministerial convention in Austin, Texas, in

June. The church will continue to add to the amount already raised between now and then. He and his wife are much appreciated and loved.

Loretta Johnson



Head elder Jack Johnson informing the Suplers of the funds raised. The Texarkana church very much appreciates the pastor and his wife.

Cross-Pollination

In botany, cross-pollination is the transfer of pollen from the flower of one plant to the flower of another plant having a different genetic constitution. Insects or wind usually accomplish this transfer of pollen. What can we learn from the concept of cross-pollination that can be useful in ministering to our youth and young adults?

Through the Holy Spirit's influence, older members are called to "cross pollinate" (transfer life experiences, biblical knowledge, etc.) with young people, and vice versa. We are called to interchange ideas. We are called to intermingle. We are called to develop intimate relationships. We are called to intercede on each other's behalf! However, we often think this interchanging of ideas primarily occurs through a sermon, or at youth rallies or seminars. Or maybe we've confused intermingling with that quick, 10-second contact in the church foyer when we say happy Sabbath. On the contrary, it can only occur as we follow the blueprint Jesus gave us in the gospels about true discipleship.

Many of our youth and young adults have heard about Jesus. We are called to demonstrate to them the love of Jesus. Jesus while on this earth chose 12 disciples. He totally immersed Himself into their lives. Through "cross pollination" living (making intentional contact), He revealed the love of the Father for this fallen sinned planet. Through "cross-pollination" He came in contact with their faults, weaknesses, cultivated tendencies and hereditary defects and transferred His life of love, patience, acceptance to them.

Then finally at the cross of Calvary he demonstrated His great love for them and for us. Paul, a "worker bee" who practiced "cross pollination," said, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners,

Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8, NKJV).

How did Paul accomplish this "cross pollination?" Paul made disciples! He came into close contact with the younger Timothy, he shared the knowledge of the cross of Christ with him, and Timothy came in

close contact with others and influenced them with the love of Jesus.

"The affection between Paul and Timothy began with Timothy's conversion; and the tie had strengthened as they had shared the hopes, the perils, and the toils of missionary life, till they seemed to be as one. The disparity in their ages and the difference in their characters made their love for each other more earnest. The ardent, zealous, indomitable spirit of Paul found repose and comfort in the mild, yielding, retiring disposition of Timothy" (*SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, p. 917).

In a nutshell, there are five "M's" in the discipleship cycle found in the Bible as demonstrated in the life of Paul and Jesus that can be applied to ministering to our youth and young adults, or any people groups. The five "M's" are: Messiah, Mingle, Mentor, Model, and Make Disciples. Paul pointed people to Jesus the **Messiah**. The cross of Calvary was the central theme in his "cross pollination."

"For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2, NIV). We are called to point our youth and young adults to Jesus our Messiah, who loves them with an everlasting love, and gave His life for them.

Jesus followed a specific God-ordained method to **mingle** with the human race.

We are told, "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me'" (*Ministry of Healing*, p. 143).

Paul was a **mentor** to others by following the pattern of Jesus. Paul said, "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ" (1 Corinthians

11:1, NIV).

Paul called others to put into practice what they've learned through discipleship and **model** what they've learned...

"Practice what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and model your way of living on it..." Philippians 4:9 Amplified Bible (AMP) Jesus calls Youth/Young Adults to **make disciples**.

Jesus said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:18-20).

What would happen if you prayerfully asked God which youth and young adults you could mentor and pour your life into, as Paul did with Timothy, or Jesus did with His 12 disciples?

The pesticide of sin—selfishness, disunity, and hardened hearts—has affected the sharing or interchange of knowledge, ideas, for mutual enrichment—"cross pollination" between the older members of our church and the youth and young adults. In preparation for the final harvest of the world by Jesus, let us receive of the fruit of the Spirit and let there be "cross pollination," leading to a bountiful harvest!

Michael Smith



Guymon Church Begins Health Ministry

GUYMON » Six months ago I shipped my wife, Mary, off to Weimar Institute in California, to begin a four-month program that trained her in various health ministries. The promise from Don Macintosh was that this ministry was the ministry of Jesus and would surely open doors where they have been firmly closed to other traditional methods. I have been the pastor of this district for more than two years and have seen only minimal success. The traditional methods of evangelism have proven ineffective in this area of the Bible belt, in a town saturated with dozens of churches offering their special and unique take on the truth.

In many ways we have just been viewed as another church offering the “truth” as so many others do. However, armed with health ministries, we ventured into this new optimistic field of promise, and, as Macintosh had promised, the response to the health message was immediate.

With nothing but casual conversation and word of mouth, we found a plethora of people excited about the possibilities of better health. The YMCA immediately gave us the promise of classrooms, space on the schedule for health talks, and created time for a

walking club. The low-income housing authority also flung open their doors to us for health lectures for their tenants. The local doctor was also excited, and wants to work directly with Mary, so that he can refer patients to her who need natural treatments. Also, we have been asked by Catholic Charities to have a booth at an upcoming fair promoting the various health treatments our church offers.

We have met so many people that are interested in learning about health. We have met people wanting to overcome depression, cigarettes, and weight problems, and

are eager for the upcoming classes. We have quickly become believers in the right arm of the gospel, and have found that the possibilities for ministry are boundless! We have barely begun, and can already see that the world has a great need for healing which has not been possible through traditional medicine. Truly this is the very ministry of Jesus. Not only have we an opportunity to spread the everlasting gospel, but also in a very tangible way, we can be the touching and healing hands of Jesus. What a blessing!

Curtis Snead



Mary Snead giving a woman with advanced diabetes hydrotherapy treatments to improve circulation and relieve her neuropathy. She has implemented a plan to stave off further damage and prayerfully prevent the amputation, blindness, and dialysis that she has been facing.

Sabbath Blessings; Two Stories of Answered Prayers

BROKEN ARROW » Jack Phillips, a former member of the Broken Arrow church, who was visiting from his home church in Lewiston, Idaho, where he serves as outreach coordinator, graciously accepted our offer to lead out in our celebration service.

He told of a day when he had set out on his normal route to give Bible studies when he felt impressed several times to change his route. He even changed his parking spot several times. A young man named Kyle, who was obviously under satanic influence, gave him entrance to his apartment and allowed Phillips to speak about the Bible. Kyle had long ago taken the stand that God would send a miracle if He wanted him.

Phillips looked at him for a moment then told him that this was his miracle.

Phillips told him, "This morning I prayed that God would lead me to someone that needed God in their life and if you look outside, you will see that I am parked right in front of your apartment. And, that's after God led me down a different street in an unknown neighborhood right to your doorstep." Kyle is now enrolled in Bible studies and needs our prayers for a continued walk with Jesus.

Pablo Tebes, elder, had our children's story on the same Sabbath. His story was about an unexpected answer to prayer for his family in Guatemala when he was a

young child. His father had been out of work for some time and the family was in a desperate financial situation. Tebes' father had his family kneel with him in prayer and told God that he needed a job *right now*. He had no sooner gotten the words out of his mouth when they heard a knock at the door. The gentleman, who was a complete stranger, said he had noticed the lush green garden in their yard and said, "If you are not currently employed, I would very much like you to work for me and tend my garden."

The family was in complete shock but they have never doubted that God answers prayers. Pablo's father worked for the man for 10 years.

God may not answer all our prayers so directly or suddenly, but we know that God is alive and He hears and answers our prayers. Like a loving father, He gives us what we



Jack Phillips and Pablo Tebes both told stories of answered prayers.

need, not always what we want.

Judy Marquette

Canadian Valley Fellowship Finds a Temporary Home

OKLAHOMA CITY » Thanks to the generosity of the Oklahoma Conference office, the Canadian Valley SDA Fellowship Church is able to hold Sabbath and Wednesday prayer meeting services in the area that formerly housed the Adventist Book Center. Land and a metal building

have been purchased, and as soon as the city is satisfied with our building plans, construction will begin. The accommodations at the conference office have been a blessing. We have been able to continue our fellowship lunches and prayer meeting suppers, and even had a baby shower

for Micah and Diane Moddrell. We are anxious to be in our new church home at 1512 S. Richland Road in Yukon. Please pray with us for a quick completion!

Mary Wilson

A Source Of Blessing



The numbers are not encouraging; many young adults will leave the church by the time they go off to college.

Then there is the rise of the groups known as the “Nones” and the “Dones.” These are young adults who either have no religious affiliation or those who just reach a place in their Christian walk where they are done with church while not abandoning their faith. There is no one identifiable factor or single event indicating why these young people arrive at this conclusion.

What’s encouraging is that there *are* active, vibrant young adult groups that are either being started or thriving in some churches. I am blessed every time I talk to a young person and hear them speak passionately about their relationship with Jesus and their love for the church. I salute the many youth pastors and young adult group leaders who are keeping these ministries alive.

In Matthew 17, we observe Jesus as He ascends the high mountain of His transfiguration to be alone with God to pray. Only

three of the disciples, Peter, James, and John, accompanied Him. These men not only played a great role in the leadership of the early Christian church but were also a source of blessings to their peers. The encounter they had on the mountain with Jesus proved to be an anchor and source of blessing for the entire group. May God bless our active youth and young adult ministries as we seek to be a channel of His saving grace.

Tyrone Douglas, youth director

Singles’ Day Casalita Drive Seventh-day Adventist Church

GARLAND, TEXAS » The Casalita Drive church hosted a Singles’ Day on October 25, 2014. This was the first Singles’ Day program that has ever been planned and hosted by the singles ministries committee at the church.

There were 132 people in attendance on Singles’ Day, and about 60 single individuals from the community, along with other Adventist church members from surrounding areas. The theme for the day was “Encouraging, Equipping, and Engaging” single individuals, teaching them how to fall in love with Jesus before they fall in love with another individual.

The speaker for the day was Joseph Footman, Jr., who explained that 55 percent of the Christian church is single. He also said that singleness does not equate negativity or a negative state. Some people think that if an older individual, 35 and above, is single, then there is a problem. He said that single individuals that are connected to



Top left: Kenn Dixon giving the welcome to all of the guests and members on Singles’ Day.

► Joseph Footman, Jr., from Agape Fellowship, shared the message of being a “Single Light” in the world.

► Susan Little sharing the children’s story.

Christ are single because God has not yet prepared their mate for them.

Footman facilitated a very interactive seminar in the afternoon in regard to some of the issues and challenges that Christian

singles encounter on a daily basis. He and other single individuals present discussed ways to combat or overcome some of the challenges that impact the lives of single people.

Vera Ragland

SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

Community Health Fair at the Park

PALESTINE, TEXAS » On Sabbath, June 14, 2014, Carol Pegus and her team of workers were setting up the Eighth Annual Adrian Peterson Community-wide Day Celebration. This year's emphasis was health awareness. This health fair event was held at Reagas Park in Palestine, Texas. After several months of organizing and planning, the time came to bring together organizations, businesses, health care professionals, parents, children, and health advocates

on that bright and sunny day. There were tents, booths, tables, water sprinklers for the kids, giveaways, drawings for gift cards, and so much more.

Adrian Peterson is originally from Palestine. Pegus has known him and his family all of his life, so she took the initiative several years ago to do something special for him and founded the Community-wide Adrian Peterson's Day Celebration and Prayer Ceremony, which convenes each year at different city parks throughout Palestine. Thousands attend from morning until evening.

Pegus is a remarkable woman who loves

people and is actively involved in community service every day of the week. She takes advantage of every opportunity to help the homeless, feed hungry children, care for the elderly, provide clothes to the needy, and visit the sick, shut-in, and imprisoned. She is a member of the New Life church in Palestine. As the coordinator of this event, she encourages her church family to witness to those in attendance through literature distribution, health spotlights, youth programs, or whatever members are impressed by the Lord to do to share the love of Jesus. It is a golden witnessing opportunity.

Lorraine James-Stiggers



Deja que Dios sea Dios

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214-943-4491, ext. 213

“Right, for 10 Points!”

NASHVILLE, TENN. » On October 24-25, 2014, Bible Bowl enthusiasts from across the United States and Ontario, Canada, converged on the World Baptist Center in Nashville for the 32nd Annual National Bible Bowl Championship Games. The games are sponsored by the Black Adventist Youth Directors Association (“BAYDA”) and the National Bible Bowl Coordinators Association (NBBCA). The South Central Conference hosted this year’s games.

After a spirited praise and worship service, the games began. Lights, buzzers, action! The Word of God took center stage as teams answered questions about the Bible from Mark, 2 Samuel, Jonah, Nahum, Jeremiah, Hebrews, and Proverbs. Men, women, boys, and girls recalled Bible stories and teachings with speed and accuracy. Correct answers were often followed by, “Right, for 10 points!”

At the end of the games, the leaders of each division were: Northeastern for Pre-Juniors (ages 6-9); Southwest Region for Junior Youth (ages 10-15); Northeastern for Senior Youth (ages 16-22); Ontario for Young Adults (ages 23-35); and Southeastern for Adults (ages 36 and over). All participants received medals in acknowledgment of their excellent effort and commitment to Bible study.

The Southwest Region Conference and the Texas Conference were well represented at the BAYDA Bible Bowl National Games. At this year’s games in Nashville, Tennessee, there was a record 12 conferences with 49 teams and almost 300 Bible Bowl players! We also welcomed, for the first time, the Texas Conference, represented by the Richardson church.

Special thanks go out to all of the teams, judges, system operators, and question writers from Southwest Region. The Junior Youth team from Houston-Fondren brought home the first-place trophy and the Young Adult

team from Alpha-Austin was second runner-up!

Wendy Reid, Ardis Griggs, and Maurice Turner



Ready to Join Bible Bowl?

Even if you don’t have a team, anyone who wants to study the books for 2015 with us can join us for some games, just for fun, when we start the new season. 2015 Bible Bowl books, rules, and other information can be found at: <http://my-southwestregion.org/ministries/youth-ministries/swrgc-bible-bowl>.

All roads lead to Columbus, Ohio for the 2015 National games. Contact your AYS Leader or the conference Bible Bowl coordinator, Maurice Turner, to learn how you can join this ministry. He can be reached at biblebowlswsouthwest@yahoo.com, or 817.925.9569.

The Forgotten Generation



It is downright tragic to recognize the fact that so many of our youth and young adults have left the church. Some have stated that for every 10 individuals we baptize from outside the church, we lose six of our own! It seems as though we have grown so accustomed to this state of affairs in our local churches (which is really the *only* place where something can be done about it), that little thought or concern is raised or discussed in relationship to this modern-day exodus.

Every day we hear of large, successful corporations such as Microsoft and Google not only employing scores of 20-somethings, but also placing them in important positions of leadership and management. Recently, I came across an impressive article titled “5 Ways Young Professionals Want To Be Led” (*Forbes*, March 2012).

In the church context, we can exchange the term “young professional” for “young adult.”

1. Empower them, don't micromanage them. As much as we would like for them to do things our way, we must learn to step

to one side and allow for the baton of leadership and responsibility to be passed on to them.

2. Sponsor them, mentor them, and serve as their role models. Young adults seek results as quickly as possible. Our red tape and protocol can annoy and frustrate them, just as it did us in our day. They tend to have laser focus and a persistent drive that can benefit the church.

3. Allow them to manage their own brand and identity. We should resist the stark temptation to define them. Instead, to define roles and projects *with* them and not so much *for* them would be preferable. As one young professional remarked in the *Forbes* article, “My baby-boomer boss needs to stop thinking that he understands me; it's obvious when he tries too hard!”

4. Trust them, don't question their intentions. Certainly if NASA can trust young people with the National Space Program, the church can trust its young adults with leadership and oversight of both people and programs. They are wired to be innovative and bold. The zeal and enthusiasm that wanes in the latter years of life can be boosted and revived by the energy

and can-do attitude of the younger years. We are better together. Acceptance and trust are vital to fostering love and respect from the younger generations.

5. Challenge them, don't marginalize them. Because of the fact that they are easily bored, young adults are constantly craving new challenges! They can problem solve with the best, so let them! As a church we have failed to capitalize on their God-given abilities and gifts. We should avoid the tendency to box them in. They are comfortable with positive change and we older people should find ways to encourage them to swim in the deep waters within the confines and principles of God's Word and His church. Notice carefully the words of Ecclesiastes 4:9, 10: “Two are better than one, because they shall have a good reward for their labors. For if *they* fall, one will lift up the other...But woe unto the *one*, who is *alone* when he falls, for he has no one to help him up” (emphasis supplied).

Certainly, having two generations working in conjunction is more profitable to the church than one alone!

Carlos J. Craig, president

Praying Through the Sanctuary

On November 8, 2014, Austin South church's Women's Ministries department, led by Uraina Samuels, held a Praying Through the Sanctuary workshop conducted by Eunice Davis.



The thirty-five members and guests in attendance were shown how to prepare their hearts to come into God's presence, how to sing hymns and pray from the verses related to the Sanctuary from their open Bibles. In addition to the singing of hymns and reading of scriptures, those in attendance took part in periodic group discussion about what they were learning.

They also learned about the importance of praising God for the revelation of His character and love as they prayed through the Sanctuary. The enthusiastic attendees gained a broader understanding about the

importance of joining Jesus in interceding for the salvation of souls.

The workshop culminated with the attendees organizing their personal Prayer Journal. It was obvious at the end of the workshop that each person had committed themselves to a deeper prayer life, daily reading of God's Word, and a stronger re-

solve to open their lives to God and offer prayers of intercession for others.

Pastor Mitchell Jonakin noted that the Prayer Journal is an excellent tool to organize one's prayer life and encouraged the participants to apply the principles learned in the workshop to their prayer life.



Panthers on a Mission

GRAND PRAIRIE » Excitement and anticipation filled the air as the Grand Prairie Panthers Pathfinder Club set out on a journey that would change people's lives, inspire their own, and give glory to God. The Grand Prairie Seventh-day Adventist Food Pantry has served the community for more than four years, giving food items, household supplies, and personal items to the less fortunate. As the ministry contin-

ued and Thanksgiving season drew near, the pantry began to run low.

Under guidance from God, the leaders were led to seek assistance from the community. Immediately, the blessings began to flow from the storehouse of heaven. Kroger donated 500 paper bags, which would be placed in a designated neighborhood in a Grand Prairie community. Attached to the paper bag would be a letter

explaining the function of the Grand Prairie Food Pantry and suggested donations, as well as a piece of Christian literature. The donations were to be placed in the bag and left out for pick-up the following week. On Saturday, November 1, 2014, the food pantry operators, along with parents and Pathfinder leaders, huddled the bubbling Pathfinders together as they discussed the mission at hand. The Pathfinders had the responsibility of passing out the bags. Each group had a team leader/driver and a different street to cover. Pathfinders dressed in their field uniforms could be seen on every corner beaming with joy as they passed out each bag. The week quickly flew by and soon it was pick-up time! Each team went back to the same street they'd been assigned to the previous week. Excitement and joy filled each team whenever another bag was collected. When all the streets were covered and each team reported, the pantry had more than 300 items. What a blessing from God!

Anna Lee Notice



Cypress Church Enjoys Fellowship and Witnessing with a Mall Scavenger Hunt

CYPRESS » On a Saturday evening early in December 2014, the Cypress church plant spent the evening at a local mall participating in a scavenger hunt. Twenty-two people from our group gathered in the food court and then spread out with the other shoppers to collect more than 30 items on the "mission" list. There were points for finding wrapping paper, a farm animal, a

store with a number in it, a stranger singing "Jingle Bells," and more.

Fifty bonus points were given for "a selfie of your group witnessing to a stranger" (each group had been given brochures about our church plant to hand out). All of the groups

came back with the required photographic proof! The point of the mission was to prove to our young people that witnessing doesn't have to be fearful, fancy, or formal. God has people in all kinds of situations and settings, and He is waiting for us to bring them to Him. We just have to be prepared to answer His invitation to serve—even if it is at the mall!

Becky Hanson



Cypress church members participated in a mall scavenger hunt that included a witnessing component.

Burton Adventist Academy Helps Worthy Students

ARLINGTON » This year more than ever Burton Adventist Academy students and their families requested financial assistance. With our funds quickly running out, Burton Adventist Academy had to become creative in order to accommodate this need.

At Burton, hot lunches are used twice a week as fundraisers for specific classes and organizations. Administration took the first available lunch that was not assigned and scheduled it to raise money for the Worthy Student Fund. Many graciously volunteered to prepare and serve the lunch. We had the assistance of volunteers from the Arlington church, parents, former employees, and even Randy Gilliam, vice president of education for The Southwestern Union.

They sent out e-mails to advertise this particular lunch and encouraged students to purchase lunch. They also invited parents to come and purchase their lunch that

day, as well. With the help of many hands, Burton Adventist Academy raised almost \$1,400.

In November, Burton proudly hosted its First Annual Cake Auction as a fundraiser for the Worthy Student Fund. Adrian Mizher, a school board member, took the lead in scheduling, advertising, and coordinating the cake auction, and even hosted the event as the auctioneer!

The auction was a huge success! All of the cakes for sale were donated and baked by local church members, Burton students, and other members of the community. Most cakes were selling for well over \$100. Many of these beautifully-decorated cakes sold for as much as \$300 or \$400. The highest bid of the evening was \$600 for three-dozen delicious red-velvet cupcakes. The fundraiser raised more than \$9,000

for the Worthy Student Fund. To add to the delight of the event, the church and school community had a wonderful evening filled with good food, fellowship, and friendly competition. We look forward to hosting the event again next year!

Darlene White





Do Our Sons and Daughters Know the Lord?

TEXICO CONFERENCE

One of the most surprising statements I've read in the Bible is found in 1 Samuel 2:12, "Now the sons of Eli were worthless men. They did not know the Lord" (ESV). It is surprising because Eli was the high priest of Israel, and his sons assisted in their father's ministry. Their entire lives were dedicated to the service of the sanctuary. They were daily immersed in its sacrifices and rituals and feasts, all designed by God specifically for the purpose that Israel might know Him.

But Eli's own sons did not know the Lord.

In the following chapter we find out that Samuel, whom his mother Hannah had entrusted to Eli as a gift to the Lord, did not yet know the Lord, even though he was assisting in the ministry of the sanctuary as a child.

It was while meditating on this passage that I discovered one of God's primary purposes for me as a Christian, a father, and

a pastor: to live, minister and model the Christian life in such a way that those who are younger than me can come to know the Lord for themselves.

Over the last few years, I have begun to transition one of my emphases in ministry from youth to young adults. This was not intentional on my part. But I have been privileged to see many of the teenagers I have served, both as a pastor and as a conference youth director, grow up, graduate from high school, go off to college, and become young adults. I've even been blessed to perform some of their weddings, and dedicate their children!

Others, sadly, I've seen drift away from church. Some of them I still see now and then. I hope to see them come back soon.

But as I have seen "my youth" grow up to become young adults, my burden for them continues. I long for them to know the Lord, to know Him intimately, passionately, personally. I long for them to know

Jesus in such a real way that his powerful grace touches, transforms and heals every sphere of their lives.

Recently I read an article about the young adults who stay in church, and what they have in common. One of the points mentioned was intergenerational ministry. As children and then teenagers, they had meaningful relationships within the church community with older adults who modeled to them what it means to follow Jesus, to forgive and to be forgiven, to love and to receive love. As young adults, they stayed because they knew the Lord, because they had spiritual mothers and fathers who passed on that knowledge to them.

Brothers and sisters, let us be those spiritual mothers and fathers in our own churches. Let us reach out to those who are younger than us, and show them what it means to know the Lord.

Fernando Villegas, youth director

Landmarks of Prophecy Impacts Albuquerque and Beyond

ALBUQUERQUE, N. MEX. » The meeting room was full of people at the Marriott Pyramid Hotel in Albuquerque as the Landmarks of Prophecy (LOP) meetings came to a close on November 22, 2014. Doug Batchelor, the Amazing Facts team, Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism (AF-COE) students, and more than 100 local volunteers worked together throughout the three-week period to share the love and messages of Christ with more than 500 non-Adventist visitors who attended.

I had the privilege of sitting and talking with one of these visitors, Maria Elena, as she shared a little of her story with me. One night about three months prior to the LOP meetings, she was flipping through the TV stations around 10:30 p.m. That's when she came across Doug Batchelor

and Amazing Facts. She was so interested in the program that she began watching it each week-night at the same time. When it was announced that Batchelor would be coming to Albuquerque to hold meetings about prophecy, she was so excited.

Maria has been a Catholic, but said she knew that Saturday was the Sabbath and couldn't understand why they worshiped on Sunday. When she heard the Sabbath message presented at the meetings, she said it made so much sense. Maria told me that she had just finished keeping her first Sabbath in the best way she knew how and asked for advice on how to keep God's day holy.

"It's funny," Maria said, "because I was praying for God to take the blinders off of others' eyes and instead He took the blinders off of mine. I've learned so much so fast

at these meetings and it's a blessing in my life."

Fernando knows that God made the way for him to go to the meetings. He had received a handbill in the mail, but didn't have transportation to go there. He thought the meetings were only lasting three days and tried desperately to find a ride but he couldn't. He was depressed because he thought the seminar was over, but then he overheard a neighbor talking about how she was going to go. Fernando excitedly learned that the meetings were still going on, and was thrilled to be able to attend for himself!

After Batchelor preached on the subject of the Sabbath, Fernando walked out of the meeting with a bewildered look on his face. Jon, one of the LOP volunteers, asked him what he thought about the meeting.



Top: Crowd at the Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid on the last night.

Far left: Maria Elena stated that she learned so much so fast at the meetings.

◀ One of the attendees disposed of all her drug paraphernalia as she began studying the Bible.

He said, "Wow! Is this for real?"

Jon said, "Have you ever heard this message before?" Fernando explained that he had been a Christian since 1968 and had never heard anything like this before.

A Spanish Bible study group of about 27 people came together to the meetings and are now being followed up by Jose Padilla, pastor of the Albuquerque Rio Grande and Metropolitan Spanish churches.

Ramon drove from Socorro, New Mexico, approximately 80 miles away, to attend the meetings at the Marriott Pyramid. He has a Bible study group in Socorro and would come to the meetings in Albuquerque, then take the Bible study materials back to his group and teach them the truths that he was learning.

Valerie attended all the way through the series and was really excited. Her daughter was baptized in January at the Alber-

que Heights church. She is so thankful to know about the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She says, "I have found my home!"

Since the series was live-streamed and archived online, it has and will continue to have far-reaching effects. To date it has been viewed approximately 180,000 times, including both live and via the archives. The number continues to grow as people share the link with their family and friends. This does not include those who watched on 3ABN and AFTV.

A pastor in southern New Mexico has six Bible studies from people who watched the series online. The Las Cruces church hosted the meetings in their facility and one person who had been watching the series on 3ABN came to the church to watch it in a church setting. Many of our Texico churches hosted the series.

The meetings are over, but the work of reaching out to these Bible study interests is just beginning. How do you follow up with more than 500 people who are spread

out all over the city of Albuquerque and beyond and not let any fall through the cracks?

With careful planning and prayer, the interests have been divided up by zip code and given to the Seventh-day Adventist church closest to them. The local pastors, elders, Bible workers, and members have been working together to make contact with the individuals on their list to reach out and make friends with them. Many churches have invited these guests to different follow up programs that are taking place locally, such as Revelation seminars, an archeology series, health and cooking classes, stop smoking classes, family finance seminars, small groups, and special meals.

More than 20 baptisms have taken place in the local churches to date as a result of the series and many others are preparing for baptism.

Please remember this follow-up in your prayers. There is much work to be done and we pray many of these people will make their decision to follow the truth they've learned and give their lives to Christ.

Sue Hinkle

Deming Church Hosts Decoding Prophecy Seminar

DEMING, N. MEX. » The Deming church recently hosted a Decoding Prophecy seminar with evangelist Mike Sady. In these times of worldwide upheaval, many are looking for answers. The attendees of this seminar were presented with Bible truth and they came faithfully each night, eager to learn Bible prophecies and their fulfillment. Their hunger for more knowledge was satisfied at the meetings. Eight individuals were baptized into the Deming Church, and one is being transferred to the Las Cruces Central Church. A Bible marking class is in progress as a follow-up for the new members.

Wanda Beach



A group from the Deming English church.

Alamogordo Members Give Bible Studies Resulting in Baptisms

When we study our Bibles with friends and relatives, baptisms usually follow. Three baptisms occurred last Sabbath as a result of Alamogordo church member Monroe Ratchford, studied the Bible with Jim Rauscher two years ago. Jim was convinced that biblical truths, that he couldn't find elsewhere, could be found in the Adventist church.

Following Jim's baptism he began the Amazing Facts Bible lessons with his daughter, Amy, and her husband, Guy Wiegart. Monroe, Pastor Chuck, and two elders in training, Chris Garrett and Dana Thiry, also studied and shared their faith with Amy and Guy, resulting in their baptisms.

What a wonderful addition to God's family and the Alamogordo church. Amy has already accepted the position as church bulletin coordinator, and they both continue Bible studies with the elders in training and additional family members.

Linda Goodenow's son-in-law, Bill Dunlap, became interested in what the

Seventh-day Adventist Church believed, so she began a series of studies with him. Following his completion of these lessons Bill was buried beneath the baptismal waters by Alamogordo's head elder Gary Siebel.

We are challenging the entire church to begin studying their Bibles with friends and relatives to get spiritually prepared and hasten Christ's return in the clouds of glory. May we all be ready for that glorious day!

Chuck Workman



▲ Gary Siebel has the privilege of baptizing Bill Dunlap. (Left)

◀ Happy smiles as Amy and Guy Wiegart prepare to be baptized by pastor Chuck Workman.

Southwestern Enactus Club Connects with Community

Southwestern Adventist University's Enactus club has been busy this winter! During January and February, Enactus partnered with several local businesses and Keene Junior High School to present the community with a free program for empowering women.

Spoons for Change is a Southwestern Enactus project created to help women learn some new skills to be successful in their career and home life. "Women are the nucleus of a family," says Ana Patterson, Enactus sponsor. "In order to improve a community as a whole, women need to be empowered."

Shelby Daniel, senior business major and Enactus leader, developed Spoons for Change. She also applied for a grant from Walmart to help fund the project. Not only will the grant help implement the project, but it will also give Enactus an opportunity to compete for additional funds based on the outcomes of the project.

Each year only a few of the international Enactus teams are chosen to receive this grant, called the Women's Economic Empowerment Project Partnership. Southwestern's Enactus team stood out for the dedicated and meaningful work they accomplish.

The series of workshops were held at the Keene Junior High School cafeteria and

were attended by about 25 women. Each program was filled with tips on nutrition, exercise, budgeting, life improvement, and menu planning. Cooking demonstrations and healthy recipe ideas to help families stretch their food budget made the classes fun and interactive. The classes were taught by a variety of Southwestern professors and local businesses and community members. Pinnacle Bank sponsored the financial presentation, tutorials were given by local Mary Kay representatives, business professor Judy Miles presented on job skills and resumes, and nutrition pointers were provided by Embedzayi Tsanzi, licensed nutritionist and adjunct professor at Southwestern.

"This program really helps me in many ways," says Cynthia Licon, an attendee at the Spoons for Change event on February 2.

"Spoons for Change helps me give good advice to my 20-year-old daughter about how to choose her university, her career and ways for her to save money. I have also learned many ways to get good exercise at my age and great ways to eat healthier."

The newest project started by Enactus, called Thrive Cleburne, is a program for local small businesses, endorsed by the Cleburne Chamber of Commerce. A series of workshops on how to create successful business plans are provided by Enactus,



Professor Tsanzi and Shelby pose after their presentation.

Southwestern business professors, and sponsored by the Financial Bank, Pinnacle Bank, and Grandview Bank. At the end of the workshops, the businesses will present their newly completed business plan to a panel of judges and enter to win three cash prizes of \$3,000, \$2,000, and \$1,000.

"The students have been working so hard," says Patterson. "It's a privilege to work with them, see what they come up, and watch them grow with their responsibilities."

Makala Coleman, senior journalism major, and **Saul Flores**, junior communication major

Congratulations to the 2015 Music Festival Finalists

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Kyle Dellosa, violin
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- Visit iconic and historic places, including the Powerscourt House, the Waterford Crystal Showroom, the Blarney Stone, the Buratty Castle Hotel and Kylemore Abbey.

\$1600 per person, double occupancy. Ground transportation, entrance fees for group activities, all breakfasts, and five group dinners are included. Participants will make their own airfare arrangements.

Contacts: Gerald Martin, at gerald@starmountaintravel.com or 601.891.0414
Bev Mendenhall, Director of Alumni, at bevm@swau.edu or 817.202.6232

Young Adult Ski Retreat

The Southwestern Union Young Adult Ministries Department hosted a Young Adult Ski Retreat in Taos, New Mexico, February 5-8, 2015. Themed “Slippery Slopes,” the event was well-attended and a spiritually uplifting experience for those who participated. The Young Adult Ministries Department aims to empower and equip young adults and youth to have a deeper relationship with Christ as they prepare for His soon return. Please continue to pray for this ministry as we seek to develop creative ideas to reach and meet the needs of youth and young adults.

SOUTHWESTERN UNION



Top left: Is there a God? Really! Look behind us. (This picture was taken at a 12,000-foot elevation.)

▲ Youth and young adults having fun together at the Young Adult Ski Retreat.

Top right: Praying before heading down the slippery slope.

Middle: Maneuvering down slippery slopes.

▲ Breakout sessions gave the opportunity for young adults to give their opinions and views on theological matters.

Youth “Rattle the World” by Visiting 100,000 Phoenix Homes

Young Adventists fan out across Arizona’s capital to share Jesus during a GYC convention.

PHOENIX, ARIZ. » Scores of Adventist young people visited tens of thousands of homes across Phoenix, Arizona, on Friday as they accepted a challenge from their leader, GYC president Natasha Nebblett, to “rattle the world.”

The teens and young adults made the annual outing during a five-day conference of GYC, or “Generation of Youth for Christ,” which was themed “At the Cross” and ran through January 4 at the Phoenix Convention Center.

Friday’s initiative to share religious literature in more than 30,000 homes followed a first-time effort on the eve of the annual convention that saw a smaller group of about 200 young people visit more than 70,000 homes.

Opening the conference, Nebblett said that living a Christian life encompasses more than merely claiming a Christian identity: it means living “a life that rattles the world.”

Adventist young people are caught in a spiritual warfare between Jesus and Satan, Nebblett said, adding that GYC members who participated in the home visits before the conference’s opening had encountered Phoenix residents who spoke of seeing demons.

“What will it take for the world to take notice of Jesus?” Nebblett said.

For the world to start taking notice, she said, young Adventists must allow Christ to be fully in charge of their lives. But, she said, this is not something that young people can do through their own power.

“We cannot crucify ourselves,” she said.

“At the Cross” was the 12th annual

conference organized by GYC, which was formed in 2002 by a group of college students determined to pray, study the Bible, and share Jesus more boldly.

A new plank in this year’s conference

tendees who had never before engaged in literature evangelism were trained by experienced peers and then sent out to the streets of Phoenix. Hinkle estimated that the young people knocked on 70,000 to 80,000 doors.

Hundreds of attendees hopped on dozens of buses on Friday afternoon to knock on another 30,000 to 40,000 doors, meaning GYC members visited a total of more than 100,000 homes at this year’s conference. Attendees on Friday also visited people in hospitals and nursing homes.

Ted N. C. Wilson, GC president, meanwhile, called on GYC attendees to follow the lead of Nehemiah, who rebuilt Jerusalem’s walls in Old Testament times, and leave the conference wholly committed to following God’s Word and His direction.

“In your faithfulness to God in 2015, with one hand do the work of God and in the other hand hold the Word of God, your weapon of heavenly authority,” Wilson said in his speech. “Lean completely on the Lord in your faithful service saying, along with those who worked on the wall of Jerusalem, ‘Our God will fight for us.’”

Andrew McChesney, news editor, *Adventist Review*, with reporting by **Seth Shaffer**



▲ Paul Ratsara, president of the Southern-Africa Indian Ocean Division, leading a seminar titled, “Relentless Prayer.”

◀ GYC president Natasha Nebblett challenging attendees to live “a life that rattles the world” on Dec. 31, 2014.

was the initiative that involved 180 young people gathering in Phoenix a week before the conference started to make house-to-house contacts.

Taylor Hinkle, GYC’s vice president of evangelism and a student at Southwestern Adventist University, said the change was introduced after evangelist Mark Finley made an appeal at last year’s conference in Orlando, Florida, for GYC attendees to be handed the tools they needed to replicate the outreach in their home churches.

Hinkle also said he was personally motivated by a statement from Adventist Church co-founder Ellen White, who said: “House-to-house labor, searching for souls, hunting for the lost sheep, is the most essential work that can be done” (*Manuscript Release, Vol. 1*, page 14).

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EMPLOYMENT

Southwestern Adventist University:

Education and Psychology Department seeks full-time qualified psychology professor beginning July 1, 2015. Doctorate degree is required. Please submit CV and cover letter to Dr. Marcel Sargeant at sargeant@swau.edu. Position is open until filled.

The Kinesiology Department at Southwestern Adventist University

seeks full-time physical education professor to begin July 1, 2015. Master's degree required; doctoral degree preferred. Submit curriculum vitae and cover letter to Human Resources office. Must have some teaching experience. Contact Mr. Vesa Naukkarinen at 817.202.6684, or vnaukkar@swau.edu.

Adventist Health System

is seeking a Summer Associate to work in their Corporate Legal department for eight weeks in 2015. Candidate must be in top 25% of class. Interest/experience in healthcare industry preferred, but not required. Duties include legal research and other projects, totaling 40 hours per week. Pay is \$20 - \$25 per hour; reasonable relocation expenses will be reimbursed. Please send transcript and resume to manuela.asaftei@ahss.org.

The Communication Department at Southwestern Adventist University

seeks full-time professor in Advertising/Public Relations or Radio/TV to begin July 1, 2015. Master's degree

required; doctoral degree desired. Must have teaching experience. Send cover letter and CV to Michael Agee at magee@swau.edu.

Southwestern Adventist University

seeks a full-time nurse educator to serve as Nursing Department Chair beginning Fall 2015. Doctoral degree and three years of university/college teaching experience required. Must have an unencumbered Texas nursing license. Send cover letter and current CV to Dr. Amy Rosenthal at arosenthal@swau.edu.

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tion, contact us at korean-mission.ok@gmail.com, or 405.761.0655.

Southwestern Adventist University's Business Department

seeks faculty to begin Fall 2015. Master's degree required, Ph.D. preferred, with emphasis in Finance, Marketing, and Accounting. Position includes instruction in multiple areas, undergraduate and graduate courses and providing service to the university and community. Send cover letter and CV to Dr. Aaron Moses at mosesa@swau.edu.

Southwestern Adventist University

seeks full-time nurse educator to begin Fall 2015. Master's degree required; doctoral degree

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MISCELLANEOUS

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Adventist tours to Israel and Thailand each summer! Israel June 21-30, 2015, with authors Andy Nash and William Johnsson, longtime Adventist Review editor. Thailand July 19-31, 2015, with Andy Nash and Thai guides. Affordable and family-friendly. Contact andynash5@gmail.com or facebook.com/tabghatours.

Don't Miss Medical Missionary Training at Wellness Secrets Lifestyle Center in Decatur, Arkansas, May 10-15. Special emphasis in Hydrotherapy Theory with hands-on lab, and Introduction to Herbalism I Theory with hands-on lab. Other classes: Common Diseases and Natural Treatments, Community Health Evangelism, and more. More information at www.wellnessSecrets4u.com, or 479.752.8555.

Butler Creek Health Education Center Diabetes Reversal, Permanent Weight Loss, Overcoming Depression. April 5-17, 2015 & May 10-22, 2015. Prevention and recovery from lifestyle disease amidst the beauty of nature. Cost: \$975. Register online or call: 931.213.1329. www.butlercreekhealth.org.

Announcements

NAD Church Study: The North American Division is seeking feedback from church members on how it can improve its ministry with regard to mission, education, and church structure. A special Web site has been created for this purpose. Please visit <http://www.nad-churchstudy.org/purpose> to add your viewpoint to the conversation.

"Ye Olde" Cedar Lake Academy Reunion will take place June 5-7, 2015 for alumni and classmates of 1965 and earlier at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, Michigan. Honor classes: 1935, 1945, 1955, 1965. Details will be forthcoming by postal service. For further information you may contact GLAA Alumni Office at 989.427.5181 or visit <http://www.glaa.net>.

Laurelbrook School, Dayton, TN Homecoming April 2-5, 2015. Honor Classes are 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010 and new grads 2015. A fun-filled weekend of events is being planned. Theme for weekend is "The Time is Now." For more information, contact the school, alumni officers or e-mail Phillip Walton at alumni@laurelbrook.org.

Oklahoma Academy Academy Days: Announcing Academy Days at Oklahoma Academy! If you are a student who is serious about your walk with the Lord and His mission for your life, Oklahoma Academy may be just right for you. Come April

17-19, 2015 for our Academy Days weekend and find out. Call 405.454.6211 to make your reservations today! Also visit www.oklaho-maacademy.org.

Honoring George Knight: Please join Andrews University for the presentation of a festschrift to George Knight in honor of his distinguished teaching, research, editorial and publishing career. The recently released book, *Adventist Maverick: A Celebration of George Knight's Contribution to Adventist Thought*, is a collection of writings by colleagues and students who have come to highly respect Knight and his scholarship. The event will take place on Tuesday, April 21, at 11:30 a.m. in the Seminary Chapel at Andrews University and will feature tributes by the editors and a response from Knight. A reception will follow in the Seminary Commons. All are welcome.

Save The Date! Greater New York Academy 95th Anniversary is October 9-11, 2015. Honoring classes ending in 0 and 5. Friday night: Vespers and Welcome Table. Sabbath: Church Service, Lunch, "Music and Memories." Sunday: Breakfast and Basketball. Send your name and contact info to alumni@gnyacademy.org, or friend us on Facebook at Greater NYA, or write to Greater NY Academy, 41-32 58th St., Woodside, NY 11377.

Marietta, Texas, New Hope Church Homecoming: May 9, 2015 with Carlos Craig, Texas Conference President, as speaker.

Obituaries

COWSERT, Garrett, born February 13, 1989 and died December 30, 2014 in Little Rock, Ark. He was a member of the Little Rock church. Garrett was baptized during a Kenneth Cox meeting. He loved the outdoors, hunting, fishing, and water sports. He said he felt more calm and happy when he was in God's nature. He had many friends and loved ones. He will be especially missed. Survivors: father, Garrett Douglas Cowsert, III, and mother, Lisa Cowsert, of Sherwood, Ark.; grandmother, JoAnn Kerns, of Sherwood; and a sister and brother-in-law, Crystal and Kevin Lemons, of Sherwood.

FISHER, Gwen, born November 23, 1935 in Minatare, Neb., and died December 14 in Little Rock, Ark. She was a member of the Sherwood church. Gwen never met a stranger. She was a very friendly and loveable Christian who will be greatly missed. She enjoyed her sizeable collection of porcelain dolls and loved doing many homemade crafts, quilting, making dolls, and feeding and watching the hummingbirds. Survivors: daughter, Bonnie Rivera of Minot, N.D.; daughter, Nancy Shannon, of North Little Rock, Ark.; son and daughter-in-law, Tim and Kaylene Fisher, of Cusick, Wash.; son and daughter-in-law, Donald and Edna Fisher, of Angelton, Texas; son and daughter-in-law, Roger and Sheila Fisher, of Cheyenne, Wyo.; brother and sister-in-law, Melvin and Violet Smith, of Gering, Neb.; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

HAM, Harold, born January 1, 1926 in Goodlett, Texas and died January 18, 2015 in Mena, Ark. He was a long-

time and faithful member of the Mena church. Harold served in World War II and was honored at his cemetery service. As head deacon, he was usually the first to be at the church to open up and get the heat or air going. He and his wife, Leona, were married for 64 years and their home was a joy to visit—always filled with Christian love and hospitality. His church and family look forward with joy to that resurrection morning when Jesus claims His family. Survivors: wife, Leona Ham, of Mena; four daughters and son-in-laws, Alleisa and Tim Stark, Marsha and Melvin Allison, Debra and Clayton Robbins, and Glenna and Dwight Cowell; five sons, Gary Ham, Alan and Julie Ham, Kevin and Marla Ham, Gene and Taleatha Ham, and Todd Ham, all of Mena; 22 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

MONROE, Marian Faye Simpson, born August 12, 1932 in Shreveport, La., and died December 14, 2014 in Shreveport. She was a member of the Shreveport First church. She was a faithful and loving mother to her children. She was a woman who molded boys into men and will be missed and remembered dearly. Raising three boys made her practical minded and a hard worker. Her childhood as a farm girl helped form the strong work ethic which was observed and instilled in her boys. Her talents were many: she knitted beautiful sweaters and blankets for her children, grandchildren, and friends; she was a church pianist who loved music of all kinds. She particularly loved to sing Happy Birthday wishes to her family in her later years. She never tired of cooking for her visiting children and grandchildren, no matter how

big the task. Her wisdom and insights were sought and valued by her children and friends. Survivors: three sons, Charles Arlan Monroe and wife, Mary Ann, of Nashville, Tenn., Roger Monroe and wife, Lori, of Colorado Springs, Colo., and Brian Monroe and wife, Cindy, of Shreveport; two sisters, Era Mae Barnhart and Jacqueline Siebenlist; and eight grandchildren.

PEEPLS, Willie, born October 3, 1944 in Monticello, Ark., and died November 16, 2014 in Monticello, Ark. Willie and his wife, Mattie, joined the Pine Bluff church three years ago following an evangelistic series. They faithfully attended church until Willie got sick and was unable to attend. Survivors: wife, Mattie; step-son, Reginald Buchanan; and 13 grandchildren.

STOCKTON, Frederick L., born January 24, 1951, in Fort Smith, Ark., and died October 2, 2014 in Fort Worth, Texas. He was a member of the Alvarado church. Survivors: wife, Judy; sons, Samuel and Josh; sister, Sandra; brother,

Keith; and four grandchildren.

WHITE, Jerry L. White, born August 13, 1951 in Robinson, Ill., and died December 14 in Plano, Texas. Jerry was a music major in college at MacMurray College and Western Illinois University. He taught choral music, worked for Horace Mann Insurance, worked in radio in Geneva, Ill., and at KWLR Word97 in Maumelle, Ark. He was also a pastor in the Illinois Conference. While living in Little Rock he was an elder and adult Sabbath School teacher for both the the Richardson and Crosswalk Fellowship churches in Texas. Over the years he performed in numerous church and community choirs and most recently with the Millennial Choir and Orchestra at the Meyerson in Dallas in December 2013. Survivors: wife, Debbie Hallden White; daughter and son-in-law, Michelle and Brian Miller, of Plano; son, Brad Evergreen, of Bothell, Wash.; daughter and son-in-law, Sarah and Matt Biskner, of Ooltewah, Tenn.; and four grandchildren.

SABBATH SUNSET CALENDAR

	Mar 6	Mar 13	Mar 20	Mar 27	Apr 3	Apr 10
Abilene, TX	6:40	7:45	7:50	7:55	8:00	8:05
Albuquerque, NM	6:06	7:12	7:17	7:23	7:29	7:34
Amarillo, TX	6:46	7:52	7:58	8:04	8:10	8:15
Brownsville, TX	6:34	7:37	7:41	7:44	7:47	7:51
Dallas, TX	6:27	7:33	7:38	7:43	7:48	7:53
El Paso, TX	6:07	7:12	7:17	7:21	7:26	7:31
Fort Worth/Keene, TX	6:30	7:35	7:40	7:45	7:50	7:55
Gallup, NM	6:14	7:20	7:26	7:32	7:37	7:43
Galveston/Houston, TX	6:24	7:28	7:32	7:37	7:41	7:45
Gentry, AR	6:16	7:23	7:29	7:35	7:41	7:47
Little Rock, AR	6:09	7:15	7:20	7:26	7:31	7:37
Muskogee, OK	6:20	7:26	7:32	7:38	7:44	7:50
New Orleans, LA	6:02	7:07	7:11	7:15	7:20	7:24
Oklahoma City, OK	6:29	7:35	7:41	7:47	7:52	7:58
Roswell, NM	5:58	7:04	7:09	7:14	7:19	7:24
San Antonio, TX	6:36	7:41	7:45	7:49	7:53	7:57
Shreveport, LA	6:16	7:21	7:26	7:31	7:36	7:41
Tulsa, OK	6:22	7:29	7:35	7:41	7:47	7:52

Note: Daylight Savings Time begins at 2:00 a.m. on March 8.



On the Record »

BY PAT HUMPHREY » COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR, SOUTHWESTERN UNION

Straight From the Horse's Mouth

WE'VE ALL HEARD THE EXPRESSION about getting information “straight from the horse’s mouth,” right? Well, as I was preparing my editorial for this special edition on young adults, I wanted to discover and share what *they* had to say, rather than simply expound on my own ideas. So I asked some young adults two questions: Why are young adults leaving the church? And, What can the church do to engage and retain young adults? Here is the essence of what they said.

While each reply was different, every response was profound, and a common thread dealt with relationships—both with God and with church members. One person said that today’s young adults are lonely and “they are looking for a place where they belong.” Another said, “The people in our church, including myself, have not experienced a complete and true relationship with God. . . . We know of His ministry and the story of the Cross, but we have not found our personal story at the Cross.” Also focusing on relationships, another young adult said, “We fail and fall many times, and I think the way church members react to our failures has a big impact on how we view the church

as a whole and the God they represent.” Words like *genuine*, *honesty*, and *hypocritical* popped up in nearly all the responses. Does that tell us something?

As for ways that the church can engage and retain young adults, there were also some common themes expressed. One said, “The youth should be invited to participate and to lead out—after all, we are the future of the church. If older adults get in the way of youth participation, they should be prayed for.” Hmmm. Another suggested starting an “Acceptance Movement” as a way of transforming the church into a place that young people would want to call “their church.” You do this simply by accepting the young

adults who walk through your doors. “Whoever is greeting, find a replacement and give the young adult a personal tour of the church. Introduce him (or her) to everyone you encounter, including the pastor.” Then, this person said, we should find ways to involve the young person in ministry, such as working in the Sabbath School department. Giving them an assignment and inviting them to return the following week will ensure their return.

Here are some other responses that struck me: “As youth, we are often underestimated. But our denomination was founded by young people and this alone should show that we have the capabilities for change and purpose.” Another said, “Young adults are looking for more than just worship services, lights, and music.”

So there you have it. Words of wisdom—straight from the “horse’s mouth.” Let’s listen *and* do something about it.

Pat Humphrey

Record

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Through the Mizpah Gate

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April 9-12, 2015

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Southwestern campus, Mabee Center

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Southwestern campus

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