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GLOBAL YOUTH MINISTRY STRATEGIC THEMES & EMPHASES 2006 - 2010

Tell The World



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Strategic Themes and Emphases

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MISSION STATEMENT

PRIMARY FOCUS:

- The salvation of youth through Jesus Christ.
- Equipping youth for service.

OUR TASK:

- Lead youth to understand their individual worth by helping them discover and develop their spiritual gifts and abilities.
- Equip and empower youth for a life of service within God's church and community.
- Ensure the integration of youth into *all* aspects of church life and leadership; make them full participants in the mission of the church.

OUR GOALS:

- Achieve a balanced ministry by incorporating the Biblical dynamics of fellowship, nurture, worship, and mission.
- Relate effective ministry to the needs of youth.
- Conduct ongoing research to discover areas that need attention in the ever-changing youth culture.
- Seek divine guidance through God's Word.

STRATEGIC THEME #1

REACHING

*The General Conference Youth Ministries Department in collaboration with The Center for Global Evangelism, the Sabbath School/Personal Ministries department and Adventist Laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) will continue to finance, inspire, involve and support the youth in the presentation of a full scale, Christ-centered, doctrinal evangelistic series. This highly ambitious program is known as the **Elijah Project**.*

Emphasis # 1

Seventh-day Adventists young people all over the world with the assistance of the local church, will organize themselves, receive training by the Youth and Personal Ministries directors, be equipped and form evangelistic teams.

Emphasis # 2

Every *Elijah Project* team (Local Church/Regional/Conference/Mission) should involve youth speakers to conduct series of at least one week in duration.

Emphasis # 3

Each educational institution to encourage students to participate in the *Elijah Project*.

Emphasis # 4

Youth Directors at all levels of the church to form an evangelistic team and conduct a one week crusade as a training school.

Emphasis # 5

Divisions are encouraged to develop evangelistic tools to meet the needs of the local territory in the area of Youth Evangelism.

Emphasis # 6

The *Elijah Project* is to affirm the youth in their faith, and give them the opportunity to participate in a way that will bring other young people to Christ and the church, as well as consolidate those in the church.

Emphasis # 7

The entities of the church should continue to provide financing for the *Elijah Project* in cooperation with the General Conference Youth Ministries Department and the Center for Global Evangelism.

STRATEGIC THEME #2

CONNECTING

The General Conference Youth Ministries Department firmly believes that prayer is one of the most powerful communication bond, with God that exist in the life of a Christian and it must be reinforced, motivated and done more often.

Emphasis # 1

Help our young people understand that prayer is the way God communicates His will with us.

Emphasis # 2

Explain to young people the different types of prayer and show them that prayer really works. They will only believe it if they practice it in their own lives. Two examples on prayer are, “Daniel’s Prayer (Daniel 9:1-19) and Jabez, the man of prayer (1 Chronicles 4:9-10).

Emphasis # 3

Show the young people the importance of one-on-one personal communication with God. Show them that He is accessible to each one of us.

Emphasis # 4

As the youth pastor you must live a prayerful life in your own home, as well as with and among the young people you serve. It will be the best example to them.

Emphasis # 5

Youth groups, Adventurers, Pathfinders, and Ambassadors should be encouraged to hold Prayer Conferences regularly.

Emphasis # 6

Make young people rediscover the book of Psalms as Israel’s special prayer book in the Old Testament. The psalms are prayers in the form of songs.

Emphasis # 7

Create the necessary process in your church so that young people can participate in prayer activities. Even if praying is not something they do regularly, this will help them develop the habit of communicating with God through prayer.

Emphasis # 8

Encourage youth to participate in community prayer initiatives.

STRATEGIC THEME #3

RECLAIMING

The General Conference Youth Ministries Department firmly believes in the need of facing the challenge of looking for and reclaiming the lost. We have always been attentive to and cared about young people that are born in families already in the church; but they are leaving the church like water between our fingers. The Gospel of Luke, chapter 15, shows us how Christ, as the Good Shepherd, looks for His lost sheep until it is found; while leaving the other 99 in a safe place. As youth pastors we must imitate this example.

Emphasis # 1

Create an extensive list of all the young people registered in your AYS group and find out who is actually attending and who is not. If it's not possible to get a complete list, use the names you have and then ask the young people of your church for names and addresses of their friends that used to come, but no longer attend church. Assign someone to work with the missing members when you make contact.

Emphasis # 2

Have an annual Re-Encounter program, spanning three months, culminating in a Homecoming Sabbath celebration.

- start a Prayer list for all inactive youth.

Emphasis # 3

Call young people who are not attending and invite them to social activities. Give them time to decide. If you have called them once, twice or even three times and they do not respond do not be discouraged, try again.

Emphasis # 4

Start group visits. If possible have the meetings in the homes of the missing young people. The pastor and the friends of the missing youth play a very important role in winning them back. Invite friends to accompany you on these visits.

Emphasis # 5

Hold an annual Conference/Division-wide Homecoming Sabbath where the whole program is specifically arranged with the returning youth in mind. This should be held in all churches on the same date.

Emphasis # 6

Organize a Youth Mentoring program. Each returning young person should be linked with an established believer who can encourage them. Prepare a Youth Mentoring Manual.

Emphasis # 7

Educate the church so that they can be friendly and warm towards the returning young people. Allow the young people space to grow and develop in their Christian experience.

Emphasis # 8

Help returning young people to become involved in the life of the church. If possible link them with a youth small group.

STRATEGIC THEME #4

TRAINING

The General Conference Youth Ministries Department is aware of the necessity of a special training aimed at our pastors, church elders and youth leaders. Often times when our youth pastors leave our seminaries they are not fully equipped to handle a vast majority of today's youth issues. We believe that working with the youth is a marvelous challenge, and an excellent opportunity for us to influence and lead young people to a fuller and richer experience with Christ. We further believe that provision should be made that will help train and equip our youth pastors to deal with some of these challenges.

Emphasis # 1 - Teachable

Don't think that you know it all. After finishing school we tend to think that we know a lot. However, once we come out of the fiction stage we face a reality that has not addressed in seminary.

Emphasis # 2 - Caring

Worry about the young person in front of you, for each one of them individually, for their fears, problems, and desires. Be involved in their lives; do not be a *distant pastor* that no one can speak with.

Emphasis # 3 - Resourcing

Today's young people feel attracted to get closer to God by different ways. Without making a mistake, try to innovate, try to create programs that motivate young people, that are of interest to them, that would give them the answer that are looking for. If we do not provide programs and answers for them they will find it somewhere else.

Emphasis # 4 - Personal - Spiritual Growth (Devotion)

During your busy schedule, set aside time to spend a moment with God. Young people will notice for sure if you have a good relationship with God. They need a contemporary connection, and you should have an answer to almost all of their problems with a Bible in your hands.

Emphasis # 5 - Sensitivity to the needs

You must be convinced that the most important group in the church is the youth. Create adequate programs so the young people will feel important.

Emphasis # 6 - Humility

Be humble. When you make a mistake, admit it to them. We are not infallible. Young people will be more grateful with an apology than with an arrogant youth pastor.

STRATEGIC THEME #5 *RETAINING*

The General Conference Youth Ministries Department recognizes the challenge of the huge presence of Adventist youth, and that the need to keep them both engaged and spiritually alive is a top priority for youth ministry.

Emphasis #1

Develop materials to assist Pastor and Youth Leaders as they minister to youth

Resources - *Pastors and Elders Handbook*
Empowering Youth
AY Story and Pathfinder Story
Youth Ministry Handbook

Emphasis #2

Develop materials for young people to engage them in the mission of the church.

Resources - *Getting it Right*
Heart Hand and Mind

Emphasis #3

Strengthen Youth by providing them with materials.

Resources - *Final Conflict* video (SAD)
Underground
A Call to Youth To Take a Stand (EGW Estate)

Emphasis #4

Encourage each church to establish Adventurer Club, Pathfinder Club, Ambassador [club] and Young adult ministries to serve as discipleship centers for youth.

Resources - *Youth Leadership Award Manual*
Ambassador Manual

Emphasis #5

Materials should be developed to meet the needs of a new generation of Seventh-day Adventist Youth with special emphasis on teens.

Resources - Youth Worker Guide Book: *Lifestyle & Social Issues*

Emphasis #6

Engage young people in issue of faith and moral decision making.

Resources - Lifestyle Guides (book)

STRATEGIC THEME #6

INVOLVING

The General Conference Youth Ministries Department will work together with administration, pastors, educators and ministers throughout the world church to promote Youth Involvement in all aspects of church life.

Emphasis #1

Make the document *YouthFirst* available to every administrator, pastor, educator, minister and youth leader.

Emphasis #6

Develop a mentoring system at all levels of youth ministry.

Emphasis #2

Facilitate broad youth involvement in all aspects of church life.

Emphasis #3

Establish a culture of involving youth in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Emphasis #4

Church Administrators to provide opportunity for youth to be included as delegates to committees.

Emphasis #5

Develop training programs for Youth Leadership development.

Emphasis #7

Train youth workers how to communicate with youth.

Emphasis #8

Trust youth with responsibilities.

Emphasis #9

At all levels develop a talent bank of youth leaders/youth and their skills, interests and abilities, then invite them to participate in services and other activities.

Emphasis #10

The respective levels of leadership take the initiative to implement the above recommendation.

STRATEGIC THEME #7

SERVING

The General Conference Youth Ministries Department will embrace service as a way for our youth to implement a consistent commitment to minister to the needs of others. Young people in every church will be encouraged to share hope to the communities in which they live.

Emphasis #1

Embrace a theology of service. (General Conference)

Emphasis #2

Position Adventist Youth as a well known serving group of people in the community.

Emphasis #3

Serve others through a ministry of in-reach and out-reach evangelism.

Emphasis #4

The church must accept the challenge of providing financial and other assistance to help young people to carry out the ministry of helping others.