



SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH



BWACHA MISSION DISTRICT



Mukobeko South Youth Department

# SEMINAR 6

## CHURCH PLANNING

MAY 6, 2022

MUKOBEKO SOUTH SDA CHURCH

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# CHURCH PLANNING

## *Developing a Purpose Driven Model for Youth Ministry in the Local Church*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The senior youth leader is an integral part of the local church. He/she should work with the youth, their parents, the pastor, and volunteers to develop and implement a yearly plan with regular social, educational, spiritual and/or mission-oriented events meant to develop and maintain a vibrant program. Along with being fun and welcoming, this will also help to build a sense of community within the youth of the church, provide opportunities for both spiritual and social development, and help them connect with one another while growing in their faith.

Since the local church is the rightful hub of youth ministry, the plans of the youth council should consider the initiatives of the Division, Union, and Conference. One of the greatest challenges facing the local youth leader is the responsibility of yearly planning, while endeavoring to be faithful to the Ideals of the AYM as expressed in the Aim, motto, pledge and objectives. This has discouraged many leaders, even sometimes causing them to give up and feel that they have failed as a youth leader. In order to be faithful to the AYM aim (“The Advent message to all the world in my generation.”) which is in keeping to the church’s mandate: “to preach the everlasting gospel to a perishing world in these last days”, the youth leader needs to become purposeful in adopting a balanced yearly plan model that will accomplish the AYM aim, motto, pledge and AYM objectives.

### 2. SEMINAR OBJECTIVES

This module will seek to assist the leader to plan a yearly model for the youth of the church, while implementing the key AYM objectives of the local church within the four dynamic areas that grew the early New Testament church (growth, worship, community, and service). It will stress the fact that AYM primarily focuses on Jesus, the Master Youth Leader. It will also stress the need to incorporate annually the major youth objectives of their conference, union, and division. The model will also seek to assist the leader to implement the current re-visioning of the GC AYM department to save our youth through the initiatives of “Reach In, Reach Out, Reach Up”.

### 3. FOLLOWING JESUS’ PURPOSE

The youth leader needs to understand that it all begins with a focus on Jesus as the Master Leader who has given us a basic model to follow that transcends time. Christ’s life on earth gives the true model to save lost youth and usher them into the kingdom of God, modeling them into disciples of Christ, while living in this sinful world.

Christ’s method of fulfilling His mission on earth was very purposeful and practical. Likewise, there is a need for youth leaders to become purposeful in the way we lead our youth. Becoming purposeful involves a sense of urgency in the way we live and work. What made Jesus successful was His connection with heaven to carry out His mission. The promise Jesus gave to His disciples before His accession to heaven is exactly the same promise youth leaders can accept today as His last day disciples hastening His soon coming.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)



The power that Jesus received from heaven to fulfill His mission came from the Holy Spirit and this same power is offered to youth leaders in their mission for their local church youth. Just as Jesus was empowered through the presence of the Holy Spirit, every youth leader needs this empowerment to develop a yearly youth model in their local church.

In seeking to develop a sustaining yearly model for the youth, and model them into disciples for Jesus, we need to look at the life of Jesus and discover His secret to making disciples. The lifestyle of Jesus reveals the key concepts that form the basic areas of a local AYM program.

#### 4. FOUR DYNAMIC BIBLICAL FORCES

##### LUKE 6: 12-17 A DAY IN THE LIFE OF JESUS

A day in the life of Jesus (e. g. Luke 6:12-17) reveals the same four biblical dynamic forces that helped the early church grow in Acts 2:42-47, and which we want to grow our youth programs. They are Spiritual Development, Building Community, Worship, and Missions.

1. Verse 12: “He went out on the mountainside to pray.” He spent the first hours of His day in communion with the Father. We will identify that as PERSONAL SPIRITUALITY/DISCIPLESHIP.
2. Verse 13: “When the morning came he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them.” Strengthened by His communion with the Father, He next sought the company of His twelve disciples. The Christian was never meant to live in isolation; God is community. Jesus showed us the way to COMMUNITY.
3. Verse 17: “...he went down with them . . . and a great number of people ... had come to hear him and be healed.” Together, Jesus and His disciples spent the rest of the day in service, in the proclamation and demonstration of the Kingdom of God. This is true SERVICE AND MISSION.

##### ACTS 2:42-47 A DAY IN THE LIVES OF THE EARLY CHRISTIANS



Gane in his book “Building Youth Ministries-A Foundational Guide,” outlined the Biblical model of these four dynamic forces of church growth, as found in Acts 2:42-47. These forces need to become the core areas of ministry for our youth in the local church, with its programs and training centered around them year-after-year (Gane, p. 52-53).

The four dynamic forces were grace, service, worship, and community. These four forces are clearly seen in the life of the early church and under-girded the rapid growth of the New Testament church community.

1. Grace—the free gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ to sinners, who don’t deserve it. Gane stresses that Adventist Youth Ministry must include an intentional focus on God’s saving acts in history in such a way as to meet the needs of the young people at their stage of development. Youth ministry built on this model seeks to meet young people where they are, and through love and spiritual care, lead them into a saving relationship that recognizes and fully accepts the astonishing, free gift of God’s grace to them personally.
2. Worship—the celebration of God’s gift in praises to Him in formal church services, small groups, and individual daily lifestyle. This is carried out Gane in his book “Building Youth Ministries-A Foundational Guide,” outlined the Biblical model of these four dynamic forces of church growth, as found in Acts 2:42-47. These forces need to become the core areas of ministry for our youth in the local church, with its programs and training centered around them year-after-year (Gane, p. 52-53). The four dynamic forces were grace, service, worship, and community. These four forces are clearly seen in the life of the early church and under-girded the rapid growth of the New Testament church community.

2. Worship—the celebration of God’s gift in praises to Him in formal church services, small groups, and individual daily lifestyle. This is carried out through prayer, singing, praise, and thanksgiving. These practices build a rich spiritual life which goes with the young person far beyond weekly worship services or AY meetings. They learn that while following Jesus today does not literally mean to be with Him in the same way as His first disciples could, the priorities and intentions, the heart and inner attitudes of modern disciples are forever the same. A disciple wants to be like the Master and the disciple reorders the priorities of life in order to make discipleship possible. Jesus says that the Scriptures testify of Him and no discipleship is possible without spending time with Him through the meditation upon His Word. The Word, made alive by the Holy Spirit, will shape and transform the heart and life of the disciple to be like the master (Psalm 1:1-3). The whole life will become worship.

3. Community—relationships bonded together in an atmosphere of warmth, love, and acceptance, where self is laid aside for the good of others. As, in the early church, believers were nurtured through the Word and teachings of the apostles. So here, young believers are welcomed into a community that reflects love, support, and unity as a window on the kingdom of God. In this community, no one is left out and everyone is cared for. In this community, there will be people at all levels on their journey with God. Some might be totally committed to Him, others might have no interest in spiritual things at all. Our task is to journey with all of them and to minister to them wherever they find themselves on the spectrum of faith. This will lead our youth to do the same as they grow in faith.
4. Service—the early church was intentional about expanding the kingdom of Jesus and extending the good news of a life in Christ and the grace He gives to everyone, everywhere, all the time. In the same way, service and mission are the heartbeat of your youth group/small group. Your outreach methods and activities will depend on your circumstances, the needs of the community, the resources that you and your youth group have, the spiritual gifts of your team, and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Whatever shape or form your service/mission takes, it should always represent the ultimate objective for the existence of your ministry. Bear in mind the prophetic counsel given to us through inspiration: “Christ’s method alone will give true success in

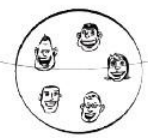




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## YOUTH MINISTRY PROGRAMMING CYCLE MODEL FOR THE LOCAL CHURCH (GCSYM, P. 30)

Listen to their story  
Share your story  
Reveal God's story



1. Mission is the beginning and end of the model. Train your committed youth to become contagious and effective in sharing their faith.
  - a. Equip all your committed youth for Friendship Evangelism. Use the “Contagious Christianity” training. Equip them to share their personal story/testimony and to be aware of opportunities God will provide to influence someone else’s life, whether at home, school, work, neighborhood, or clubs. Construct your AY/Youth meetings (No. 2) in such a way that they feel free to invite their friends and non-believers they are influencing toward Jesus to come.

Let them see their youth meeting as part of the cycle of evangelism. Let it be a place/event that can be of assistance to them in their mission adventures.

- b. Resources: “Becoming a Contagious Christian” training and other training tools are available at [youth.adventist.org](http://youth.adventist.org).
2. The Meeting Model: Plan for your weekly meeting to be your Front Door for Evangelism Consider your regular AY meeting, youth group, or small group meeting as an event that will have multiple targets:
  - a. Minister to non-Adventist youth
  - b. Minister to Adventist youth who are nominal
  - c. Minister to Adventist youth who have made a commitment to Jesus While your Message and Method are clearly defined and our three Foundations are firmly in place, these targets will define and determine the nature of your programming.

Elements of the meetings:

- a. Relevant themes; develop a sense of belonging; make it attractive; engage the participants; use a variety of methods throughout the year.
- b. We live in the age of technology and wherever possible use technology in the context of your meetings.
- c. However, always remember the foundations of your ministry and always be purposeful in your programming.
- d. Core elements that are generally present in whatever type of meeting you choose to run:
  1. Creative and not repetitive
  2. Relationally based and warm
  3. Grounded in practical Bible teaching relevant to the theme of the day
  4. Based on involvement and interaction
  5. Anointed in prayer

Meetings are generally constructed around a THEME and contain a number of elements that include welcome, prayer, songs, ice breakers, quiz, interaction, role, etc.; however, there is a main segment that can be presented in a number of different ways, such as:

- a. Formal presentation by someone who has some insights on the theme
- b. Debate on the theme
- c. Theme presented to be discussed in a small group followed by reporting and summing up
- d. A musical meeting based on a theme (different songs to be presented and discussed)
- e. A theme to be role-played by different groups followed by discussions
- f. A presentation of a drama

Please Note

Provide periodical alternatives to your youth meetings; they do not always have to be conducted on the church premises. Here are some possibilities:

- a. Meeting in nature - in a park or simply go for a purposeful nature walk;
- b. Visitation of a hospital/nursing home / prison / orphanage / shutins / friends who do not attend

It would be wise to dedicate a series of meetings at specific times of the year that could take the form of a reaping campaign, when you can challenge participants to cross the line for Jesus.

Resources: For ideas for youth meetings and Voice of Youth/ reaping campaigns, go to [youth.adventist.org](http://youth.adventist.org). Look for “Face Time” and “The One,” among others.



3. Developing community: an essential foundation of your youth ministry Consider small group ministry to be an indispensable part of your ministry weekly or once every two weeks. This is a place of belonging for every participant, where they are known personally, cared for, accepted, and challenged to grow spiritually. This is the place where you will lead your ‘seeker’ friends for further investigation of the faith.

Resources: You will find the Care Group training and the Underground Small Group Study Guides and other tools at [youth.adventist.org](http://youth.adventist.org).

## 6. GROWING INTO DEEPER SPIRITUALITY: DISCIPLESHIP

Our vision is to transition our youth from simple membership to authentic discipleship. Youth and small group leaders are encouraged to embrace spiritual practices that develop their character and help them grow into the likeness of Jesus, the Master Teacher. They should challenge all participants to grow, whether it is in the context of the small group or individually.

Resources: Steps to Discipleship—personal disciple scheme, Discipleship in Action for groups and other resources are available at [youth.adventist.org](http://youth.adventist.org).

## 7. REPEAT: YOUTH MINISTRY BEGINS AND ENDS WITH SERVICE AND MISSION

Youth ministry has developed a reputation of service as something we do overseas or at home a few times a year; however, it is God’s plan for us to develop service as a way of life. It is on the journey of service that young people come to find their unique place in ministry; this is what brings meaning and purpose in their spiritual journey. We consider the following elements as essential as part of our Service/Mission tool kit:

- a. My Story: the readiness and ability to share your personal testimony / story
- b. His Story: the ability to simply explain the essence of the gospel
- c. Our Story: a clear understanding and the ability to articulate the unique contribution of the Adventist Message
- d. Regular involvement in acts of compassion, justice and mercy
- e. Proclamation of the Word through regular evangelistic series.

Resources: All available at [youth.adventist.org](http://youth.adventist.org).

## 8. TOTAL YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

### GC /AYM QUINQUENNIAL THEME — “PASS IT ON”

Refer to Pass It On Booklet (GC, 2016)

In keeping with the General Conference Youth Ministry Quinquennial Theme of “Pass it On,” the youth leader additionally needs to purposefully incorporate the three key elements of this initiative (Reach Up, Reach In, Reach Across) into their weekly programs, so that all three components are experienced at least once per quarter. This need not be seen as something to add; it is clearly present in all the dynamic elements of life and growth that we have seen already.

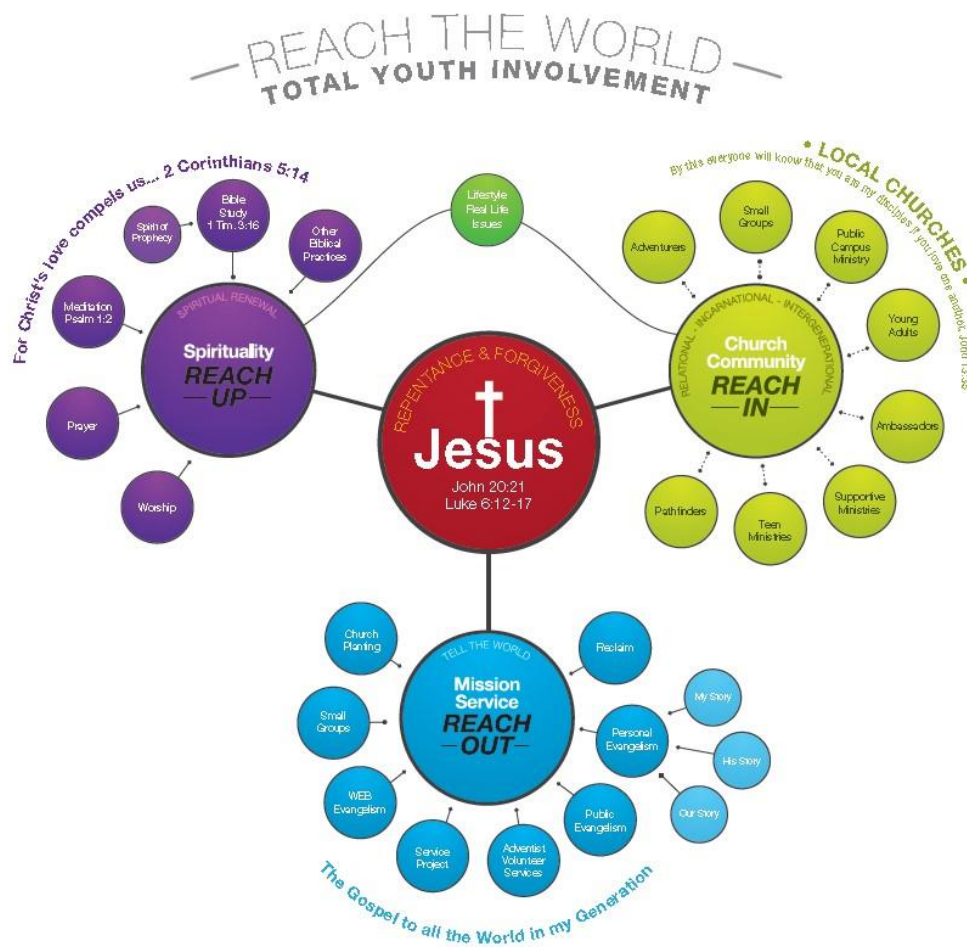


1. Reach Up (“For the love of Christ compels us.” 2 Cor. 5:14) Spiritual Renewal through:
  - Worship
  - Prayer
  - Meditation (Ps. 1:2)
  - Spirit of Prophecy
  - Bible study (1 Tim. 3:16)
  - Other Bible Practices
2. Reach In (“By this everyone shall know that you are my disciples if we love one another” Jn. 13:35). Church Community through:
  - Small Groups
  - Adventurers
  - Pathfinders
  - Ambassadors
  - Teen Ministries
  - Supportive Groups
  - Public Campus Ministries
  - Young Adults
  - (Involving Relational/Incarnational/Intergenerational)
3. Reach Out (The Gospel to all the World in my Generation... tell the World). Mission Service through:
  - Public Evangelism
  - Small Groups
  - Personal Evangelism (My Story/His Story/Our Story)
  - Reclaim
  - Adventist Volunteer Services
  - Service Projects
  - Church Planting
  - Web Evangelism
4. Jesus (The Center of Love and Forgiveness... Jn. 20:21 & Lk. 6:12-17). It all begins with Jesus as the center (hub) of AYM for total empowerment.
  - Jesus is our Center of Empowerment: “As the father has sent me, I am sending you ... Receive the Holy Spirit.” (Jn. 17:20-22)
  - His Purpose – “To Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God.” Lk. 4:43 (NIV)
  - His Message – “The Kingdom of God has come near.” (Mk. 1:14-15)
  - His Method – “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.” (Acts 1:8)
  - His Prayer – “That all of them may be one.” (Jn. 17:20-21)

The AYM model below outlines the concepts of the local youth ministries’ 5-year emphasis where Jesus is central to accomplishing the “Reach Up, Reach In, Reach Out” key emphases in a comprehensive AYM program model during the years 2016 – 2020.







See the three principles clearly in His own earthly life:

Luke 6: 12-19 (NIV)

- Reach Up – vs. 12 “One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray and SPENT THE NIGHT PRAYING TO GOD.”
- Reach In – vs. 13 When morning came, he called HIS DISCIPLES TO HIM AND CHOSE TWELVE of them, whom he also designated apostles: 14 Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, 15 Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, 16 Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.
- Reach Out – vs. 17 HE WENT DOWN WITH THEM and stood on a level place.

A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon, 18 who had come TO HEAR HIM AND TO BE HEALED OF THEIR DISEASES. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured, 19 and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.

## Resources

The General Conference Youth Ministries Department has many resources and links to others that can help. Resource materials must be collected and studied in order to keep abreast of the latest developments and research discoveries in youth ministry. This can seem overwhelming, but if you dedicate an hour or two a week to your own personal “in-service training,” you can keep up. The leader should keep in contact

with the conference/mission youth director, who can help the youth and young adult leader in his or her development. This contact also will help the leader to keep informed on the latest denominational programs and plans (GCSYMH, p.41).

## 9. CONCLUSION

Local church programming will vary from one AY Society to another, as the youth leader assesses the needs of their youth and group size. The leader however needs to stay faithful to the key objectives of the AYM while seeking ways within the weekly programs to integrate them into the hearts and lives of their youth.

The youth leader needs to always remember that the youth department is an integral part of the local church, incorporating the assistance of the parents, church board, and members to assist in discipline their youth for Jesus, and instilling in them a sense of outreach in mission-oriented events yearly (e. g. Global Youth Day). Building a sense of community within the group, providing opportunities for both social and spiritual development with vibrant purpose-filled programs that meet the key objectives of the youth department, must become the goal of every youth leader.

It's not easy to accept the role of a youth leader, but remember the Word of God to Joshua:

“Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:7-9

- Our Mission: To lead young people in a saving relationship with Jesus and help them embrace his call to discipleship.
- Our Motto: The love of Christ compels us.
- Our Aim: The Advent Message to all the world in my generation.
- Our Theme (2021-2025): I Will Go

## 10. ACTIVITIES

### INDIVIDUAL:

- b. Briefly explain how the four Biblical dynamic forces were implemented by Jesus, as found in Luke 6: 12-17: A Day in the Life of Jesus. (Written/Recorded)
- c. Briefly explain how the four Biblical dynamic forces were implemented by the early church, as found in Acts 2:42-47: A Day in the Life of the Early Church. (Written/Recorded)

### GROUP:

- d. Discuss various ways your youth can implement the four dynamic forces in purposeful activities in their youth meetings. (30 mins)

