
GUIDELINES

FOR CHURCH YOUTH LEADERS

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of the Seventh-day Adventist Reform Movement

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YOUTH WORK



1. God's plan for the youth of the last generation

“God is not ‘worshipped with men’s hands, as though He needed any thing’ (Acts 17:25). No magnificence of outward display can please God, when the heart is serving idols and the hands are polluted with iniquity. The Holy Spirit will unite with those in the church who, with contrition of heart, will walk humbly with God. To all who look to Him and walk in the footsteps of Christ, He gives sanctification, comfort, and victory over the world. The people of God, His chosen kingdom, are not as a stagnant pool. They are as a river, constantly flowing, and as it advances becoming deeper and wider, until its life-giving waters are spread over all the earth. Whenever the gospel of God is received, its grace heals the maladies that sin has produced. The Sun of Righteousness arises with healing in His beams. Light, strength, and refreshing come from the Lord, and the good fruit borne bears witness to a work of righteousness.” –(Manuscript 33, April 27, 1903) *The Upward Look*, p. 131.

“The Holy Spirit will unite
with those in the church who,
with contrition of heart, will
walk humbly with God.”

The life of the church is rooted in Jesus.

“It is not in God’s purpose that the church shall be sustained by life drawn from the minister. They are to have root in themselves. The gospel news, the message of warnings, the third angel’s message, is to be voiced by church members.” –*Evangelism*, p. 343.

Parents must have religion at home!

“Parents should more fully realize their responsibilities as character builders. God places before them the privilege of strengthening His cause through the consecration and labors of their children. He desires to see gathered out from the homes of our people a large company of youth who, because of the godly influences of their homes, have surrendered their hearts to Him and go forth to give Him the highest service of their lives. Directed and trained by the godly instruction of the home, the influence of the morning and evening worship, the consistent example of parents who love and fear God, they have learned to submit to God as their teacher and are prepared to render Him acceptable service as loyal sons and daughters. Such youth are prepared to represent to the world the power and grace of Christ.” – *Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students*, p. 131.



“The express purpose of the church is to educate.”

“It is God’s purpose to manifest through His people the principles of His kingdom. That in life and character they may reveal these principles, He desires to separate them from the customs, habits, and practices of the world. He seeks to bring them near to Himself, that He may make known to them His will.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 9.

Work to keep alive the principles of self-denial and self-sacrifice.

“Upon all who believe, God has placed the burden of raising up churches. The express purpose of the church is to educate men and women [young and old] to use their entrusted capabilities for the benefit of the world, to employ the means God has lent, for His glory. He has made human beings His stewards. They are to employ His intrusted talents in building up His work and enlarging His kingdom. Our churches, large and small, are not to be treated in such a way that they will be helplessly dependent upon ministerial aid. The members are to be so established in the faith that they will have an intelligent knowledge of true missionary work. They are to follow Christ’s example, ministering to those around them. Faithfully they are to fulfill the vows made at their baptism, the vow that they will practice the lessons taught in the life of Christ. They are to work together to keep alive in the church the principles of self-denial and self-sacrifice, which Christ, His divinity clothed with humanity, followed in His work as a missionary. It is imparting the knowledge of Christ’s love and tenderness that gives efficiency to all missionary operations.” –*Pacific Union Recorder*, August 1, 1901.

“The church of Christ on earth was organized for missionary purposes, and the Lord desires to see the entire church devising ways and means whereby high and low, rich and poor, [young and old] may hear the message of truth.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 29.

2. Purpose and objectives of the youth department

The witness of the Psalmist is that “The entrance of Thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.” Psalm 119:130. In all the activities of the youth department, our objective must be to sanctify the Lord God in our hearts and educate ourselves and our youth to be “al-

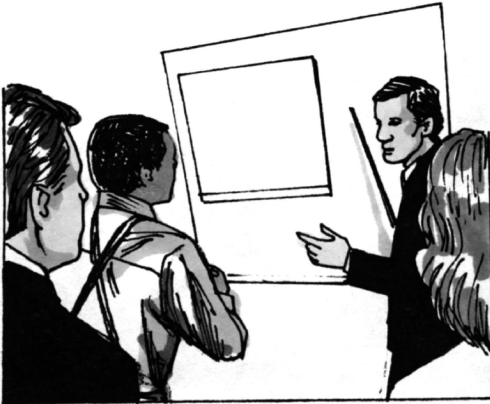
ways ready” to give an answer to every man that asks “a reason” for the hope that is in us with meekness and fear. (Cp. 1 Peter 3:15.)

“The burden of church work should be distributed among its individual members, so that each one may become an intelligent laborer for God. There is altogether too much unused force in our churches. There are a few who devise, plan, and work...

“The people go to church, listen to the sermon, pay their tithes, make their offerings, and do very little else. And why? Because the ministers do not open their plans to the people, soliciting the benefit of their advice and counsel in planning and their help in executing the plans that they have had a part in forming.” –*Review and Herald*, July 9, 1895.

“The Lord will raise up men to bear the message of truth to the world and to His people. If those in responsible positions do not move onward in the opening providences of God, bearing an appropriate message for this time, the words of warning will be given to others who will be faithful to their trust. Even youthful Christians will be chosen to ‘cry aloud and spare not.’ ” –*Sabbath-School Worker*, April 1, 1892.

“In our efforts to help the youth we are woefully behind our duty. We



have had great light, but we lack in zeal and earnestness, and have not fervency of spirit proportionate to the privileges we enjoy. We must rise above the chilling atmosphere of unbelief with which we are surrounded, and draw nigh to God, that He may draw nigh to us. We must educate the youth, that they may learn how to work for the salvation of souls; and in educating the youth for this work, we shall also learn

how to labor more successfully, becoming efficient agents in the hands of God for the conversion of our scholars. We must become imbued with the spirit of earnest labor, and lay hold upon Christ, claiming Him as our only efficiency. Our minds must be enlarged, that we may have a proper realization of the things pertaining to eternal life. Our hearts must be softened and subdued by the grace of Christ, that we may become true educators.” – *Testimonies on Sabbath School Work*, p. 49.

“We have an army of youth today who can do much if they are properly directed and encouraged. We want our children to believe the truth.

We want them to be blessed of God. We want them to act a part in well-organized plans for helping other youth. Let all be so trained that they may rightly represent the truth, giving the reason of the hope that is within them, and honoring God in any branch of the work where they are qualified to labor." —(*General Conference Bulletin*, vol. 5, no. 2, p. 24) *Christian Service*, p. 30.

"The youth need more than a casual notice, more than an occasional word of encouragement. They need painstaking, prayerful, careful labor. He only whose heart is filled with love and sympathy will be able to reach those youth who are apparently careless and indifferent. Not all can be helped in the same way. God deals with each according to his temperament and character, and we must cooperate with Him. Often those whom we pass by with indifference, because we judge them from outward appearance, have in them the best material for workers, and will repay all the efforts bestowed on them. There must be more study given to the problem of how to deal with the youth, more earnest prayer for the wisdom that is needed in dealing with minds.

"When the youth give their hearts to God, our responsibility for them does not cease. They must be interested in the Lord's work, and led to see that He expects them to do something to advance His cause. It is not enough to show how much needs to be done, and to urge the youth to act a part. They must be taught how to labor for the Master. They must be trained, disciplined, drilled, in the best methods of winning souls to Christ. Teach them to try in a quiet, unpretending way to help their young companions. Let different branches of missionary effort be systematically laid out, in which they may take part, and let them be given instruction and help. Thus they will learn to work for God." —*Gospel Workers*, 1915, pp. 208, 210.

3. Structure and organization in the local church

It has been said that the first officer elected in the local church should be the Youth Leader. The youth work is a great challenge, and this is where our best efforts and talents are needed and deserved, for the youth are the future of the work. However one finds him/herself responsible for the youth work in a local church, it is important to accept this work as given by God. Decide from the start to be a willing learner under the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Move constantly forward in faith. (The Field and Union youth leaders are part of the team supporting the local Church Youth Leaders, and their duties are covered in the "Support Team" section.)

The objectives of the youth department, as outlined above in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, may be summarized as follows:

- 1. Labor for the conversion of the youth,**
- 2. Give them something to do for Jesus, and**
- 3. Educate them for greater service.**

To reach these goals, we, as leaders, must ourselves

- 1. Pray much for wisdom and a heart impressible to the movings of the Holy Spirit,**
- 2. Prepare materials and organize activities of interest to the youth,**
- 3. Organize activities in which they can help, share experiences, work together, and participate in systematic study and prayer groups.**

We must also

- 4. Give them reasons for faith and its practice,**
- 5. Show them by example and principle how to work together efficiently for the Master, and**
- 6. Give them opportunities to make experiences in leadership and cooperative efforts.**

Reorganization and restructuring of the youth group occur at the annual business meeting of each local church. It is here that the person responsible for directing the youth work is selected. His term of office is the same as that of the other officers of the local church. [If there is currently no one responsible for the youth in the local church, then the minister (and the local church committee) should appoint someone to do this work until the next annual business meeting of the local church.]

The young people deserve to have people of both energy and experience to guide and direct them. In these *Guidelines*, we recommend that the local church choose both a Youth Leader and a Youth Counselor. The Youth Leader should be a younger person who works energetically to advance the youth work. The Youth Counselor should be faithful and knowledgeable in the truth, patient, have great love for and respect from

the youth, and be someone who is experienced in leadership. When possible, it is good to allow the youth themselves to elect their own peer leader, secretary, treasurer, and other officers, as necessary.

When the youth elect their own leaders, they are not only learning how to organize and think for themselves, but they will take more interest in the youth activities, because it is their group. (This is suggested in *Christian Service*, p. 34.) The church may have reason to elect all three executive members of the Youth Committee (Counselor, Leader, and Secretary/Treasurer). However, whether the Youth Committee is elected at the local church business meeting or the youth are allowed to elect their own leader and secretary/treasurer (and any other officers they think necessary), it must be remembered that only church members may serve as official church officers! Additional details follow in the module titled "Local Church Officers."

The Youth Committee is actually a subcommittee of the local Church Committee. In larger churches, more individuals may be included on the Youth Committee. A three-member committee is the most efficient; but, in serious matters, a larger number of more experienced people will generally come to wiser decisions. Proverbs 11:14.

The exact structure of the youth department should be formulated according to the need. In small churches, it will be simple. However, in larger churches, with greater needs, the more important responsibilities will need to be divided up among more individuals. Form must follow function, and the function is to involve the youth in the programs of the church and welcome their participation in all aspects of church life. They are to be encouraged to serve in places of responsibility alongside their elders. Although the youth may have their own Sabbath school class, they are not to be isolated from the rest of the membership. Nevertheless, it gives them

joy to have some programs and projects which they can see to completion on their own. It should be remembered that the essential purpose of the organization is to create a structure in which the youth can learn lessons of leadership, enjoy fellowship with those of similar experience, have times for study, singing and prayer, exchange expe-



riences, and form teams for sharing what they have learned. The strong are to help the weak; the bold are to encourage the shy; and while dreamers and visionaries need to get their feet wet and their hands dirty (doing something useful), the wild and energetic need to be challenged and channeled.

4. Members of the youth department are:

1. Both church members and friends of the truth (non-members) who are at least 13 years old and usually not over 30 years of age,
2. Those who have confessed love for Jesus and pledged themselves to take an active and helpful part in the work of the youth group, and
3. Individuals elected by the church to be a part of the youth work, regardless of their age.

With such a group of youth, the Youth Counselor and Youth Leader have a great responsibility to organize themselves to develop the varied experience and talents entrusted to them in the youth. One way this can be done is by rotating responsibilities within the Youth Department, so different young people can make different experiences. The youth have needs, talents, and potential which, if rightly developed and trained, will bless themselves and the world. God is calling on the youth and their leaders to apply themselves to a work of preparation for the last time. To be ready for the work before us, we need to be men and women of character and well-balanced minds.

(For a summary of the principles contained in these *Guidelines*, see YW Appendix: Youth Meetings.)

YOUTH MEETINGS

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In larger churches, some kind of youth activity should be scheduled each week, either Friday evening or Sabbath afternoon. In smaller churches and groups, the youth may want to meet regularly in the home of a youth sponsor and then have a general meeting once or twice a month. Regardless of the size, the organizational structure, or the frequency of the meetings, it is important that regular activities be scheduled for the youth and that these activities be well planned and not canceled for any reason but the most extreme.

“The Lord would manifest to Israel in the explicit directions given them, that He is a God of order, that He would have everything connected with His work move forward with regularity and system. The Lord changeth not, and He is just as pleased now as then to have His ministers cultivate a love for order and discipline, that their efforts may be characterized by neatness, thoroughness, and exactitude. By precept and example they should educate the people to work in harmony. If order and discipline are essential to the success of an army on the battle field, how much more essential are they to the success of those who have enlisted in the army of the Lord.” – *Signs of the Times*, July 29, 1880.

1st Principle: Have regular, predictable meetings

After first deciding how to hold meetings, the next decision is, “What shall we do *with* the youth?” “What should we do *for* the youth?” “What kind of meetings shall we have?” To help answer these questions, let us remind ourselves just what we want to accomplish: The restoration of the image of God in man. “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” 1 Corinthians 10:31.

“Let the youth make the word of God the food of mind and soul. Let the cross of Christ be made the science of all education, the center of all teaching and all study. Let it be brought into the daily experience in practical life. So will the Saviour become to the youth a daily companion and friend.

Every thought will be brought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. With the apostle Paul they will be able to say:

“ ‘God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.’ Galatians 6:14.” –*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 460.

2nd Principle: Do all to God’s glory

Man’s general problem is his nature. It is basically sinful: i.e., selfish! Under the general heading of selfishness comes every other sin. (*Christian Service*, p. 87.) But there is a cure!

“The only cure for selfishness is to deny self, and work earnestly to be the blessing that you can be to your fellowmen.” –*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 183 (April 31, 1894).

“Unselfishness, the principle of God’s kingdom, is the principle that Satan hates; its very existence he denies. From the beginning of the great controversy he has endeavored to prove God’s principles of action to be selfish, and he deals in the same way with all who serve God. To disprove Satan’s claim is the work of Christ and of all who bear His name.” –*Education*, p. 154.

In planning and preparing youth activities, remember man’s nature; but do not focus here. Make Christ the center. Study Him! Copy Him! Work as He worked, and you will be safe. Avoid everything that encourages self-centeredness. Learn the tact of turning young minds from “me and mine” to sharing and helpfulness. “I have showed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, **It is more blessed to give than to receive.**” Acts 20:35.

“The sin which is indulged to the greatest extent, and which separates us from God and produces so many contagious spiritual disorders, is selfishness. There can be no returning to the Lord except by self-denial. Of ourselves we can do nothing; but, through God strengthening us, we can live to do good to others, and in this way shun the evil of selfishness.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 132.

In our world, examples of selfishness and even unselfishness are not hard to find. Even nature provides a wonderful contrast for us. Philip

Yancey painted an interesting word picture comparing the behavior of different birds and that of people.

“It’s easy to see why people like the sea gull. I’ve sat overlooking a craggy harbor and watched one. He exults in freedom. He thrusts his wings backward with powerful strokes, climbing higher, higher until he’s above all other gulls, then coasts downward in majestic loops and circles. He constantly performs, as if he knows a movie camera is trained on him, recording.

“In a flock, though, the sea gull is a different bird. His majesty and dignity melt into a sordid slough of in-fighting and cruelty. Watch that same gull as he dive-bombs into a group of gulls, provoking a flurry of scattered feathers and angry squawks, to steal a tiny morsel of meat. The concepts of sharing and manners do not exist among gulls. They are so fiercely competitive and jealous that if you tie a red ribbon around the leg of one gull, making him stand out, you sentence him to execution. The others in his flock will furiously attack him with claws and beaks, hammering through feathers and flesh to draw blood. They’ll continue until he lies flattened in a bloody heap.” –Quoted in Dr. James Dobson, *The Strong-Willed Child*, pp. 85, 86.

Through this metaphor, Yancey is suggesting that the sea gull is not a very good role model for society. He finds a better one in geese. Science has learned that the flock travels up to 71% faster and easier by maintaining the “V” pattern. The goose on the point has the most wind resistance, and that is why the lead is changed every few minutes. This rotation of the point position allows the flock to fly long distances without stopping to rest. The positions at the back are the least strenuous and are reserved for the young, the weak, and old. It is believed that the constant “honking” is for encouragement; and it is known that if one bird does drop out, a strong one follows it to the ground until the other one can continue the journey. This cooperation is well worth imitation. It has helped the geese survive. It teaches that compassion and cooperation are better than competition and cruelty. Yancey concludes,

“The sea gull teaches me to break loose and fly. But the goose goes farther: he teaches me to fly ‘in a family.’ With the support of friends and Christians who care for me, I can fly further with the family than I ever could alone. And as I fly, my effort helps each other member of the family.” –Philip Yancey, quoted in Dr. James Dobson, *The Strong-Willed Child*, Tyndale House Publishers, Wheaton, Ill., U.S.A., p. 87.

God has given us many things to straighten our bent nature: Family, tithe, marriage, Christian fellowship and worship, the poor, even suffering, and of course the completely unselfish Jesus. In all our efforts, let self be hid in Him, for we are dead (to sin and the world) and our lives are hid with Christ in God. Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3:3; etc.

3rd Principle:

Self-denial kills selfishness and prepares one for heaven

“The simple story of the cross of Christ, His suffering and dying for the world, His resurrection and ascension, His mediation in the sinner’s behalf before the Father, subdues and breaks the hard and sinful heart, and brings the sinner to repentance. The Holy Spirit sets the matter before him in a new light, and the sinner realizes that sin must be a tremendous evil to cost such a sacrifice to atone for it... How grievous must sin be that no less a remedy than the death of the Son of God could save man from the consequences of his guilt. Why was this done in behalf of man? It was because God loved him, and was not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance, believe in Jesus as a personal Saviour, and have life eternal.” –(*The Youth’s Instructor*, January 19, 1893) *Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 228.

“Beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth” (Luke 12:15), but in what he is; for “by their fruits ye shall know them.” Matthew 7:20. Wise Solomon said that as a man “thinketh in his heart, so is he.” Proverbs 23:7. Paul echoed this principle when he wrote that by “beholding” we “are changed.” It is very important, then, what we look at and think about. Let us turn our eyes upon the glory of the Lord, for it is a promise and a law that beholders “are changed into the same image from glory to glory, [even] as by the Spirit of the Lord.” 2 Corinthians 3:18.

**“Can you not understand that the
most costly thing in the
world is sin?”
–*Faith and Works*, p. 17.**

Someone has said, “Whatever you give attention to grows.” While we must call sin “sin” and state firmly the difference between right and wrong, we must be careful not to dwell on these wrongs nor reprove them in anger or self-righteousness. Giving attention to anything reinforces it. So, as much as possible, give attention to that which is positive. If the good behavior you are seeking to encourage is rare, wait for it. Then when it appears, appreciate it. We are social creatures, and we need attention to survive. If we don’t get it in positive ways, we will probably try to get it in negative ways. When we give away love, we are giving away the only real and lasting thing we have, and we don’t really have it until we give it away! “God is love. We all need love, gentleness, tenderness, compassion, and forbearance.” –*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 282.

Put another way: Everyone needs acceptance, accomplishment, and security.

**“Turn your eyes upon Jesus.
Look full in His wonderful face...”**

From the song,

By Helen H. Lemmel, 1922.

4th principle:

Look upon Jesus to learn what to study and the way to work

“In order to understand what is comprehended in the work of education, we need to consider both the nature of man [his mental, physical, spiritual, and moral nature] and the purpose of God in creating him [that man should reveal the image of his maker]. We need to consider also the change in man’s condition through the coming in of a knowledge of evil [that man’s nature became selfish], and God’s plan for still fulfilling His glorious purpose in the education of the human race [by following Jesus].” –*Education*, pp. 14, 15.

“The chief subjects of study in these schools [of the prophets] were the law of God, with the instruction given to Moses, sacred history, sacred music, and poetry. In the records of sacred history were traced the footsteps of Jehovah. The great truths set forth by the types in the service of the

sanctuary were brought to view, and faith grasped the central object of all that system—the Lamb of God, that was to take away the sin of the world. A spirit of devotion was cherished. Not only were the students taught the duty of prayer, but they were taught how to pray, how to approach their Creator, how to exercise faith in Him, and how to understand and obey the teachings of His Spirit. Sanctified intellect brought forth from the treasure house of God things new and old, and the Spirit of God was manifested in prophecy and sacred song.” —*Education*, p. 47. (See also all of this chapter (#6) and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, Chapter 58, [p. 592]; the chapters in both books are titled: “The Schools of the Prophets.”)

5th Principle: Pattern after the schools of the prophets

There is a direct relationship between activity and spirituality. The Lord knew when He created Adam that He could not educate him in a better way than by giving him employment, and the Lord can best impress human minds when they are willing and working.

“Those who are most actively employed in doing with interested fidelity their work to win souls to Jesus Christ, are the best developed in spirituality and devotion. Their very active working formed the means of their spirituality. There is danger of religion losing in depth that which it gains in breadth. This need not be, if, in the place of long sermons, there is wise education given to those newly come to the faith. Teach them by giving them something to do, in some line of spiritual work, that their first love will not die but increase in fervor. Let them feel that they are not to be carried and to lean for support on the church; but they are to have root in themselves. They can be in many lines, according to their several abilities, useful in helping the church to come nearer to God, and working in various ways to act upon the elements outside the church which will be a means of acting beneficially upon the church. The wisdom and prosperity of the church casts a telling influence upon her favor. The psalmist prayed for the prosperity of the church, ‘God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause His face to shine upon us.... That Thy way may be known upon the earth, Thy saving health among all nations.’ [Psalm 67:1, 2.]” —(Letter 44, 1892) *Evangelism*, p. 356.

A wise education teaches by giving a person something to do.

Like those standing idle in the market place [Matthew 20:1-7], "our young men and young women are to be put to work where their capabilities will be used to the best account. They are to stand where they can carry on Christ's work of soul saving." –*Medical Ministry*, p. 307.

"Young men and young women, cannot you form companies, and, as soldiers of Christ, enlist in the work, putting all your tact and skill and talent into the Master's service, that you may save souls from ruin? Let there be companies organized in every church to do this work.... Will the young men and young women who really love Jesus organize themselves as workers, not only for those who profess to be Sabbath keepers, but for those who are not of our faith?" –(*Signs of the Times*, May 29, 1893) *Christian Service*, p. 34.

One of the main factors in the success of the youth work (or any work) is leadership. Leadership does not mean to do everything yourself. It is training—helping and encouraging others to do the right things. This is done by (1) instruction (sometimes called precept), (2) example (by the way we do things), and (3) by giving (or creating) opportunities for others to practice what they have learned by example (2) and precept (1). To lead by "precept and example," we first need to know *where* we are going; and we also need to know *how* to get there. The first has been called leadership; the second, management. It has also been said that the difference between leaders and managers is that leaders know the right things to do, and managers know how to do things right. While there is truth in that saying, the qualities that make a man or woman a quality Christian leader go beyond knowing what and how to do things. It involves building people through building relationships. The Bible calls this edification. See Acts 9:31; Romans 14:19; 15:2; 1 Corinthians 8:1; 10:23; 14:3-5, 12, 26; 2 Corinthians 12:19; Ephesians 4:12, 16, 29, etc.

**Leaders seek followers.
Performers seek spectators.**

To build relationships, we must first build trust—confidence. But Christian confidence is not the same as worldly confidence. Worldly confidence has its center in self and what self can do, which is proven by what self has done. Christian confidence, on the other hand, is centered in

Christ and what He has done and is doing in everyone committed to Him and to the principles of His kingdom. Christian confidence is knowing that we are children of our heavenly Father through our relationship with Christ. That is confidence that no one can shake. It is heaven-born peace: It is the fruit of conversion. So, we can say that a Christian leader will have four basic characteristics.

1. He is converted (daily seeking a living relationship with the living God)
2. He has character/integrity (honesty, mixed with courage and consideration)
3. He seeks to be competent in everything he does (he seeks to do everything as well as he can and is always willing to grow in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ)
4. He has charisma (he walks on the sunny side of the street and gives joy to the people)

Besides these things, we must add a fifth characteristic: He must also know, or be willing to learn, how to motivate those next to him to edify still others. The best way to do this is by example—always seeking to edify everyone whom God gives him to work with. He must know, or learn, how to see every problem and every blessing (i.e., every situation) as an opportunity to learn what God is trying to teach him and how to better practice his faith. Romans 8:28 will be one of his mottoes. The principle of this verse is that “nothing happens but what God allows.”

The above characteristics will be revealed in the way he relates to others and can be summarized in four steps.

1. Accuracy
2. Availability
3. Partnership
4. Advice

Before people are willing to accept our advice, there must be a partnership between us and them. Before people are willing to enter into a partnership, there must be availability; we must be touchable—real. We must be able to identify with the people we are to advise. But before people look for availability, they want to know if we are sincere, real, and accurate (that we mean what we say and say what we mean). Children and youth recognize immediately if there is hypocrisy in this area. Nothing

turns them off faster than an imposter. They will laugh at a clown but will not follow him for very long. They will cry with a loser and then only pity him. They will publicly respect the intelligent know-it-all, but privately they will despise him. True character is built by seeking the good and hating the evil (Amos 5:14, 15) and consistently seeking “whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.” Philippians 4:8.

Real character and Christian leadership are rare today; but wherever they are found, along with true honesty, they will attract children and youth, just as honey attracts bees.

Therefore, to be a quality Christian leader, we must begin at the first place: Become faithful followers—disciples—of Jesus, who is the Way the Truth and the Life. If we have been given the responsibility to lead and we still need to learn to follow, we are in deep trouble. But Jesus is the Problem Solver. Problems arise because we are walking in the sparks of our own kindling. Isaiah 50:11. Sometimes people try to lead by striking out on their own with new ideas and directions; if these come from within, rather than from above, disaster will be the ultimate result. But a good leader will follow the Good Shepherd; he will see himself as an under-shepherd, a slave of Jesus, whose one desire is to be faithful and teach others everything he knows about Jesus. As a servant of his fellowman, he will want to equip them to be able to do as he is doing and eventually do even more than he has done. This is the mind of Christ. John 14:12; Philippians 2:3-5.

**“My heart is toward the
governors of Israel, that offered
themselves willingly
among the people.
Bless ye the Lord.” Judges 5:9.**

A LEADER...

A leader loves his men and his people. Love teaches how.

A leader is not a hireling. He offers and gives himself for the men, the work—success.

A leader is not suspicious but shows confidence in his men.

A leader identifies himself with his men and people.

A leader will visit and stay with his men.

Where adversity strikes, the leader will be there to take the blow.

A leader anticipates the needs, and serves.

A self-centered man is unworthy of leadership.

A leader believes in his work as a calling, not a job.

He leads without the people knowing that he does.

A leader is full of courage, at his best when facing opposition.

He inspires men and oozes enthusiasm.

A leader is proficient and keeps himself up to date. He keeps ahead.

A leader never passes the blame down.

No man who has not learned to follow can be qualified to lead.

A leader's greatness rests alone in his capacity to serve.

He must be friendly, glowing, zealous.

He must pray and work.

—A.W. Staples

6th Principle: Train by doing

A RABBIT ON THE SWIM TEAM

ONCE UPON A TIME, the animals decided they should do something meaningful to meet the problems of the new world. So they organized a school. They adopted an activity curriculum of running, climbing, swimming, and flying. To make it easier to administer the curriculum, all the animals took all the subjects.

The *duck* was excellent in swimming; in fact, better than his instructor. But he made only passing grades in flying, and was very poor in running. Since he was slow in running, he had to drop swimming and stay after school to practice running. This caused his web feet to be badly worn, so that he was only average in swimming. But average was quite acceptable, so nobody worried about that—except the duck.

The *rabbit* started at the top of his class in running, but developed a nervous twitch in his leg muscles because of so much make-up work in swimming.

The *squirrel* was excellent in climbing, but he encountered constant frustration in flying class, because his teacher made him start from the ground up instead of from the treetop down. He developed “charlie horses” from overexertion, and so only got a C in climbing and a D in running.

The *eagle* was a problem child and was severely disciplined for being a non-conformist. In climbing classes he beat all the others to the top of the tree, but insisted on using his own way to get there.... —*Springfield, Oregon Public School News Letter*.

The apostle said that God has made each of us different: “The body is no one single organ, but many limbs and organs, which, many as they are, together make up one body. For indeed we were all brought into one body by baptism, in one Spirit, whether we were Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free men, and that one Holy Spirit was poured out for all of us to drink.

“A body is not one single organ, but many. Suppose the foot should say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body’, it does belong to the body none the less. Suppose the ear were to say, ‘Because I am not the eye, I do not belong to the body’, it does still belong to the body. If the body were all eye, how could it hear? If the body were all ear, how could it smell? But in fact, God appointed each limb and organ to its own place in the body, as He chose.... God has combined the various parts of the body, giving special honor to the humbler parts so that there might be no sense of division in the body, but that all its organs might feel the same concern for one another.” 1 Corinthians 12:14-25, *New English Bible*.

Isaiah speaks of seven different evergreen trees all growing together. Isaiah 41:19. The evergreen is a symbol of the redeemed. Psalm 1:3; Revelation 7:1. The gates of heaven are for 12 categories of overcomers. Therefore, in our dealings with the youth, keep in mind that each is unique and each has strengths and weaknesses. God has put us together to learn to help each other.

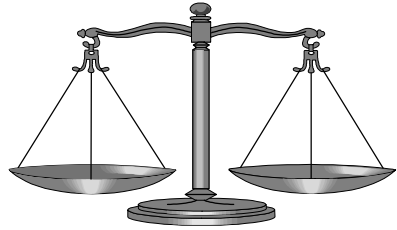
In all the activities, in looking at all the resources available to you, in bringing together everything that God has given you just at this moment, both those things which you see as assets and those things you consider liabilities, remember that nothing happens but what God allows. Romans 8:28. The church in its finest clothes is a teacher: God’s school! His approved curriculum is designed to restore the image of God in man. To do this, education must address the four sides of man’s nature: The **mental**, the **physical**, the **spiritual**, and the **moral** (or social). Luke 2:52.

“The habits and principles of a teacher should be considered of even greater importance than his literary qualifications. If he is a sincere Christian he will feel the necessity of having an equal interest in the physical, mental, moral, and spiritual education of his scholars.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 135.

7th Principle: Keep balanced

“These children needed not only the education acquired at school, but home training also, that their mental and moral powers might be developed in due proportion, each having the requisite exercise. The physical, mental, and spiritual capabilities should be developed in order to form a properly balanced character. –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, pp. 197, 198.

BALANCED EDUCATION



“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.” Luke 2:52.

In all the activities, in looking at all the resources available, in bringing together all at that God has made available to you at this moment (both those things which you see as assets and those things you see as liabilities), remember that nothing happens but what God allows. Romans 8:28. The church in its finest clothes is a teacher—God’s school! His approved curriculum is designed to restore the image of God in man. To do this, divine education addresses the four sides of man’s nature: The **mental** (“wisdom”), the **physical** (“stature”), the **spiritual** (“in favor with God”), and the **moral** (or social—man’s relationship to his fellowman). Luke 2:52.



“These children needed not only the education acquired at school, but home training also, that their mental and moral powers might be developed in due proportion, each having the requisite exercise. The physical, mental, and spiritual capabilities should be developed in order to form a

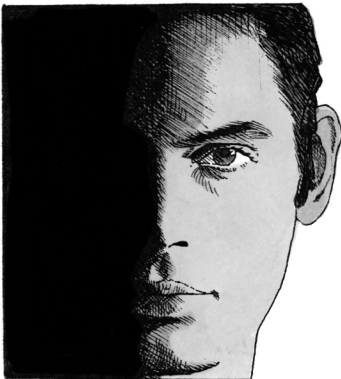
properly balanced character.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, pp. 197, 198.

A sincere Christian will feel the necessity of having an equal interest in his own physical, mental, moral, and spiritual education. (See *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 135.)

The *General Conference Bulletin* of 1895, pp. 107-112, contained a series of sermons by Elder W.W. Prescott, entitled “The Divine-Human Family.” The following is from No. 4 in that six-part series and deals with what it means to have a well-balanced mind.

“Man was created in the image of God, and being so created, he possessed a well-balanced mind, and was in perfect harmony with God; but Satan came in with his temptation and sin entered, and that well-balanced mind was thrown out of balance and every person who commits sin has an unbalanced mind. And I suppose on that basis, we may say that we are all more or less insane, and it is simply a question of degree.

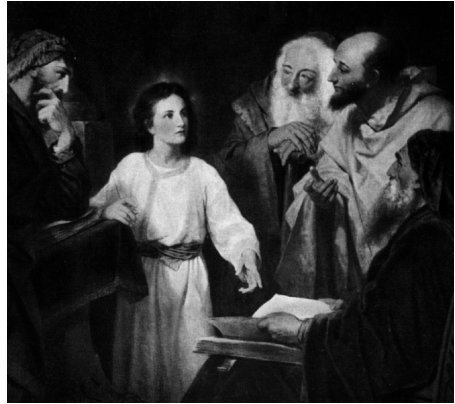
“But the special point is this, that a mind that consents to sin becomes unbalanced, it cannot remain well-balanced, else it would remain in harmony with God. It would run just as He intended it to run—perfectly in harmony with Him—and when it gets out of that harmony, it is out of balance, and the difficulty began in the mind, and was caused through the mind. The translation which Dr. Young gives of Genesis 3:13 suggests this idea very clearly. When the woman was asked about her eating the fruit, she said: ‘The serpent hath caused me to forget’ and I did eat.



“Now that one act of the mind when it consented to sin by forgetting the commands of God, not simply admitted that sin, but threw that mind and all minds that have descended from that mind, out of balance, and the mind, of itself, is no more able to put itself back into balance than a wheel that is out of balance is able to put itself back into balance...

“ ‘As the Gentiles also walk, in the vanity of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that

is in them, because of the hardness of their hearts: Who being past feeling gave themselves up to lasciviousness to work all uncleanness with greediness. But ye did not so learn Christ; If so be that ye heard Him and were taught in Him, even as truth is in Jesus: That ye put away as concerning your former manner of life, the old man, which maketh corrupt after the lusts of deceit; And that ye be renewed in the spirit



of your mind; And put on the new man, which after God hath been created in righteousness and holiness of truth.' [Ephesians 4:17-24.]

"It ... is through the darkening of the mind and through ignorance that they became alienated from the life of God. Now He says, If you have learned this truth as truth is in Jesus, you are to put off the old man which is corrupt, and ... to 'put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh to fulfill the lusts thereof' [Romans 13:14]; and the new man

God is able to take us into heaven.
But first He must put heaven into us.

we have learned to be [is] humanity with divinity controlling [it]. And all new men now created *in Him*, when Jesus Christ, the second head of the family, was created, not in the sense that He was a created being, but in the sense that this new arrangement was consummated, that union of divinity with humanity; when that was done, all new men in Christ Jesus were created in Him, just as all were created in Adam." –W.W. Prescott, "The Divine-Human Family," No. 4, *General Conference Bulletin*, 1895, pp. 108, 109.

Elder Prescott put it well. We must come under the power of God if we would return to harmony with God. If we are one with Him, we will be in harmony with all those who are one with Him. God has given us varied opportunities and responsibilities. It is in using these honestly to bless others that our earthliness is consumed so the Lord may put His heavenliness in us.

“A strong, well-balanced, symmetrical character is built by the thorough and faithful performance of duty. Joseph had an unblemished character, and as he was found faithful in that which was least, he was finally entrusted with the affairs of a nation. Daniel is another example of integrity, for he was so faithful that even his enemies were not able to point out one flaw in his performance of duty. They declared, ‘We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.’ [Daniel 6:5.] The secret of Daniel’s strength was found in his conscientious attention to what the world would call things of minor importance. He was found before God three times a day in prayer and thanksgiving, and he was equally steadfast in his attention to his duties to the king. It is this conscientious attention to what the world despises that makes a strong, symmetrical character.” –*Signs of the Times*, May 25, 1891.

“The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them.”

–Albert Einstein

1. Mental

“God Gives Talents, Man Cultivates the Mind. We are to cultivate the talents given us by God. They are His gifts and are to be used in their right relation to each other so as to make a perfect whole. God gives the talents, the powers of the mind; man makes the character. The mind is the Lord’s garden, and man must cultivate it earnestly in order to form a character after the divine similitude.” –(Letter 73, 1899) *Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 800.

“Upon the right improvement of our time depends our success in acquiring knowledge and mental culture. The cultivation of the intellect need not be prevented by poverty, humble origin, or unfavorable surroundings.... A resolute purpose, persistent industry, and careful economy of time will enable men to acquire knowledge and mental discipline which will qualify them for almost any position of influence and usefulness.”
 –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 343, 344.



“Train and Discipline the Mind.

No matter who you are,... the Lord has blessed you with intellectual faculties capable of vast improvement. Cultivate your talents with persevering earnestness. Train and discipline the mind by study, by observation, by reflection. You cannot meet the mind of God unless you put to use every power. The mental faculties will strengthen and develop if you will go to work in the fear of God, in humility, and with earnest prayer. A resolute purpose will accomplish wonders.” –(*Life Sketches*, p. 275) *Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 1, p. 3.

“Too often, as the studies accumulate, the wisdom from above has been given a secondary place, and the farther the student advances, the less confidence he has in God. He looks upon much learning as the very essence of success in life; but if all would give due consideration to the statement of Christ, ‘Without Me ye can do nothing’ (John 15:5), they would make different plans. Without the vital principles of true religion, without the knowledge of how to serve and glorify the Redeemer, education is more harmful than beneficial. When education in human lines is pushed to such an extent that the love of God wanes in the heart, that prayer is neglected, and that there is a failure to cultivate the spiritual attributes, it is wholly disastrous. It would be far better to cease seeking to obtain an education, and to recover your soul from its languishing condition, than to gain the best of educations and lose sight of eternal advantages.” –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 412.

“It is well that physiology is introduced into the common schools as a branch of education. All children should study it. It should be regarded as the basis of all educational effort. And then parents should see to it that practical hygiene be added. This will make their knowledge of physiology of practical benefit. Parents should teach their children by example that health is to be regarded as the chiefest earthly blessing. They cannot do this

while the love of money and of display is made of greater consequence than the health of their children.” –*The Health Reformer*, November 1, 1871.

We need to teach principles more than methods. It is critically important to teach the youth to think, to reason from cause to effect, and to accept the consequences of their own decisions. In our world today, that often takes very tough love.

“Yes, it is dangerous to teach our youth to think for themselves, but the alternative is unthinkable.”

–Thomas Jefferson regarding education

A few examples of mental activities in the context of the church are: Memorizing Scripture, preparing Bible studies and sermons, deeper study of the Sabbath School Lessons, and attending various types of seminars which require mental effort and thus expand the mental capacities.

A balanced education will also include the study of the sciences, such as biology, physiology and chemistry, sacred and secular history, music, bookkeeping, and other practical subjects, such as food preparation, house maintenance, and building.

2. Spiritual

Worldly education centers in mental attainments and rarely gives attention to the spiritual side of man. It teaches pride in one’s accomplishments and skepticism toward anything that the human mind cannot comprehend. By contrast, the religion of the Bible teaches self-distrust and confidence in



God and His word. It teaches us to look to Jesus and learn of Him who is meek and lowly in heart. He showed (and told) us that true greatness is not being served, but being a servant. John 13:1-17.

“To each of us God has committed sacred trusts, for which He holds us accountable. He designs that man shall be so educated as to develop his mental and moral powers, that he may have a well-balanced mind and a symmetrical character. But education alone will not prepare him to answer the object of his creation. He needs the grace of God, and divine aid awaits his demand. Divine power united with human effort will enable him to do good and glorify his Creator.” –*Signs of the Times*, October 24, 1906.

“The first great lesson in all education is to know and understand the

“Rationalism is Reason set up as a standard for the measurement of the mind of God; while Religion is the mind of God, set up as the regulator and controller of Reason; and accursed was the day in which the former was substituted for the latter.”

–Anonymous, 1848

will of God. We should bring into every day of life the effort to gain this knowledge. To learn science through human interpretation alone is to obtain a false education, but to learn of God and Christ is to learn the science of heaven. The confusion in education has come because the wisdom and knowledge of God have not been exalted.” –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 447.

“The Holy Scriptures were the essential study in the schools of the prophets, and they should hold the first place in every educational system, for the foundation of all right education is a knowledge of God. Used as a textbook in our schools, the Bible will do for mind and morals what cannot be done by books of science and philosophy. As a book to discipline and strengthen the intellect, to ennoble, purify, and refine the character, it is without a rival.” –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 422.

“It is only life that can beget life.”

–*The Desire of Ages*, p. 250.

“Not alone in searching out truth and bringing it together does the mental value of Bible study consist. It consists also in the effort required to grasp the themes presented. The mind occupied with commonplace matters only becomes dwarfed and enfeebled. If never taxed to comprehend grand and far-reaching truths, it after a time loses the power of growth. As a safeguard against this degeneracy, and a stimulus to development, nothing can equal the study of God’s Word. As a means for intellectual training, the Bible is more effective than any other book, or all other books combined. The greatness of its themes, the dignified simplicity of its utterances, the beauty of its imagery, quicken and uplift the thoughts as nothing else can. No other study can impart such mental power as does the effort to grasp the stupendous truths of revelation. The mind thus brought in contact with the thoughts of the Infinite cannot but expand and strengthen.

“And even greater is the power of the Bible in the development of the spiritual nature. Man, created for fellowship with God, can only in such fellowship find his real life and development. Created to find in God his highest joy, he can find in nothing else that which can quiet the cravings of the heart, or satisfy the hunger and thirst of the soul. He who with sincere and teachable spirit studies God’s Word, seeking to comprehend its truths, will be brought into touch with its Author, and, except by his own choice, there is no limit to the possibilities of his development.” –*Signs of the Times*, September 19, 1906.

“While the Bible should hold the first place in the education of children and youth, the book of nature is next in importance. God’s created works testify to His love and power. He has called the world into being, with all that it contains. God is a lover of the beautiful; and in the world which He has fitted up for us He has not only given us everything necessary for our comfort, but He has filled the heavens and the earth with beauty. We see His love and care in the rich fields of autumn, and His smile in the glad sunshine. His hand has made the castle-like rocks and the towering mountains. The lofty trees grow at His command; He has spread earth’s green velvet carpet and dotted it with shrubs and flowers.” –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 185.

Examples of spiritual activities include meditation on the life of Christ, public worship, private prayer, prayer groups and meetings, public conferences, camp meetings, spiritual retreats, youth testimony meetings,

personal study of the Bible, sharing what we have experienced, and other missionary activities. (See BE Appendix: Prayer and Bible Study.)

3. Physical

“The whole body is designed for action, not for inaction. If the physical powers are not taxed equally with the mental, too much strain is brought upon the latter. Unless every part of the human machinery performs its allotted tasks, the mental powers cannot be used to their highest capacity for any length of time. Natural powers must be governed by natural laws, and the faculties must be educated to work harmoniously, and in accord with these laws.” –*Christian Education*, p. 211.

“In order for children and youth to have health, cheerfulness, vivacity, and well-developed muscles and brains, they should be much in the open air and have well-regulated employment and amusement. Children and youth who are kept at school and confined to books, cannot have sound physical constitutions. The exercise of the brain in study, without corresponding physical exercise, has a tendency to attract the blood to the brain, and the circulation of the blood through the system becomes unbalanced. The brain has too much blood, and the extremities too little. There should be rules regulating their studies to certain hours, and then a portion of their time should be spent in physical labor. And if their habits of eating, dressing, and sleeping are in accordance with physical law, they can obtain an education without sacrificing physical and mental health.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, pp. 137, 138 (*Counsels on Health*, pp. 177, 178; *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 295).

“The time spent in physical exercise is not lost. The student who is constantly poring over his books, while he takes but little exercise in the open air, does himself an injury. A proportionate exercise of the various organs and faculties of the body is essential to the best work of each. When the brain is constantly taxed, while the other organs are left inactive, there is a loss of physical and mental strength. The physical powers are robbed of their healthy tone, the mind loses its freshness and vigor, and a morbid excitability is the result.” –*Messages to Young People*, p. 239.

“If physical exercise were combined with mental exertion, the blood would be quickened in its circulation, the action of the heart would be more perfect, impure matter would be thrown off, and new life and vigor would be experienced in every part of the body.” –*Counsels on Health*, p. 572.

“There are modes of recreation which are highly beneficial to both

mind and body. An enlightened, discriminating mind will find abundant means for entertainment and diversion from sources not only innocent, but instructive. Recreation in the open air, and the contemplation of the works of God in nature, will be of the highest benefit...

"In this age life has become artificial, and men have degenerated. While we may not return fully to the simple habits of those early times, we may learn from them lessons that will make our seasons of recreation what the name implies—seasons of true upbuilding for body and mind and soul...

"Do not think that God wishes us to yield up everything which it is for our happiness here to retain. All He requires us to give up is that which would not be for our good and happiness to retain." —*The Adventist Home*, pp. 496, 501, 502.

Practical things, such as gardening, building, housekeeping (especially caring for the elderly or invalids), maintaining church grounds and buildings, and innocent recreation, such as nature walks and group activities in the open air, are examples of physical activities.

4. Social (Moral)

"By the distribution of the land among the people, God provided for them, as for the dwellers in Eden, the occupation most favorable to development—the care of plants and animals. A further provision for education was the suspension of agricultural labor every seventh year, the land lying fallow, and its spontaneous products being left to the poor. Thus was given opportunity for more extended study, for social intercourse and worship, and for the exercise of benevolence, so often crowded out by life's cares and labors." —*Education*, p. 43.

"We sustain a loss when we neglect the privilege of associating together to strengthen and encourage one another in the service of God.



The truths of His Word lose their vividness and importance in our minds. Our hearts cease to be enlightened and aroused by their sanctifying influence, and we decline in spirituality. In our association as Christians we lose much by lack of sympathy with one another. He who shuts himself up to himself is not filling the position that God designed he should. The proper cultivation of the social elements in our nature brings us into sympathy with others and is a means of development and strength to us in the service of God." *–Steps to Christ*, p. 101 (1892).

"The Harmonious Development of Both Mental and Moral Faculties. The improvement of the mind is a duty which we owe ourselves, to society, and to God. But we should never devise means for the cultivation of the intellect at the expense of the moral and the spiritual. And it is only by the harmonious development of both the mental and the moral faculties that the highest perfection of either can be attained." *–(Review and Herald, January 4, 1881) Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 374.

The youth love to be together. Any activity which brings them into close contact with each other in a wholesome way and where Jesus can be present may be considered healthful social activity. Some examples are: Visits to hospitals, invalids, the sick, and shut-ins and meetings to which they can invite their friends, as well as musical programs and health lectures. (For more information, see "The Youth as Emissaries" section.)

Summary

"Every power—physical, mental, and moral—needs to be trained, disciplined, and developed, that it may render its highest service; for unless all are equally developed, one faculty cannot do its work thoroughly, without overtaxing some part of the human machinery." *–Christian Education*, pp. 210, 211.

In planning activities for the youth, keep these four sides of man in balance: Mental, Spiritual, Physical, and Social. Remember that the church is a school, that a balanced education addresses all sides of the person, and that activities need to be so formulated that what has been learned can be put into practice. Everything is to focus on the end result—a character in harmony with the mind of God.

PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY

VERS. 2002-1

Parts of prayer

Prayer has various elements. We are told to pray for our leaders, the authorities, for each other, for our enemies, that God's will be done, to be led from temptation, for laborers in the vineyard of the Lord, for forgiveness, and for many more things. We are to pray in faith, three times a day, in public, in our private chamber with the door shut, on our knees in worship, while we work, always. We should not worry about our words, for the Holy Spirit makes intercession for us before the throne. As we pray without ceasing, we practice the presence of God. When we come before the Almighty, it is to acknowledge His gentleness and mercy, to praise Him for all His created works, to show appreciation for His providences, and to express our dependence upon Him. As we daily fill our hearts with the word and dwell on the promises of God, seeking to see Jesus in every scripture, in every situation, our hearts will overflow with an abundance of praise for our Maker and Redeemer. The heart will speak of its treasures, so let your mind be filled with the promises of God's word, and then the meditations of your heart and the words of your lips will be acceptable to God.

It is not necessary to be eloquent in prayer. The utterances of a child are precious to God. It is the prayer of faith, not flowery speech, that God hears.

"He who strives for eloquent language when praying is entirely out of place. The eloquence that God accepts is the earnest, longing cry of the soul which feels that it must have help.

"Long prayers are not essential. Those who labor in the right spirit will pray in the right spirit. He who labors as Christ labored will be in earnest when he prays. And the Word of God assures us, 'The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.' [James 5:16.]"—*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 939.

“How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.” 1 Corinthians 14:26.

“In our devotional social meetings, our voices should express by prayer and praise our adoration of our heavenly Father, that all may know that we worship God in simplicity and truth, and in the beauty of holiness.” *Christian Education*, p. 131.

In Luke 11:1, the disciples of Jesus asked Him to teach them to pray as John taught his disciples, and the apostle Paul declared: “I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also:...” 1 Corinthians 14:15. Therefore, let us begin by defining the various parts of prayer. They are (with examples):

1. **Adoration** for what God is (2 Samuel 7:22; Jereremiah 10:10; Revelation 4:11; 5:13; 7:12)
2. **Praise** for what He has done (Daniel 9:4)
3. **Thanksgiving** for what we have (2 Timothy 2:1)
4. **Supplications** for what we think we need (Daniel 9:5-19)
5. **Intercession** for others, the highest form of prayer (John 17)

To further broaden our understanding of the elements of prayer, we want to compare the Lord’s exemplary prayer with the Ten Commandments. Here some principles and lessons can be learned on how to better live and pray, as well as various elements of prayer.

The Ten Commandments and the Lord's prayer compared

1 st Com.	<i>Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name:</i> All good things are designed by and come from our heavenly Father, and all glory belongs to Him.
2 nd Com.	<i>Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven:</i> He cannot be worshiped through things; He wants direct and living contact with us.
3 rd Com.	<i>Give us this day our daily bread:</i> His name is His character. He sustains all life.
4 th Com.	<i>And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors:</i> Sin is our greatest burden. True Sabbath observance means repentance and forgiveness.
5 th Com.	<i>And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:</i> Respect for parental and divine authority shields us from many temptations. Remember the prodigal son.
6 th Com.	<i>For Thine is the kingdom:</i> Justice belongs to God alone. His kingdom is not of this world.
7 th Com.	<i>And the power:</i> Only when the truth is unadulterated can it retain its power.
8 th Com.	<i>And the glory:</i> Even in our victories, all glory belongs to Him. Don't steal it.
9 th Com.	<i>For ever:</i> Only the truth is forever. It alone will gain the victory.
10 th Com.	<i>A-men: "So be it."</i> Accept what God has given; don't envy, for coveting is idolatry.

Some prayers in the Bible

Abjiah's army—for victory	2 Chronicles 13:14
Abraham—for a son	Genesis 15:1-6
Abraham—for Ishmael	Genesis 17:18-21
Abraham—for Sodom	Genesis 18:20, 21
Abraham—for Abimelech	Genesis 20:17
Abraham's servant—for guidance	Genesis 24:12-52
Asa—for victory	2 Chronicles 14:11
Centurion—for his servant	Matthew 8:5-13
Christians—for Peter	Acts 12:5-12
Christians—for authorities	1 Timothy 2:1, 2
Corinthians—for Paul	2 Corinthians 1:9-11
Cornelius—for enlightenment	Acts 10:1-33
Criminal—for salvation	Luke 23:42, 43
Daniel—for light on the sanctuary	Daniel 9:3-19
Daniel—for knowledge	Daniel 2:17-23
David—for blessing	2 Samuel 7:18-29
David—for help	1 Samuel 23:10-12
David—for guidance	2 Samuel 2:1
David—for grace	Psalms 25:16
David—for justice	Psalms 9:17-20
David—in adoration	1 Chronicles 29:10-19
Disciples—for boldness	Acts 4:24-31
Elijah—for drought and rain	James 5:17, 18
Elijah—for the raising of the dead	1 Kings 17:20-23
Elijah—for victory over Baal	1 Kings 18:36-38
Elijah—for death	1 Kings 19:4
Elisha—for blindness and sight	2 Kings 6:17-23
Ezekiel—for cleansing	Ezekiel 4:12-15

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Ezra—for the sins of the people	Ezra 9:6-15
Gideon—for proof of his calling	Judges 6:36-40
Habakkuk—for deliverance	Habakkuk 3:1-9
Habakkuk—for justice	Habakkuk 1:1-4
Hagar—for consolation	Genesis 21:14-20
Hannah—for a son	1 Samuel 1:10-17
Hezekiah—for deliverance	2 Kings 19:15-19
Hezekiah—for health	2 Kings 20:1-11
Holy Spirit—for Christians	Romans 8:26, 27
Isaac—for children	Genesis 25:21, 25, 26
Israelites—for deliverance	Exodus 2:23-25; 3:7-10
Jabez—for prosperity	1 Chronicles 4:10
Jacob—for deliverance from Esau	Genesis 32:9-12
Jacob—the whole night long	Genesis 32:24-30
Jehoahaz—for victory	2 Kings 13:1-5
Jehoshaphat—for protection	2 Chronicles 20:5-12, 27
Jehoshaphat—for victory	2 Chronicles 18:31
Jeremiah—for Judah	Jeremiah 42:1-6
Jeremiah—for mercy	Jeremiah 14:7-10
Jeremiah—in adoration	Jeremiah 32:17-25
Jesus—Lord’s Prayer	Matthew 6:9-13
Jesus—praise for giving light to babes	Matthew 11:25, 26
Jesus—at Lazarus’ tomb	John 11:41, 42
Jesus—for the Father’s glory	John 12:28
Jesus—for deliverance	Matthew 26:39, 42, 44; 7:46
Jesus—for the church	John 17:1-26
Jesus—for forgiveness of others	Luke 23:34
Jesus—in submission	Luke 23:46
Jews—for safe journey	Ezra 8:21, 23
Job—for his children	Job 1:5

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Job—for his friends	Job 42:8-10
Jonah—for deliverance	Jonah 2:1-10
Joshua—for help and mercy	Joshua 7:6-9
Leper—for healing	Matthew 8:2, 3
Manasseh—for deliverance	2 Chronicles 33:12, 23
Manoah—for guidance	Judges 13:8-15
Moses—for Pharaoh	Exodus 8:9-13
Moses—for water	Exodus 15:24, 25
Moses—for Israel	Exodus 32:31-35
Moses—for Miriam	Numbers 12:11-14
Moses—to see the promised land	Deuteronomy 3:23-25; 4:1-4
Moses—for a successor	Numbers 27:15-17
Nehemiah—for the Jews	Nehemiah 1:4-11
Paul—for healing of Publius' father	Acts 28:8
Paul—for the Ephesians	Ephesians 3:14-21
Paul—for grace	2 Corinthians 12:8, 9
Peter—for the raising of Dorcas	Acts 9:40
Priests—for blessing	2 Chronicles 30:27
Priests—for the people	Numbers 6:24-26
Rebekah—for understanding	Genesis 25:22, 23
Reubenites—for victory	1 Chronicles 5:18-20
Samson—for strength	Judges 16:29, 30
Samson—for water	Judges 15:18, 19
Samuel—for Israel	1 Sam. 7:5-12
Solomon—for wisdom	1 Kings 3:6-14
Solomon—temple dedication	1 Kings 8:23-53
Tax collector—for mercy	Luke 18:13
Tribe of Judah—for a covenant	2 Chronicles 15:12-15
Zechariah—for a son	Luke 1:13

How to study the Bible

This is a practical way of studying the Bible so that it doesn't become part of the seminar materials that are filed away and remain only theory. Let us remember the importance of personal study-outside of family worship, Sabbath services, and weekly church services.

Materials needed

- Bible
- Paper and pencil (notebook)
- Concordance

Study procedure

1. Read the chapter at least three times.
2. Find the context.
3. Begin analyzing the chapter by writing down the ideas and concepts you find as you go (internal analysis).
4. Do an external analysis by trying to find the chapter's outline, adjusting the outline and/or diagram until all the elements fit together.
5. Summarize the broad ideas.
6. Look for similar cases (narrative text) in the Pentateuch and the Old Testament.
7. Look for similar or complementary cases in the Old Testament.
8. Look for a line of application (personally, for the church, for one's spiritual growth, etc.).
9. If you are doing a systematic and sequential study, try to determine the literal relationship between the chapters and in terms of the application.

Whenever we study, it is very beneficial to try to prepare an outline of the subject matter, even if it is just a simple visual diagram.

In addition, we need to think like the oriental mind so we can understand the many oriental principles. If we study the Scriptures with the thinking pattern of a non-oriental culture, we will miss a great deal of what the sacred text is intended to convey to us.

We should not make the Bible say what we want it to say but rather try to search it deeply and discover the truths God wants to share with us. Be careful not to be prejudiced or cling to preconceived theories.

Prophecy

The above steps can be applied when studying prophecy.

1. Analyze the context of the prophecy; locate the historical setting and calculate the date and time.
2. Discover what the message was for the time when it was written.
3. Let the prophetic word itself solve the questions and explain the prophecies.
4. Become familiar with supplementary historical aids, for prophecy and history are inseparable.
5. Use and/or make diagrams and outlines.

Workshop Example

Numbers 21:4-9 REBELLION

	CAUSE	DEVELOPMENT	CONSEQUENCES	REACTION	SOLUTION
	Dissent	Murmuring	Fiery serpents	Recognition of their sin	The brass serpent
In Eden	Genesis 3:5	Genesis 3:12, 13	Genesis 3:1, 16-19, 24 (sent out of garden)		Genesis 3:15
Old Testament	Dissent/murmuring: Bitter water at Marah (Exodus 15:24)				Isaiah 45:22
New Testament	Do everything without murmuring (Philippians 2:14)		1 Peter 5:8; Ephesians 6:12	2 Peter 3:9; Acts 3:19	John 3:14, 15; Hebrews 10:38; 2 Corinthians 5:21
Summary	Old man		Our enemy (Revelation 12:9)		Salvation by faith

“Young men who have never made a success in the temporal duties of life will be equally unprepared to engage in the higher duties. A religious experience is attained only through conflict, through disappointment, through severe discipline of self, through earnest prayer. Living faith must grasp the promises unflinchingly, and then many may come from close communion with God with shining faces, saying, as did Jacob, ‘I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.’ [Genesis 32:30.]

“The steps upward to heaven must be taken one at a time; every advance step strengthens us for the next.” –*Gospel Workers*, 1892 ed., p. 136.

Bible text memorization

The psalmist declared, “Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee.” Psalm 119:11. The prayer that presents God’s promises to Him in faith is a prayer that heaven will find a way to answer. Therefore, it is of great benefit for young people to memorize scripture. At no time in life is memorization easier than in the early years.

Various recommendations given by the Spirit of Prophecy for memorization are: Psalms 1, 8, 15, 19, 20, 28, 29, 40, 46, 51, 65, 66, 68, 72, 81, 90, 91, 93, 100, 103, 105, 106, 107, 113, 116, 136, 147, 148, 149, 150; Isaiah 51, 53, 58; 1 Corinthians 12, 13.

Suggested Bible texts for underlining and/or memorization:

GENESIS	16:5-8, 15, 16	RUTH	NEHEMIAH
<u>1:1-5, 12</u>	<u>16:20-22</u> , 30	1:16, 17	6:3; 8:10, l.p.
<u>1:24, 26-31</u>	19:18	1 SAMUEL	9:16, 17b
<u>2:1-3, 7-9, 16</u>	<u>23:3, 27, 32b</u>	2:30b; 12:24	13:10-12
2:17, 18	27:30, 32	15:23; 16:7	ESTHER
<u>2:21-24</u>	NUMBERS	2 SAMUEL	4:14
3:4 (1-6), 15	11:4, 10	22:29, 31, 36	JOB
5:22-24	11:31-34	1 KINGS	1:7, 8, 22
6:3; 15:6, 16	<u>14:21, 32-34</u>	18:21; 19:12	2:10; 4:17
<u>17:1</u> ; 18:19	15:37-41	21:8	5:8, 9; 11:18
<u>28:16, 17, 22</u>	18:21; 24:17	2 KINGS	12:7-9
31:49	DEUTERONOMY	6:16, 17	<u>14:4, 10, 12</u>
34:14; 39:9	4:12, 13	9:30	19:25; 22:21
45:24	<u>6:5-7, 13</u>	18:1, 5, 6	23:10, 12
EXODUS	7:3, 4, 6	21:8	38:7; 42:10
3:14; <u>12:43</u> ;	8:17-19	1 CHRONICLES	PSALMS
<u>15:26</u> ; 16:23b	14:22	29:11-14	2:7; 5:3
19:5-8	<u>18:15, 22</u>	2 CHRONICLES	6:5; 8:4, 5
20:2-17	22:5; 29:29	7:14; 15:7	12:6; <u>14:1-3</u>
25:2, 8	32:4, 29	20:12, 20b	16:8, 11
<u>31:12-15, 18</u>	JOSHUA	29:11	18:30, 32, 35
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<u>34:6, 7, 22</u>	JUDGES	7:10	24:1
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Study constantly

The Spirit of Prophecy encourages us to study constantly:

“The unsearchable riches of Christ are to be presented to the world.... Only a heart brimming with the love of God, only a mind active by constant study of eternal interests, can properly set forth the beauties of the truth of God.” –*Gospel Workers*, 1892, p. 361.

“You must be Bible students and carry Bible rules into your everyday life.... Be it your constant study how you will best attain and cherish that which God values, the ornament of purity and meekness, that the world will be better for your having lived in it. Like the pure lily you need faith’s penetrating root descending beneath the outward things which do appear to gather spiritual strength to invigorate and give purity and goodness to the life. The study of the Bible, the hours of secret communion with God, meditation upon heavenly themes will develop into purity of character resembling the spotless lily. The life of God in the soul is Christ in you a well of water springing up into everlasting life.” –*Signs of the Times*, February 7, 1878.

“Jesus made the Scriptures, which were read in the synagogues, His constant study, and when the scribes and Pharisees sought to enforce upon Him their rigid exactions, they found Him thoroughly furnished with the word of God.” –*Signs of the Times*, August 6, 1896.

“Do not spend your time reading magazines and novels. Read your Bible. You have many temptations to meet and overcome. You have a great truth to proclaim. Only by a constant study of the Word of God can you gain the strength needed for this work. Put novel reading out of your lives. You have none too much time in which to gain an understanding of what saith the Scriptures.” –*Review and Herald*, July 20, 1905.

“We are in the great day of atonement, and the sacred work of Christ for the people of God that is going on at the present time in the heavenly sanctuary, should be our constant study.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 520.

“It should, then, be their [the workers’] constant study to learn how they can become more intelligent in the work in which they are engaged.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, p. 552.

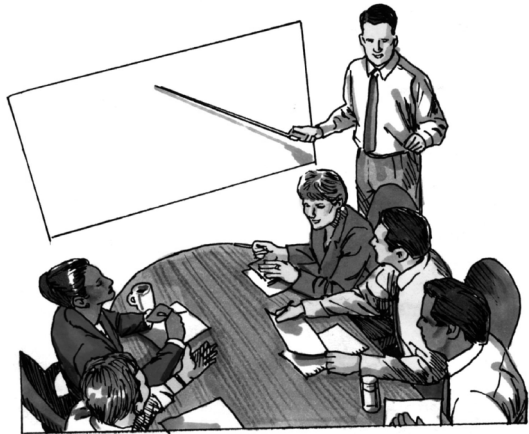
“Work in a way that will remove prejudice instead of creating it. Make the life of Christ your constant study, and labor as He did, following His example.” –*Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 472.

“All should be constantly seeking for well-developed minds and to overcome ill-balanced characters. This must be your constant study, if you make a useful, successful laborer.” –(Letter 12, 1887) *Evangelism*, p. 106.

“If you desire to learn what course to take with your children, make their peculiar temperaments your constant study. All children cannot be managed alike. You may need to manage one child differently from the way in which you manage another.” –*Australasian Signs of the Times*, February 23, 1903.

PRINCIPLES OF EFFECTIVE CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

To develop all-round education, we, as His followers, need to work as did Jesus. He came to reveal the character of God, which is love. Jesus could say, "I delight to do Thy will, O My God: yea, Thy law is within My heart." Psalm 40:8. In His law,



God has given the world ten holy principles, and these are a transcript of His character. If we are to work as Jesus worked, these principles will be the guiding light of our every action.

"The Sovereign of the world has made known, in the Ten Commandments, the principles that should govern mankind. He requires the implicit obedience of His subjects, and if they refuse this, they are disloyal to the God of heaven." —*Signs of the Times*, March 7, 1878.

"Ten precepts, brief, comprehensive, and authoritative, cover the duty of man to God and to his fellow man; and all based upon the great fundamental principle of love." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 305.

The ten natural laws

It has been recognized that, although there are many rules, there are only ten or so fundamental laws governing all society and culture. These have been expressed in various ways. In his book, *The Golden Eight*, Leo R. Van Dolson explains that, while there are many rules, there are only eight to ten “natural laws” established by the Creator. These principles do not change with time or situations, because they are eternal. Here is the list of the “golden eight”: (1) the law of cause and effect, (2) the law of activity and growth, (3) the law of rest and restoration, (4) The law of balance and regularity, (5) the law of cleanliness and hygiene, (6) the law of self-control, (7) the law of mutual dependence, (8) the law of positive ideals.¹ It is possible to add two more to these eight: (9) the law of loyalty and respect for authority, and (10) the law of honesty and the immutability of truth.

Steven R. Covey, in his well-known and highly acclaimed book, *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, lists ten “fundamental truths that have universal application” in this order: (1) fairness, (2) integrity and honesty, (3) human dignity, (4) service, (5) quality or excellence, (6) potential, (7) growth, (8) patience, (9) nurturance, and (10) encouragement.²

These are the foundation of the Ten Commandments. Once we see them, we will be able to “appreciate fully the far-reaching principles of God’s ten precepts.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 301.

Ten laws (principles) of life (The principles behind the Ten Commandments)

Looking at these ideas through the filter of God’s law and the testimonies of the Spirit of Prophecy, we see that there are only ten “far-reaching principles” behind the Ten Commandments. They are:

1. Order, balance, regularity, and service
2. Life, activity, or enthusiasm (*Greek*, “God-breathed”)
3. Grow or die (growth and activity)
4. Rest and restoration (potential)
5. Loyalty, human dignity, respect for authority, fairness, and mu-

¹ Leo R. Van Dolson, *The Golden Eight*, Review and Herald Publishing, 1977, p. 10.

² Steven R. Covey, *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, Simon & Schuster, copyright 1989. by Steven R. Covey, pp. 34, 35.

- tual dependence (interdependence)
6. Cause and effect and self-control
 7. Purity, cleanliness, hygiene, and simplicity
 8. Quality and excellence
 9. Integrity, honesty, and the immutability of truth
 10. Patience, encouragement, and the power of positive ideals

1. Order, balance, regularity and service

“And God formed man....” Genesis 2:7.

“...Set in order the things that are to be set in order....” Exodus 40:4.

“Let all things be done decently and in order.” “For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.” 1 Corinthians 14:40, 33.

“Order is heaven’s first law, and every school should in this respect be a model of heaven.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 200.

“System and order are manifest in all the works of God throughout the universe. Order is the law of heaven, and it should be the law of God’s people on the earth.” –*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 26 (1902).

“Those who have the unction from on high will in all their efforts encourage order, discipline, and union of action, and then the angels of God can cooperate with them. But never, never will these heavenly messengers place their endorsement upon irregularity, disorganization, and disorder. All these evils are the result of Satan’s efforts to weaken our forces, to destroy courage, and prevent successful action.

“Satan well knows that success can only attend order and harmonious action.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, pp. 649, 650 (*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 28).

George Washington, the first President of the United States, “was enabled to perform a great amount of business because he was thorough in preserving order and regularity. Every paper had its date and its place, and no time was lost in looking up what had been mislaid. Men of God must be diligent in study, earnest in the acquirement of knowledge, never wasting an hour.” –*Gospel Workers*, pp. 277, 278 (1880).

2. Life, activity or enthusiasm (Greek, “God-breathed”)

“...And breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.” Genesis 2:7.

“Activity is the law of life; idleness is death....”

“Upon the slothful servant the sentence was, ‘Take therefore the talent

from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.' Here, as in the reward of the faithful worker, is indicated not merely the reward at the final judgment but the gradual process of retribution in this life. As in the natural, so in the spiritual world: every power unused will weaken and decay. Activity is the law of life; idleness is death. 'The manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.' 1 Corinthians 12:7. Employed to bless others, his gifts increase. Shut up to self-serving they diminish, and are finally withdrawn. [See No. 3—"Grow or die."] He who refuses to impart that which he has received will at last find that he has nothing to give. He is consenting to a process that surely dwarfs and finally destroys the faculties of the soul...

"Let none suppose that they can live a life of selfishness, and then, having served their own interests, enter into the joy of their Lord. ..." – *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 364.

3. Grow or die (growth and activity)

"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18. "...His leaf also shall not wither..." Psalm 1:3.

"There can be no life without growth. The plant must either grow or die." – *Education*, p. 106.

"As in nature, so in grace; there can be no life without growth. The plant must either grow or die. As its growth is silent and imperceptible, but continuous, so is the development of the Christian life. At every stage of development our life may be perfect; yet if God's purpose for us is fulfilled, there will be continual advancement. Sanctification is the work of a lifetime. As our opportunities multiply, our experience will enlarge, and our knowledge increase. We shall become strong to bear responsibility, and our maturity will be in proportion to our privileges." – *Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 65, 66.

4. Rest and restoration (potential)

"...Thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in." Isaiah 58:12. These words are directly connected to the Sabbath. Isaiah 58:13, 14.

"Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28. These words were spoken on the Sabbath.

"Rest, freedom from care, and a spare diet, are essential to restoration of health." – *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 236.

"The rabbis had a saying that there is rejoicing in heaven when one who has sinned against God is destroyed; but Jesus taught that to God the work of destruction is a strange work. That in which all heaven delights is

the restoration of God's own image in the souls whom He has made." – *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 190.

5. Loyalty, human dignity, respect for authority, fairness and mutual dependence (interdependence)

"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Isaiah 8:20. "We ought to obey God rather than men." Acts 5:29. "If ye love Me, keep My commandments." John 14:15.

"The Sabbath will be the great test of loyalty." – *The Great Controversy*, p. 605.

"The keeping of the true Sabbath... is an evidence of loyalty to the Creator." – *Review and Herald*, April 27, 1911.

"To the great principle of love and loyalty to God, the Father of all, the principle of filial love and obedience is closely related. Contempt for parental authority will soon lead to contempt for the authority of God." – *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 337.

"God's benevolent design embraces every branch of His work. The law of reciprocal dependence and influence is to be recognized and obeyed. 'None of us liveth to himself.' [Romans 14:11.]" – *Counsels on Health*, p. 525.

"There is nothing, save the selfish heart of man, that lives unto itself. No bird that cleaves the air, no animal that moves upon the ground, but ministers to some other life." – *The Desire of Ages*, p. 20.

6. Cause and effect and self-control

Both Jesus and Paul taught the concept that "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Matthew 7:16, 20; Galatians 6:7; see also Job 4:8; Proverbs 22:8; Hosea 8:7; 10:12; 2 Corinthians 9:6. Jesus reminded His disciples to "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again," and to "Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword." Matthew 7:1, 2; 26:52. The apostle John echoed this principle: "He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword." "Here is the patience of the saints:... and the faith of Jesus." Revelation 13:10; 14:12. Only the Giver of life has the right to take life. "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is Mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." Romans 12:19. This is one

of the great principles of Scripture, and it is seen in all of God's dealings with men.

"Teach your children to reason from cause to effect. Show them that if they violate the laws of their being, they must pay the penalty in suffering." –*Child Guidance*, p. 362.

"It is a wonderful and grand fact that in the laws of God in nature, effect follows cause with unerring certainty. The seed sown will produce a harvest of its kind. So it is in human nature. He that sows to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption. He who sows to the spirit shall of the spirit reap life everlasting. If human beings would consider that they are making their own harvest, they would be careful what seed they sow." –(Manuscript 104, 1898) *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 3, pp. 342, 343.

"Teach your children to reason from cause to effect. Teach them that if they desire health and happiness, they must obey the laws of nature. Though you may not see so rapid improvement as you desire, be not discouraged, but patiently and perseveringly continue your work." –*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 386.

"The object of discipline is the training of the child for self-government. He should be taught self-reliance and self-control." –*Education*, p. 287. (See also 2 Peter 1:5-8; Acts 24:25; Galatians 5:22, 23.)

7. Purity, cleanliness, hygiene and simplicity

"... Even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it; That He might [not pollute it, but] sanctify and cleanse it;... that it should be holy and without blemish." Ephesians 5:25-27.

"The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times." Psalm 12:6.

"And He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness." Malachi 3:3, etc.

"And thou shalt have a paddle upon thy weapon; and it shall be, when thou wilt ease thyself abroad, thou shalt dig therewith, and shalt turn back and cover that which cometh from thee." Deuteronomy 23:13.

"Intelligence and Purity in Every Transaction"

"Holiness to the Lord was the great characteristic of the Redeemer's life on earth, and it is His will that this shall characterize the lives of His followers. His workers are to labor with unselfishness and faithfulness, and with reference to the usefulness and influence of every other worker. Intelligence and purity are to mark all their work, all their business transactions. He is the light of the world. In His work there are to be no dark corners

where dishonest deeds are done. Injustice is in the highest degree displeasing to God." –*Review and Herald*, June 24, 1902.

"Attention should be given also to sunlight and ventilation, the hygiene of the sleeping room and the kitchen. Teach the pupils that a healthful sleeping room, a thoroughly clean kitchen, and a tastefully arranged, wholesomely supplied table will go farther toward securing the happiness of the family and the regard of every sensible visitor than any amount of expensive furnishing in the drawing room. That 'the life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment' (Luke 12:23) is a lesson no less needed now than when given by the divine Teacher eighteen hundred years ago." –*Child Guidance*, pp. 365, 366.

"Order and cleanliness are laws of heaven. The directions given to Moses when the Lord was about to declare His law upon Mount Sinai, were very strict in this respect. 'And the Lord said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes.' [Exodus 19:10.]" –*Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene*, p. 105.

8. Quality and excellence

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do [it] with thy might; for [there is] no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest." Ecclesiastes 9:10.

"Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm. Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him." Daniel 6:3, 4. (See also Daniel 1:19, 20.)

"Christ is honored in excellence and perfection of character." –*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 102.

"In the faithful performance of the simple duties of the home boys and girls lay the foundation for mental, moral, and spiritual excellence...."

"God designed that man should be constantly improving, daily reaching a higher point in the scale of excellence. He will help us if we seek to help ourselves. Our hope of happiness in two worlds depends upon our improvement in one...." –*The Adventist Home*, pp. 288, 301.

9. Integrity, honesty and the immutability of truth

"For His merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever." Psalm 117:2.

"Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth." John 17:17.

"The word of God is to be practiced. It will live and endure forever." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, p. 249.

“Truth is inspired and guarded by God; and it will triumph over all opposition.” –*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 12.

“Men of self-culture, men of honesty and truth, of staunch integrity...” –*Signs of the Times*, July 8, 1880.

“A man may not have a pleasant exterior, he may be deficient in many respects, but if he has a reputation for straightforward honesty, he will be respected. Stern integrity covers many objectionable traits of character. A man who steadfastly adheres to truth will win the confidence of all. Not only will his brethren in the faith trust him, but unbelievers will be constrained to acknowledge him as a man of honor.” –(Letter 3, 1878) *Mind, Character and Personality*, vol. 1, p. 437.

10. Patience, encouragement and the power of positive ideals

“Without Me ye can do nothing.” “...With God all things are possible.” John 15:5; Matthew 19:26.

“In your patience possess ye your souls.” Luke 21:19.

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.” Romans 8:28.

“In patient forbearance we shall conquer.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, p. 266.

“Let the mind be directed to high and holy ideals, let the life have a noble aim, an absorbing purpose, and evil finds little foothold.” –*Education*, p. 189.

“The people must be given the truth, straightforward, positive truth. But this truth is to be presented in the spirit of Christ. We are to be as sheep in the midst of wolves. Those who will not, for Christ’s sake, observe the cautions He has given, who will not exercise patience and self-control, will lose precious opportunities of working for the Master.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 236.

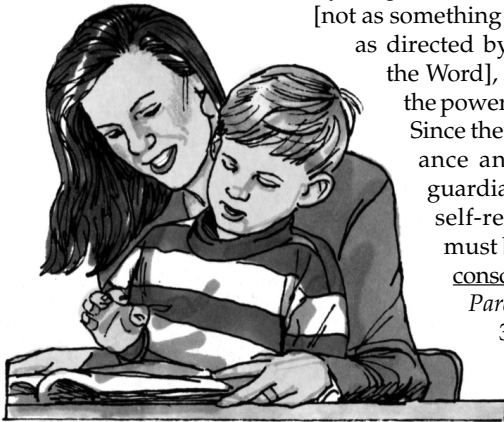
“Let no one say, I cannot remedy my defects of character. If you come to this decision, you will certainly fail of obtaining everlasting life.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 331; *Messages to Young People*, p. 99.

“The precepts of the Decalogue are adapted to all mankind, and they were given for the instruction and government of all. Ten precepts, brief, comprehensive, and authoritative, cover the duty of man to God and to his fellow man; and all based upon the great fundamental principle of love. ‘Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself.’ Luke 10:27. See also Deuteronomy 6:4, 5; Leviticus 19:18. In the Ten Commandments these principles are carried out in detail, and made applicable to the condition and circumstances of man.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 305.

1. Love—a living principle

Love is the principle of heaven which comes into our hearts through the working power of the living word and the quickening agency of the Holy Spirit. John 17:17; Romans 5:5.

The “agape” love, which Jesus came to earth to demonstrate, is the principle of doing good to others—not merely a warm, fuzzy feeling. “The love of Christ is not a fitful feeling, but a living principle, which is to be made manifest as an abiding power in the heart.” —*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 516.



“The young should be controlled by firm principle [not as something imposed from the outside, but as directed by a conscience enlightened by the Word], that they may rightly improve the powers which God has given them....

Since they cannot always have the guidance and protection of parents and guardians, they need to be trained to self-reliance and self-control. They must be taught to think and act from conscientious principle.” —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 333.

“All the work done, however excellent it may appear to be, is worthless if not done in the love of Jesus. One

may go through the whole round of religious activity, and yet, unless Christ is woven into all that he says and does, he will work for his own glory.” — (Letter 48, 1903) *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 958.

“Love is power. Intellectual and moral strength are involved in this principle, and cannot be separated from it. The power of wealth has a tendency to corrupt and destroy; the power of force is strong to do hurt; but the excellence and value of pure love consist in its efficiency to do good, and to do nothing else than good. Whatsoever is done out of pure love, be it ever so little or contemptible in the sight of men, is wholly fruitful; for God regards more with how much love one worketh than the amount he doeth. Love is of God. The unconverted heart cannot originate nor produce this plant of heavenly growth, which lives and flourishes only where Christ reigns.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 135.

Just as it is easier to teach lessons of pride than than those of humility, so it is also easier to motivate by fear rather than by love. But motivation by fear is like using drugs. At first, a little has a powerful effect; but the more one uses it, the less it works. On the other hand, motivating by love is like trying to start a fire in wet, green branches. It takes a lot of patience and warmth to dry out those wet twigs to the point where they will burn; but once the fire gets going, you only need to watch over it and put new fuel on the fire to keep it alive. Motivating by fear, guilt, shame, pride, promise of reward, competition, peer pressure, etc., often appears to be effective; but these are the methods and ways of Babylon. "God so loved the world that He gave [sent] His only begotten Son." John 3:16. By beholding His love, especially in the gift of Calvary, love is awakened to shine to His glory. With a faith that works by love burning in the heart, the soul will be motivated to do something for Jesus; and in blessing others, it is itself blessed. True love (the principle) must find expression, and faith that works by love will purify the soul. (See Galatians 5:6 and 1 Peter 1:22 for the basis of this phrase, which is found in the Spirit of Prophecy more than 100 times.) All this can be said in five words: "Knowing Jesus is the answer," and that is the "Godspell."

Love finds a way. That is merely another way of saying that we need to organize the youth for missionary service. Missionary work is not confined to canvassing. Service for God means doing what Jesus did—help-



ing others to come close to Him—by example, precept, and presenting opportunities to make experiences with God. Find ways to involve as many youth as want to be involved. It can be one or one hundred plus! Emphasize the positive. Remember, whatever you give attention to grows! Let the minds of the youth be filled with the sweet promises of God. "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might

not sin against Thee.” Psalm 119:11. (See CL Appendix: Principle-Centered Leadership.)

2. Dependence on God

Jesus daily depended on God. He spent much time in prayer and gave us much encouragement to pray. “What, could ye not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation:...” Matthew 26:40, 41. (See also Luke 11:9-13; 18:1-8.)

“The Lord has promised that where two or three are met together in His name, there will He be in the midst. [Matthew 18:20.] Those who meet together for prayer will receive an unction from the Holy One. There is great need of secret prayer, but there is also need that several Christians meet together and unite with earnestness their petitions to God.” —*In Heavenly Places*, p. 91.

“The secret of Daniel’s strength was found in his conscientious attention to what the world would call things of minor importance. He was found before God three times a day in prayer and thanksgiving, and he was equally steadfast in his attention to his duties to the king. It is this conscientious attention to what the world despises that makes a strong, symmetrical character.” —*Signs of the Times*, May 25, 1891.

“While we are to labor earnestly for the salvation of the lost, we must also take time for meditation, for prayer, and for the study of the word of God. Only the work accomplished with much prayer, and sanctified by the merit of Christ, will in the end prove to have been efficient for good.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 362.

“From the secret place of prayer came the power that shook the world in the Great Reformation. There, with holy calmness, the servants of the Lord set their feet upon the rock of His promises. During the struggle at Augsburg, Luther ‘did not pass a day without devoting three hours at least to prayer, and they were hours selected from those the most favorable to study.’ In the privacy of his chamber he was heard to pour out his soul before God in words ‘full of adoration, fear, and hope, as when one speaks to a friend.’ ‘I know that Thou art our Father and our God,’ he said, ‘and that Thou wilt scatter the persecutors of Thy children; for Thou art Thyself

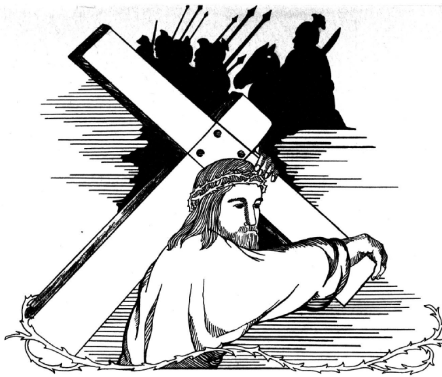


endangered with us. All this matter is Thine, and it is only by Thy constraint that we have put our hands to it. Defend us, then, O Father!" –*The Great Controversy*, p. 210.

Those who find themselves in leadership positions will feel the need of divine guidance. Perhaps this is the greatest blessing of being called to be a leader—to see our need and cry to God for help. It is essential to pray much for heavenly wisdom. In every situation we recognize the need to cultivate a living connection with heaven. Everything that is done from love will result in a blessing, and to have that love in our hearts requires a close connection with the Great Heart of love.

3. Christ centeredness

"In all you do, make Christ the center of attraction. Constantly look to Him who is your pattern, the Author and Finisher of your faith. Cultivate constant, fervent gratitude to God for the gift of His beloved Son. Represent Christ." –*The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials*, p. 138.



"A cold, lifeless theory is not a knowledge of God. Those who have a knowledge of God must have His love, must understand its sacrifice, its condescension. The hungry mind and heart must receive His grace, to impart to others its fullness, its sufficiency. It is not a head acceptance of truth, but heart reception, that moulds and fashions aright the emotions

and impulses of the soul, making it tender and compassionate, humble and contrite. Christ received into the soul makes man one with God in His beloved Son. Then the love of the Redeemer is acknowledged as beyond all estimate. And more than this: the life and character are changed by the presence of the indwelling Saviour." –*Signs of the Times*, July 26, 1905.

With God's love on Calvary before us, the church will be a revelation of Christ to the world. "The gospel is to be presented, not as a lifeless

theory, but as a living force to change the life. God desires that the receivers of His grace shall be witnesses to its power.” –*Desire of Ages*, p. 826.

“Christ is the uniting link in the golden chain which binds believers together in God. There must be no separating in this great testing time.... The children of God constitute one united whole in Christ, who presents His cross as the center of attraction. All who believe are one in Him.” –*Lift Him Up*, p. 296.

“God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.” Galatians 6:14.

“Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:28. (See CL Appendix: How Jesus Worked—An Example)

4. Service

A long time ago, someone said something that has been quoted hundreds of times since: “An idle mind is the devil’s workshop.” How many have ever considered that the fifth commandment applies here? We know the story of the talents in Luke 19:11-27 and have generally made application to our own talents. But the talents of our youth, as well as all those who are within the sphere of our influence, are also included.



“There are too many talents hid in a napkin, and buried in the earth. O that they might all be employed in the service of the Master, that at His coming He might receive His ‘own with usury,’ and that fruit might abound to your account! When Jesus went away, He left to every man his work, and ‘nothing to do’ is an unwarrantable excuse. ‘Nothing to do’ is the reason of trial among brethren; for Satan will fill the minds of idlers with his own plans, and set them to work. Your unemployed heart

and mind afford him a plat [of ground] to sow the seeds of doubt and skepticism. Those who have nothing to do, find time for gossiping, tale-bearing, backbiting, and mischief-making. 'Nothing to do' brings evil testimony against the brethren, and dissension into the church of Christ. Jesus says, 'He that gathereth not with Me scattereth abroad.' [Matthew 12:30.]" –*Review and Herald*, March 13, 1888.



"Our heavenly Father has a thousand ways to provide for us of which we know nothing. Those who accept the one principle of making the service of God supreme, will find perplexities vanish and a plain path before their feet." –*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 481.

"Fresh, Uncrippled Energies. In order that the work may go forward in all its branches, God calls for youthful vigor, zeal, and courage. He has chosen the youth to aid in the advancement of His cause. To plan with clear mind and execute with courageous hand demands fresh, uncrippled energies. Young men and women are invited to give God the strength of their youth, that through the exercise of their powers, through keen thought and vigorous action, they may bring glory to Him and salvation to their fellow men." –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 535 (1913); *Evangelism*, p. 478 (*Gospel Workers*, p. 67).

The great problem of sin is selfishness or self-centeredness. When we give ourselves in willing, loving service to others, it kills egotism and replaces it with the attributes of Christ. That is one of the main reasons why it so essential to work for others in the home, in the church, and in society.

"The only cure for selfishness is to deny self, and work earnestly to be the blessing that you can be to your fellowmen." –*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 183.

5. Order

“For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.” “Let all things be done decently and in order.” 1 Corinthians 14:33, 40.



“Order is heaven’s first law.” – *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 201.

“Success can only attend order and harmonious action.” – *Evangelism*, p. 93.

“System and order are manifest in all the works of God throughout the universe. Order is the law of heaven, and it should be the law of God’s people on the earth.” – *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 26.

“The Lord would manifest to Israel in the explicit directions given them, that He is a God of order, that He would have everything connected with His work move forward with regularity and system. The Lord changeth not, and He is just as pleased now as then to have His ministers cultivate a love for order and discipline, that their efforts may be characterized by neatness, thoroughness, and exactitude. By precept and example they should educate the people to work in harmony. If order and discipline are essential to the success of an army on the battle field, how much more essential are they to the success of those who have enlisted in the army of the Lord.” – *Signs of the Times*, July 29, 1880.

It is important that there be a schedule for youth activities, that these activities be well planned, and that they not be canceled for any except the most extreme reason.

PRINCIPLE-CENTERED LEADERSHIP

VERS. 2002-1

Give a man a fish, and you feed him
for a day. Teach him how to fish,
and you feed him for a lifetime.

A teacher once said something similar: “What I give you is mine; I can give you nothing more. But that which I can lead you to discover for yourself, is yours forever!”

Jesus wants us to grow so we may help others grow. He knew how to appreciate publicly and reprove privately. He stood behind His people in public but privately helped them face the reason for their failures. His object was the transformation of character. He took the raw material in His hands of time and circumstance and gave back shining stones, polished to reflect the glory (character) of heaven.

“It was to give in His own life a revelation of His Father’s character, that Christ came in the form of humanity. In His life no ostentatious display, no act to gain applause, was ever witnessed. Christ hid in God, and God was revealed in the character of His Son. To this revelation Jesus desired the minds of the people to be directed and their homage to be given.” —*Review and Herald*, December 7, 1905.

If we move forward in love, as did Jesus, with a desire to be a blessing to others, God will give wonderful victories. Seeming failures will turn into valuable lessons if we learn what God is trying to teach us through them.

Stephen R. Covey, in his book *Principled-Centered Leadership*, gives seven habits of ineffective people, in contrast with *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People* (another of his books). These are worthy of our evaluation, as the apostle Paul commanded: “Examine yourself...” 2 Corinthians 13:5.

Ineffective People	Effective People
<i>Are reactive: doubt themselves and blame others</i>	<i>Are proactive: take responsibility for their own actions.</i>
<i>Work without any clear end in mind</i>	<i>Begin working with a clear view of the end in mind</i>
<i>Do the urgent thing first</i>	<i>Put first things first</i>
<i>Think win/lose</i>	<i>Think win/win</i>
<i>Seek first to be understood</i>	<i>First seek to understand, then to be understood</i>
<i>If they can't win, they compromise</i>	<i>Synergize: Use what is available in creative cooperation</i>
<i>Fear change and put off improvement</i>	<i>Sharpen their saw: grow or die</i>

In every organization, there are three essential roles: (1) producers, (2) managers, and (3) leaders. Each is necessary for the success of the organization. The producers are the ones who get the work done. Managers coordinate, evaluate, and seek to avoid duplication and conflict. Leaders provide vision, correct principles, and direction so the organization maintains its mission and values. Most organizations begin as movements. In time they tend to codify their past successes into rules for future generations and in the process lose their vision. At that point, they become organizations interested in methods, balance sheets, efficiencies, and doing things right, rather than doing the right things. If they last a few more years, they become institutions whose primary goal is the continued existence of the institution.

The role of the leader is to keep returning to the vision and methods of Jesus.

Unity in Christ

Leadership constitutes keeping the vision, values, purposes, and direction foremost while inspiring and motivating people to work together for that common vision and purpose. That is the beauty of the gospel. If it

is truly understood, it is the solution to every problem. Christ's great sacrifice has made us double debtors to God and as His new sons and daughters. If we see ourselves as connected with Him, we will also see ourselves as debtors to all who do not know Him. The vision is men and women restored in the image of God and reflecting His character to the world. With Christ and Him crucified for my sins, I have eyes that see the glory of God (or His character) and ears that hear the cries of our lost fellowmen.

Preparing for a public meeting

Having a collective goal motivates collective effort. Planning a good public meeting (Sabbath afternoon, for example) in which the youth are involved takes more effort than doing almost everything yourself. But watching the youth develop their skills in public speaking, developing a theme, singing, memorizing verses, telling experiences, and sharing their hopes and dreams is much more rewarding than a one-man or -woman show. It is by doing that habits change. Theory is good, but practice is better; and only perfect practice leads to perfect habits (and it is one's habits that make up the character).

In planning meetings, the basic four steps are presented in the acronym A PIE: Analyze, Prioritize, Implement, Evaluate. These have been mentioned elsewhere, but now we would like to expand that concept to include eight steps:

1. Gather information
2. Diagnose the data
3. Select and prioritize your objectives
4. Create and analyze alternatives
5. Select one of them (make a decision)
6. Make a plan to carry out that decision
7. Implement the plan
8. Compare the results with the objectives

Study methods and some suggested resource material

There are three basic kinds of approaches to Bible study:

1. The "Proof Text Method": You pick a subject (e.g., Christ's second coming) and find Bible texts to reveal the truth on the subject at hand;

2. An “Event Study”: You try to learn something from a historical occurrence;
3. An “Exegetical Study”: You try to understand deeply just one text.

In the *Manual for Missionary Work*, by Gerhard Hunger, p. 131, 21 different types of studies are listed. And in the *Guide for Biblical Research*, 31 Bible studies are outlined. The *Bible Study Handbook* and other publications, such as the *Reformation Handbook* and other books, contain themes for study. Your minister can help and also present lessons on how to prepare talks and sermons, how to use a concordance, etc. He can direct you to other materials for study, such as the *Reformation Study Course*. Doing your own research in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy on the lives of the men of God, the sanctuary, the plan of redemption, the 14 great lines of prophecy, and end-time events will all prove profitable.

A wise man once said, “Do something, even if it’s wrong; but do something.” That implies that those who refuse to try make the biggest mistake—doing nothing.

HOW JESUS WORKED

-AN EXAMPLE

VERS. 2002-1

In the miracle of the loaves and fishes is “contained a whole treasure of lessons” for those who desire to be leaders of others in following Jesus. (Study Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:32-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-13. See *The Desire of Ages*, p. 383, and Chapter 39, pp. 364-371.)

“From the first He had held out to His followers no hope of earthly rewards.”
–*The Desire of Ages*, p. 383.

After testing the faith of His disciples by telling them to give the people something to eat, “Jesus inquired how much food could be found among the company. ‘There is a lad here,’ said Andrew, ‘which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?’ [John 6:9]. Jesus directed that these be brought to Him. Then He bade the disciples seat the people on the grass in parties of fifty or a hundred, to preserve order and that all might witness what He was about to do. When this was accomplished, Jesus took the food, ‘and looking up to heaven, He blessed, and brake [divided], and gave the loaves to His disciples, and the disciples [distributed] to the multitude’ [Matthew 14:19]. ‘And they did all eat, and were filled. And they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments, and of the fishes’ [Mark 6:42, 43].” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 365.

Preserve order:

Jesus calmly gave them their instructions. In everything He did, He preserved order, which is the first law of heaven. Those who follow order will have success. This is symbolized by “the wheels within the wheels” of Ezekiel 10:10.

That all might witness:

He did everything in plain sight. Another point of leadership is: Be an example. We are to let our light shine. When Jesus was questioned about His work, He said, "I spake openly to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing." John 18:20. "Everything that Christians do should be as transparent as the sunlight." –*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, p. 68.

He blessed:

And before He blessed them, He prayed for that blessing Himself in secret prayer. His confidence inspired their confidence. He not only condescended to cover His divinity with humanity, but He also was willing to link up with His disciples and give them His confidence by giving them something to do. It is confidence and faith that will inspire confidence and faith. He showed them that He believed that they too could be taught by God, as He was. He opened His plans before them, and they felt free to speak. We must do the same for and with our brethren, and they will call our attention to some things that we may not have thought of. In this way, working together in mutual confidence, we become more than the sum of the parts. This principle is called "synergy." When the church answers the prayer of John 17, the family of heaven and the family of earth will synergize, synchronize, and harmonize to tell the world that God is LOVE through their love for and confidence in each other and their ministry to the needy.

"To Him nothing was without purpose."
–*Education*, p. 82.

He broke and gave to His disciples:

In considering the necessities of the hour, Jesus did not try to do everything Himself. He delegated. Here Nehemiah is a worthy example. When he reached Jerusalem and saw it in ruins, he kept silent until he had made an assessment of the situation; then he divided the work according to the need and the available resources. He first put himself to work determining what could be done, and then he provided direction so others could join in a well-organized work. That is leadership!

The disciples distributed to the multitude:

Jesus, like Nehemiah, did not say that nothing could be done until more supplies were brought in and more people were available to help. And Nehemiah did not send off an urgent plea to Babylon for more money. He **Analyzed** his situation, **Prioritized** the work, and **Implemented** his plan by giving everyone dedicated and willing to work something to do. Then, as the work was progressing, he continually **Evaluated** what was being accomplished. Good leadership, successful management, and faithful instruction must not neglect this cycle. In English, the acronym is A PIE.

Gather up the fragments:

“It was as if He bade them mark all His teachings, gather up every fragment of truth, and of the light which He has given, to let nothing be lost. Open up the truth to others and let every fragment have its place.” –*Review and Herald*, October 23, 1894.

This was also “a lesson upon economy which is worthy of careful attention ... given as much for our benefit as for those living in Christ’s day...”

“This is a lesson to us all, and one which we should not disregard.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 572; vol. 2, p. 292.

“Though He had all the resources of heaven at His command, He would not suffer even a morsel of bread to be wasted.” –*Child Guidance*, 135.

“He who loves Christ the most will do the greatest amount of good. There is no limit to the usefulness of one who, by putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart, and lives a life wholly consecrated to God.”
–*The Desire of Ages*, pp.250, 251.

Dependence on God:

“The miracle of the loaves teaches a lesson of dependence upon God.... The providence of God had placed Jesus where He was; and He depended on His heavenly Father for the means to relieve the necessity.

“And when we are brought into strait places, we are to depend on God. We are to exercise wisdom and judgment in every action of life, that we may not, by reckless movements, place ourselves in trial. We are not to plunge into difficulties, neglecting the means God has provided, and misusing the faculties He has given us. Christ’s workers are to obey His instructions implicitly. The work is God’s, and if we would bless others His plans must be followed. Self cannot be made a center; self can receive no honor. If we plan according to our own ideas, the Lord will leave us to our own mistakes. But when, after following His directions, we are brought into strait places, He will deliver us. We are not to give up in discouragement, but in every emergency we are to seek help from Him who has infinite resources at His command. Often we shall be surrounded with trying circumstances, and then, in the fullest confidence, we must depend upon God. He will keep every soul that is brought into perplexity through trying to keep the way of the Lord.” –*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 368, 369.

No matter what the tradition has been in your church, remember that “Light is sown for the righteous” (Psalm 97:11), and that “the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.” Proverbs 4:18. “It is a sad thing when a people claiming to be reformers cease to reform.” –*Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 4, p. 185. Reformation means reorganization, and true reformation will be accompanied by a revival under the guidance of God’s Spirit.

“A revival and a reformation must take place, under the ministration of the Holy Spirit. Revival and reformation are two different things. Revival signifies a renewal of spiritual life, a quickening of the powers of mind and heart, a resurrection from spiritual death. Reformation signifies a reorganization, a change in ideas and theories, habits and practices. Reformation will not bring forth the good fruit of righteousness unless it is connected with the revival of the Spirit. Revival and reformation are to do their appointed work, and in doing this work they must blend.” –(*Review and Herald*, February 25, 1902) *Selected Messages*, vol. 1, p. 128.

God alone can give life. As we share the bread of life which we have, the Prince of Life will be revealed, not only to others, but in greater light to ourselves. Luke 24:35. Walls and bridges are not made by throwing stones, and revivals do not fly upon angry, flaming arrows of threatening destruction. “The wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.” James 1:20. “God never forces the will or the conscience; but Satan’s constant resort—to gain control of those whom he cannot otherwise seduce—is compulsion by cruelty.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 591.

THE YOUTH AS EMISSARIES FOR GOD



Looking around us, we see the great need of love and peace in the world. Infidelity, superstition, strife, and suspicion are everywhere. The principles of God's kingdom are almost unknown. God is working with great longing to bring light to the people in darkness through demonstrations of His grace. All who will yield to the movings of His Spirit will be used by Him to reveal in their lives the outworking of the principles He plants within.

1. The great need

As He did with Enoch, God is seeking for faithful believers whom He can send into the large cities of earth with divine messages.

"Missions are essential as the foundation of missionary effort in our cities; but let it never be forgotten that those standing at the head of them are to guard every point, that all may be done to the honor of God. In these missions young men and women are to receive a training that will qualify them to work for the Master." —*Gospel Workers*, p. 365 (1915).

"Let every one of us seek to be Christlike. The world is in great need of representatives of Christ. They need lives like the divine life, in order that they may have some tangible proof of the power of Christianity to uplift humanity in this world of sin and corruption. As laborers together with

God, we should make our plans daily with an eye single to the glory of God. We should appreciate the condescension and love of Jesus in giving us finite beings the great privilege of bearing the yoke of Christ." *—Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, June 4, 1895.

As it was in the days of Noah, so it is today. There is a door of heaven opened to the people of earth through the saving message of Christ and His righteousness.

2. God's plan

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." Romans 12:1, 2.

"When the spirit of Christ takes possession of the heart, then there is a missionary for God." *—Manuscript Releases*, vol. 12, p. 330.

"The Holy Spirit with the cleaver of truth has separated men from the world, that they may go forth as missionaries for God into all the highways and byways of life. They are not only to seek and to save those that are lost, but they are also to minister to the wants of suffering humanity." *—Signs of the Times*, July 9, 1894.

"The world needs missionaries, consecrated home missionaries, and no one will be registered in the books of heaven as a Christian, who has not a missionary spirit." *—Review and Herald*, August 23, 1892.

"The work of God is in need of youthful ardor, zeal, and courage. Mental and physical vigor are essential for the advancement of the cause of God. To plan with clear mind and execute with courageous hand demand fresh and uncrippled energies. In order that the work may be forwarded in all its branches, God calls for youthful ardor. Young men and young women are invited to give Him the strength of their youth, that through the exercise of their God-given powers, through healthful thought and vigorous action, they may bring glory to God and salvation to men." *—Our High Calling*, p. 282. (See also *Gospel Workers*, p. 67.)

"There is room in the work of God for all who are filled with the spirit of self-sacrifice. God is calling for men and women who are willing to deny self for the sake of others, willing to consecrate all they have and are to His work." *—(Review and Herald, April 28, 1904) Messages to Young People*, p. 208. (See YE Appendix: The Master's Methods of Personal Evangelism.)

3. Youth in action

The past is history, tomorrow is only a promise, but today is the gift of God. All we have is this little moment of time. If we realize its importance, we will not delay to put ourselves and the youth to work doing something for Jesus. What is to be done? Here are a few ideas!



Sharing the silent preacher (distribution of literature and Bible course enrollment cards)

“The silent preacher, enriched with precious matter, should go forth on the wings of prayer, mingled with faith.” –*Review and Herald*, December 19, 1878.

The power of music (sharing Christ through song and cantatas in hospitals, nursing homes, and public places)

“There is great pathos and music in the human voice, and if the learner will make determined efforts, he will acquire habits of talking and singing that will be to him a power to win souls to Christ.” –(*Manuscript 22*, 1886) *Evangelism*, p. 504.

Interviews for Jesus (religious survey, questions concerning signs of the times, offer of Bible course)

“The Lord is calling upon His people to take up different lines of missionary work, to sow beside all waters. We do but a small part of the work that He desires us to do among our neighbors and friends.” –*Messages to Young People*, p. 217.

Expositions in public areas (book tables, vegetarianism exhibits)

Seminars of public interest (cooking classes, health lectures)

“There should be schools of health, cooking schools, and classes in various lines of Christian help work. There should not only be teaching, but actual work under experienced instructors.” –*Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 470.

Use of religious celebrations (to distribute related pamphlets, to invite people to public meetings)

“We must study Christ’s methods. He accepted invitations to feasts given by wealthy men. He went to these feasts because He knew that there He would have opportunity to present the truth. We must study how to reach the masses with the truth for this time.” –*The Paulson Collection of Ellen G. White Letters*, p. 4.

Missionary letters (to other youth and isolated individuals, for the purpose of sharing literature)

“Our sisters can serve by writing missionary letters, not only to friends at a distance, but to strangers. Through such correspondence, important truths may be brought to the attention of the people. The writers should not seek for self-exaltation, but to present the truth in its simplicity.” –*Review and Herald*, December 10, 1914.

Missionary visits (to young people, friends, those who are discouraged, or people who are sick)

“By means of missionary visits and by a wise distribution of our literature, many who have never been warned may be reached. Let companies be organized to search for souls. Let the church members visit their neighbors and open to them the Scriptures.” –*Medical Ministry*, p. 313.

Write articles (for youth magazine or public newspaper, put an ad in a newspaper offering a free book or Bible course)

“Let the writers for our periodicals dwell as little as possible upon the objections or arguments of opponents. In all our work we are to meet falsehood with truth. Put truth against all personal hints, references, or insults. Deal only in the currency of heaven. Make use only of that which bears God’s image and superscription. Press in truth, new and convincing, to undermine and cut away error.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, p. 156.

Accompany a canvasser or Bible worker in his work (door-to-door work, visits, and Bible studies)

“The workers should go forth two by two, that they may pray and consult together.” –*Evangelism*, p. 520.

Appendix

The Youth as Emissaries for God

THE MASTER'S METHODS OF PERSONAL EVANGELISM

VERS. 2002-1

1. The woman of Samaria

(John 4: 5-42; *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 19)

Type: The prejudiced, simple-hearted seeker.

1. Christ's soul-winning purpose.
 - a. Aimed to win confidence. *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 143.
 - b. Met people on their own ground. *The Desire of Ages*, p. 253.
 - c. Used personal interview method. *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 115.
 - d. Cherished the one-soul audience. *The Desire of Ages*, p. 194.
2. Was genuinely friendly. *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 183, 184.
 - a. Natural request was point of contact. John 4:7.
 - b. Interest based on immediate surroundings. Verses 6, 7.
 - c. Used "tact born of divine love."
 - d. Trust awakened trust in others.
 - e. Aroused curiosity to awaken interest. Verse 10.
 - f. Met prejudice by creating curiosity, not by dispute. Verse 10.
 - g. Point of interest—common need, but *living* water. Verse 10.
3. Aroused interest. *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 184-187.
 - a. Curiosity provoked thought. Verses 10-12.
 - b. Met prejudice with suspense, not explanation. Verses 12-14.
 - a. Built confidence through familiar truth. Verses 13, 14.
 - b. New truth proved He had an important message. Verse 14.
 - c. Captured interest by creating desire for water to satisfy personal need. Verse 15.
4. Deepened interest. *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 187, 188.
 - a. Awakened realization of a need. Verse 15.
 - b. Relieved embarrassment by commendation. Verses 17, 18.
 - c. Won confidence by discernment. Verse 19.
 - d. Re-tracked when sidetracked. Verses 19, 22.

5. Intensified interest and curiosity. *The Desire of Ages*, p. 189.
 - a. Question-provoking methods used. Verse 20.
 - b. Guided questions toward truth. Verse 20.
 - c. Built up truth to destroy error. Verse 21.
 - d. Clinched truth in face of preconceived ideas. Verse 23.
6. Gained decision. *The Desire of Ages*, p. 190.
 - a. Appealed for truth while imparting information. Verses 23, 24.
 - b. Opened mind for present truth (Messiah). Verse 25.
 - c. Used psychological moment for decision. Verse 25.
 - d. Revealed truth in a clear, brief, pointed manner. Verse 26.
7. Christ's methods succeeded. *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 187, 191-195.
 - a. Woman's pleasure at finding living water. Verses 28, 29.
 - b. Interest in truth eclipsed everything else. Verse 28.
 - c. Compelling power of truth. Verses 28-30, 39.
 - d. Advertising method: "Come and see!" Verse 29.
 - e. Magnetic power of the truth. Verses 40-42.
 - f. Triumph of truth in all Samaria. Verse 39; Acts 8:5, 14.

2. Nathanael, the skeptic of new truth

(John 1:43-51; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 139, 143, 293)

Type: A skeptical but guileless youth.

1. Invited by Philip to investigate.
2. Sincere seeker.
3. Effort commended by the Teacher.
4. Spontaneous decision resulted.
5. Won confidence in His Messiahship.
6. Taught proper basis of faith.
7. Assured greater demonstrations.

3. Nicodemus, the great teacher in Israel

(John 3:1-21; *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 17)

Type: A rather self-sufficient scholar.

1. Flattery of the inquirer ignored by Jesus.
2. Came right to the point: "Ye must be born again."
3. Began with known truth, added points of interest.
4. Used an illustration from nature—wind.
5. Explained well-known incident.
6. Tactfully rebuked fear of man.

4. Zacchaeus, a rich publican

(Luke 19:1-10; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 553-555)

Type: A man of questionable business practices.

1. Seeker handicapped by nature.
2. His sincere desire was observed.
3. Singled out of the crowd, personally appealed to.
4. Visit to his home despite public prejudice.
5. Home interview for best results.

5. Bartimaeus, the sick beggar

(Mark 10:46-52; *The Desire of Ages*, p. 608)

Type: A sick, poor, neglected sinner.

1. Cry of faith detected.
2. Made interview possible.
3. Sent message to stimulate faith.
4. Won new disciple.

6. The thief on the cross

(Luke 23:39-43; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 749-751)

Type: Deathbed confessor.

1. Last opportunity.
2. Conversation brief because of circumstances.
3. Forgiveness in the face of death.
4. Promised a place in the kingdom.

7. The disciples on the road to Emmaus

(Luke 24:13-36)

Type: Discouraged disciples.

1. Came close with questions of interest. Luke 24:13-17.
2. Allowed them to share their concerns. Verses 19-24.
3. Rebuked them for lack of faith. Verses 25, 26.
4. Placed their view on the word, not on appearances. Verse 27.
5. Gave them the opportunity to share their blessings. Verses 28-31.
6. Once their faith returned, they knew what to do. Verse 31.
7. He reinforced their convictions as they shared their testimony. Verse 36.

BUILDING FOR SUCCESS

1. Organization in God's plan

Activities that have value and purpose are powerful to accomplish great good. Values are what motivate us to do something. They give us our vision. Our values come from the golden rule, the law of God, and His love, as demonstrated on Calvary. This section will help the local church Youth Counselor and Youth Leader have a clear vision, establish obtainable and measurable objectives (goals), and plan meaningful, relevant activities. By knowing the four basic areas that need to be developed to have a balanced character, understanding the principles of effective Christian leadership, and building upon the objective of training the youth to be emissaries for God, we are ready to go to work—to do something practical.



Never abandon simplicity. EVERYTHING we do needs to be done with simplicity, giving room for the Holy Spirit to work. We need to take time for planning; but if we spend too much time here, little will be left for activities. Do not think that everything must be planned; don't be tempted to forget that a vital experience is our aim.

Success is the result of order and harmonious action (see *Evangelism*, p. 93). The work of a leader is to bring ideas into focus so people may accomplish something together. It has been said that "unity is NOT oneness of opinion, but a ONENESS OF SPIRIT." This side of heaven, everyone may not see things exactly the same way; but we can find common goals and carry them out in the spirit of loving service. In addition to having common objectives, planning, willingness to learn, much practice, and hard work are necessary to accomplish anything that is worthwhile. The saying is: "Genius is 10% inspiration and 90% perspiration."

"True success is dependent on the One who has said, 'Without Me ye can do nothing' (John 15:5)." –*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 9, p. 387.

"There must be order and thorough discipline in the church.... System and order are manifest in all the works of God throughout the universe. Order is the law of heaven, and it should be the law of God's people on the earth." –*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 26.

Duty calls, and we are privileged to answer, "Here am I, send me!"

"All through our ranks, individual talent has been sadly neglected. A few persons have been selected as spiritual burden-bearers, and the talent of other members has remained undeveloped. Many have grown weaker since their union with the church, because they have been practically prohibited from exercising their talents.



The burden of church work should be distributed among its individual members, so that each one may become an intelligent laborer for God. There is altogether too much unused force in

our churches. There are a few who devise, plan, and work; but the great mass of the people do not lift their hands to do anything for fear of being repulsed, for fear that others will regard them as out of their place. Many have willing hands and hearts, but they are discouraged from putting their energies into the work. They are criticized if they try to do anything, and finally allow their talents to lie dormant for fear of criticism, when if they were encouraged to use them, the work would be advanced, and workers would be added to the force of missionaries. The wisdom to adapt ourselves to peculiar situations, the strength to act in time of emergency, are acquired by putting to use the talents the Lord has given us, and by gaining an experience through personal work. A few are selected to hold responsible positions, and the work is divided up among these brethren. Many more who ought to have an opportunity to develop into efficient workers for the Lord, are left in the shadow. Many of those who stand in places of trust, cherish a spirit of caution, a fear that some move may be made which is not in perfect harmony with their own methods of labor. They require that every plan should reflect their own personality. They fear to trust another's methods. And why are they not to be trusted?



“Because they have not been educated; because their leaders have not drilled them as soldiers should be drilled. Scores of men should be prepared to spring into action at a moment's warning, should an emergency occur which demanded their help. Instead of this, the people go to church, listen to the sermon, pay their tithes, make their offerings, and do very little else. And why? Because the ministers do not open their plans to the people, soliciting the benefit of their advice and counsel in planning and their help in executing the plans that they have had a part in forming.” —*Review and Herald*, July 9, 1895.

Effective people are effective because of certain things they do and certain things they don't do. Jesus is always our guiding light. The Bible says, “Seek good,... love the good,...” Amos 5:14, 15. The following are seven habits that will help us be effective and organized all the time.

1. Let there be light and life and joy

Jesus was proactive, not reactive. John 1:4: "In Him was life; and the life was the light of men." "Neither be ye sorry, for the joy of the Lord is your strength." Nehemiah 8:10. Organize activities in such a way that they will be done with life, joy, and the fulfillment of good expectations. "Serve the Lord with gladness..." Psalm 100:2. "Thou shalt rejoice before the Lord thy God in all that thou puttest thine hands unto." Deuteronomy 12:18.

2. Begin with the end in view

Jesus endured the cross and despised the shame, because He looked to "the joy that was set before Him." Hebrews 12:2. Jesus looks forward. Time spent in preparation is never wasted if it results in a positive experience for the youth. Philippians 3:14.

3. Put first things first

Plan your work, then work your plan. To plan, you need to prioritize: Learn how to decide what is important. *Organize and execute around priorities.*

Once you know your goal(s), you will be able to ask: (1) Is this activity taking me toward my goal or away from it? (2) Is this activity the best use of my time? (3) Can this be done by someone else (should I delegate it?) (4) Is love the motive? (5) Can I expect God's blessing in this? Keep from being a crisis manager by making good plans and refusing to spend time in unproductive activities which do not contribute to reaching your goals.

4. Think win/win

There are six basic ways to approach life: (1) Win/Win (work so everybody wins); (2) Win/... ("I'm a winner and I don't care about you"); (3) Win/Lose (We're going to beat them good); (4) Lose/Win (the martyr syndrome); (5) Lose/Lose (If I can't win, neither can you); and (6) Win/Win or No Deal (this is God's approach). When we understand that Jesus has made us all one in Him, our attitude should be at least Win/Win. What we see in nature and in God's love should give us a

Win/Win mentality. There are exceptions when other options may be appropriate, but we should always cultivate a patient, hopeful, courageous spirit. –*Testimonies to the Church*, vol. 4, p. 341.

5. Lead by listening

In leadership, everything depends on communication. Listen to the youth. Listen to the church leaders, the parents, and the Lord. As you do, mutually accepted activities will become apparent. Seek first to understand, then to be understood.

6. Work for more than the sum of the parts

When people agree and move together, something wonderful happens. It is called synergy. This is what happens when the gospel is lived; there is a revelation of Christ's character. One of the primary goals of a leader is to work for synergy. When it happens, the total will be more than the sum of the parts, because God will be in it.



7. See life as a learning adventure

Life can be a problem and also have problems; but, rightly understood, those very problems are what make life a positive adventure. When we look at life this way, it becomes exciting, because nothing happens but what God allows; and what He allows is for the purpose of helping those who love Him to grow.

(For more information on this subject, see BS Appendix: Seven Steps of Leadership Amplified.)



2. Doing the homework

Getting organized means knowing where you are as well as where you want to go. To see the necessities of the young people and design a plan to meet those necessities takes much wisdom. It is important to have a specific vision of where we want the youth to be at the end of the period. Part of the vision is to

involve as many of the youth as possible in both the planning and the execution of the activities. Remember this adage: “No involvement, no commitment.”

1. *Find the vision*, clearly focusing on what the youth group should accomplish—where they are going:
 - To educate the youth for missionary service.
 - To see problems in a positive light so we can know what God is trying to show us. Every crisis has a cause, and we need to learn to reason from cause to effect. God wants us to grow, and He allows those things to come just at the right time to teach us something. But remember, “The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them.” — Albert Einstein.
2. *Get input from the youth* (e.g., via a survey, personal interview, or group sharing), and then make an analysis.
3. *Objectives—set goals and prioritize needs*. Set SMART goals to reach agreed-on objectives (long-term, mid-range, and short-term) to get everyone possible moving in the same direction. [SMART: Specific; Measurable; Action-oriented; Realistic; Timely. (See BS Appendix: Sample Plan of Work.)]
4. *Select agreed-on activities* that will accomplish each goal.
5. *Delegate responsibility* for each activity. The responsibility for the completion of each activity should be assigned to one individual.
6. *Monitor activities and evaluate completed objectives*. For any goal to be reached, periodic evaluation is essential. At least every three months, the Youth Committee should evaluate their activities and time frame:

“Are we on time with our short-term goals and mid-range objectives for satisfactory completion of the project?” Periodic refocusing is almost always necessary to reach any desired goal.

“Only the work accomplished with much prayer, and sanctified by the merit of Christ, will in the end prove to have been efficient for good.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 362.

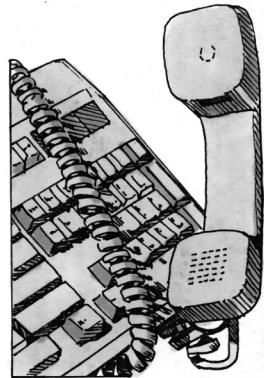
“We sought the Lord with earnest prayer that we might understand His will, and light was given by His Spirit that there must be order and thorough discipline in the church—that organization was essential. System and order are manifest in all the works of God throughout the universe. Order is the law of heaven, and it should be the law of God’s people on the earth.” —*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 26. (See also *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 201.)

“Oh, how Satan would rejoice to get in among this people and disorganize the work at a time when thorough organization is essential and will be the greatest power to keep out spurious uprisings and to refute claims not endorsed by the word of God! We want to hold the lines evenly, that there shall be no breaking down of the system of regulation and order. In this way license shall not be given to disorderly elements to control the work at this time. We are living in a time when order, system, and unity of action are most essential. And the truth must bind us together like strong cords in order that no distracted efforts may be witnessed among the workers. If disorderly manifestations appear, we must have clear discernment to distinguish the spurious from the genuine. Let no messages be proclaimed until they have borne a careful scrutiny in every jot and tittle.” —*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, pp. 228, 229.

“Evil does not result because of organization, but because of making organization everything, and vital godliness of little moment.” —*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 153.

3. Analysis and vision

To gain the cooperation of others in the execution of the general plan of the work, obtain the input/suggestions of those who will be doing the work.



Youth Survey

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Birthdate _____

Language(s) _____

Occupation (goal) _____

Education (level achieved) _____

Hobbies _____

Musical instrument(s) _____

I would like to see activities in the following areas:

I am willing to help with:

- Choir food preparation giving talks
 memorization presentations coordination
 musical specials Other _____

My suggestions _____

Within the general vision of putting the youth to work, the next step is to analyze the actual situation. One effective way of doing this is by taking a written survey of the young people.

Once a survey is taken, compile the information and present the summary to the youth as a group. From their ideas, obtain a consensus (agreement) on what specific activities are desired and what specific dates they can occur. Once this is completed, you will have completed the long-range goals. Examples of long-range goals can include: Performance of special music for Sabbath, a youth Sabbath, a youth weekend, a youth conference.

When there is agreement as to what will be done, the real work begins—planning the details necessary to accomplish the larger goals. Short-term goals are usually prepared by the Youth Committee. (See BS Appendix: Sample Plan of Work.)

4. Planning your work

To achieve objectives and goals, order is the first rule of success.

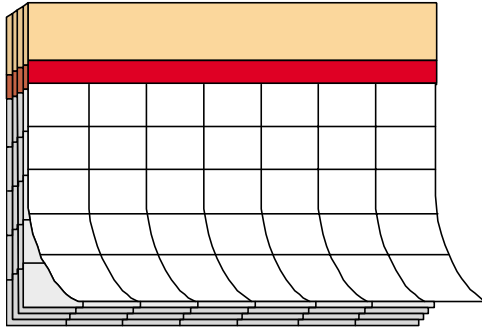
Once an analysis is done and the vision is a shared reality, the activities need to be planned so as to achieve the vision. The objective(s) should be clearly stated:

- a) *Long-term goal* (e.g., a specific activity in 3 to 6 months that is date specific, such as “a Youth Sabbath on May 6”).
- b) *Short-term goals* (activities that need to be done within the next week or month to reach the long-term goal; i.e., decide on the topic, define the various activities, divide up the responsibilities, assign the responsibilities, give guidelines to the main participants. (For example, the choir leader can be requested to select the music for the choir, or the selection may be assigned to someone else, depending on the situation. That person then needs to set his or her goals—seeing that the



choir knows the music by the date of the program. To do this, he needs to set his own short-term goals: fix dates and times for rehearsals, prepare the music, etc.)

- c) *Daily tasks* (things that must be done today to meet the short-term goals, i.e. decide on the specific topic, if the young people have not done so collectively, determine the key text, develop an outline to help the speakers with their subjects, notify the choir leader, etc.).



Time spent in planning is not wasted; rather, many hours can be saved when the work is done efficiently and does not need to be repeated or re-done because of lack of preparation.

5. Implementation and activities

The word “enthusiasm” means “God breathed.” Activity is the second rule of success, but activities that have no time frame have a good chance of being lost. Therefore, it is necessary for a written timetable (chronogram) or *calendar of events* to be drawn up so the activities can be seen in order. There are several advantages to a written calendar of events. **First**, you free your mind to think about the specific task at hand. When you must keep many things in your mind, you are not as free to be creative; **second**, others can see the direction you (and the group) are going; **third**, time conflicts can be minimized; and **fourth**, it saves time and avoids confusion. (See BS Appendices: Plan of Work, Calendar of Planned Activities, and Planning a Four-Day Youth Retreat.)

6. Evaluation

“There must be those who can oversee the work....” –*Evangelism*, p. 16. It is necessary to constantly review (evaluate) the work done. Without this, there will be little progress, or the progress made will be short lived. Therefore, regular meetings of the Youth Committee to analyze the progress are necessary. If things are not being done, or if for some reason corrections to the general plan are needed, changes can then be made.



If changes are necessary, it is important that they be generally agreed upon and notification be given to all who are affected. Failure to do this will result in confusion and unhappiness. If changes are made in the program and the people affected by those changes have had no opportunity to give their thoughts about them, trouble will result. Many problems in organizations occur because leaders fail to involve the people in the decision-making process. Many things we consider problems are not the real problem, but rather symptoms of a failure to communicate in loving ways and give time for people to accept and anticipate (and enjoy anticipating) coming events. Solomon understood this when he said, “Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.” Proverbs 13:12.

To put others to work, we must first go to work ourselves.

“There should be no delay in this *well-planned* effort to educate the church members.”

“The greatest help that can be given our people is to teach them to work for God, and to depend on Him, not on the ministers.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 119; vol. 7, p. 19.

“He who lives in the fear that others do not appreciate his value is losing sight of Him who alone makes us worthy of glorifying God. Let us be faithful stewards over ourselves. [But while we utilize the time, talent, means, and influence God has given us (however limited we feel or think these may be),] let us look away from self to Christ. Then there will be no trouble at all.” –(Letter 48, 1903) *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 958.

SAMPLE PLAN OF WORK

VERS. 2002-1

Sample Plan of Work
for the Local church of

Date: ____/____/____

Personnel available to help:

Pastor: _____

Elder: _____

Bible Workers: _____

Missionary Leader: _____

Youth Counselor: _____

Others: _____

1. MOTIVATION [Reasons] for a working plan

- It is a divine command, and it is our privilege and duty to train the youth to participate in the evangelization of the world. Mathew 28:18-20.
- God is a God of order, and He asks us to work in order with defined plans. "Let all things be done decently and in order." 1 Corinthians 14:40; Ephesians 1:4; 3:11; Revelation 13:8, etc.

"There is order in heaven, and God is well pleased with the efforts of His people in trying to move with system and order in His work on earth. I saw that there should be order in the church of God, and that system is needed in carrying forward successfully the last great message of mercy to the world." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 190.

“God is a God of order.... He would have his work done with faith and exactness, that He may place the seal of His approval upon it.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 376.

“Well-defined plans should be freely presented to all whom they may concern, and it should be ascertained that they are understood. Then require of all those who are at the head of the various departments to cooperate in the execution of these plans. If this sure and radical method is properly adopted and followed up with interest and good will, it will avoid much work being done without any definite object, much useless friction.” –(Manuscript 24, 1887) *Evangelism*, p. 94.

- Current world conditions demand well-organized plans of action, dynamic presentations, and well-educated men and women to present the way to salvation in a convincing manner.

2. VISION of the local church youth department:

To develop the talents of the youth for Jesus and the revelation of the gospel to the world. Revelation 18:1.

3. MISSION of the local church youth department:

To encourage the youth to reflect Jesus in their lives, by teaching them of His motives, methods, and lifestyle by precept, practice and example. To lift the truth on high, we pledge to administer our resources responsibly.

“Christ should abide in our hearts by faith, that we may learn of Him, and be laborers together with Him. We should unitedly go forth, **determined**, through the help of God, **to bear testimony to His glory in every act of our life.**” –*Review and Herald*, October 22, 1889.

To complete this mission, the youth department in the local church should:

- Use the Holy Scriptures as the foundation of all instruction and always move under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- Use its resources (physical, financial, human, and spiritual) responsibly.

Physical (Limited – Maintained – Depreciate)

Buildings, machines, furniture, publications

Financial (Limited – Stewardship – Renewable)

Tithes, offerings, income from literature

Human (Untapped – Need a Vision – Leading)

Church members, talents, education, time, influence, experience

Spiritual – Unlimited, as is Jesus' love and the gospel

Bible, Spirit of Prophecy, church history, prayer, fasting
[The Holy Spirit is not our resource; we are to be His]

- Train willing youth in divine principles of truth and leadership.
- Coordinate youth activities of the local church and cooperate and coordinate all plans with the plans of the leaders of the church and the field.

4a. OBJECTIVES / Goals:

- Promote the spiritual growth of our children and youth, encourage them to develop their talents for gospel work, and take every opportunity to ground them in Biblical principles.
- Instruct the youth how to help in missionary work and be able to defend the purity of the truth in their lives and words.
- Elevate the principles of health reform and the need of medical missionary work through education and practical training.
- Encourage the education and dedication of the youth.
- Encourage generosity and church attendance.
- Organize, plan, train, motivate, and supervise the youth activities so stated objectives are achieved.

4b. OBJECTIVES (Examples of SMART goals):

(**S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**ction oriented, **R**ealistic, **T**imely)

- Hold a short series of evangelization meetings every three months
- Encourage the youth to participate in some kind of missionary activity, according to their talents, with the purpose of achieving personal and church growth.
- Hold two youth seminars each year. Record the meetings, and share cassettes or CDs with isolated members.
- Obtain economic means to hold a youth conference.
- Make reports of all youth activities and submit them to the field secretary for possible publication.

- Organize the youth in teams of 2-3 people to do some kind of outreach.
- Achieve an effectiveness of 80% completion on all scheduled activities.
- Prepare youth for baptism at next youth conference.

Now it is time to analyze your:

Internal Strengths 1. 2. 3.	Internal weaknesses 1. 2. 3.
External Opportunities 1. 2. 3.	External threats 1. 2. 3.
Assets	Liabilities

A few examples...

5. ANALYSIS of Resources and Strengths

- Physical Resources (physical or fixed assets)
Meeting room, equipment (e.g., sound systems), books (e.g., therapies, health, cookbooks...), supplies, misc.
- Financial Resources
Cash on hand and/or money in the bank; other income
- Human Resources (including education and talents)
Youth and older volunteers with: talents, education, time, energy, influence, and experience
- Spiritual Resources
Bible, Spirit of Prophecy, periodicals, *Sabbath Watchman*, Sabbath School Lessons, *Youth Anchor*, books, Bible courses, tracts, prayer, fasting

6. ANALYSIS of Weaknesses

Organizational (examples):

- Lack of systematic planning in the work
- Few publications and manuals on administration
- Little understanding of working plans
- Lack of funds.

Spiritual (examples):

- Lack of punctuality
- Lack of trust in the leadership
- Lack of reverence and solemnity in the church
- Few willing to take responsibilities

Training (examples):

- Leaders lack knowledge and experience
- Home evangelization is lacking
- Lack of missionary training material for youth

Communication:

- Few missionary reports

7. OPPORTUNITIES (examples):

- Time of grace is open, and we still have freedom to preach
- Visitors attend conferences and other meetings
- Politics and restlessness move people's hearts
- Catastrophes open people to the message
- On certain holidays people are ready to listen
- Supporters in new cities
- Many Adventists and evangelicals to approach

8. THREATS (examples):

- What people don't know they often fear
- Doors close easily
- Influences of lay Adventists on our members

- Other churches are ahead of us in many areas
- False doctrines are everywhere
- Worldliness, TV, fashion, etc.
- Economic difficulties

Once you have made an analysis of your resources and possibilities, it is time to make a list of activities and assign them to responsible people.

9. ACTIVITIES

- Promote various church activities
- Train the youth in the Big Brother program
- Organize Prayer Cells among the youth
 - Share the working plan of the youth group and explain how the youth and members can be involved
 - Establish lines of communication and principles of working for others through prayer and personal contact
 - Help as many as possible participate in the Big Brother Program and Prayer Cells, with the motto: “Everyone wins”
 - Reproduce necessary materials
 - Conduct public meetings at least once every three months and invite interested friends (see Big Brother program)
 - Stimulate the youth to participate in public meetings by preparing songs, poems, and scripture memorization
 - Visit each young person at least once every quarter
 - Hold quarterly youth committee meetings and create a calendar of events and keep it updated
 - See that interested young people receive systematic Bible studies in preparation for baptism
 - Keep the youth list up to date
 - Distribute cassettes of meetings and other material to those who could not attend

BS APPENDIX: SAMPLE PLAN OF WORK

- Unite young and old in volunteer activities
- Take a youth survey to analyze the dedication and talents for participation in the youth and missionary work
- Promote medical missionary work and true health reform through education and training
- Stimulate systematic benevolence and attendance at social meetings
- Develop a portfolio of forms, circulars, information, etc., for the youth work
- Schedule committee meetings every 3 months
- Schedule at least three youth programs per year
- Make a chronogram or summarized calendar
- Make a budget

Appendix
Building for Success

SAMPLE CALENDAR OF PLANNED ACTIVITIES

(PLANNED AND UPDATED AT LEAST EVERY THREE MONTHS)

VERS. 2002-1

Date	Activity	Person Resp.
January	2 Youth meeting at church, 3:30 p.m. 9 Walk in nature, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Trees Park 16 Youth meeting at church, 3:00 p.m. 30 Youth Sabbath	David and Kathy Marianne Jose and Joshua See program
February	6 Bible Study–Gifts of the Spirit 7 Choir practice, 3:00-4:45 p.m. (Sunday) 14 Help at church, 9:00 a.m. Youth Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m. 27 Sabbath afternoon Youth Program	Samuel
March	6 Bible Study–Stewardship 7 Choir practice, 3:00-4:45 p.m. (Sunday) 14 Youth outing 28 Youth Com. Planning Meeting (Sunday)	William

GUIDELINES FOR CHURCH YOUTH LEADERS

Date	Activity	Person Resp.
April	3 Bible Study–Intercessory Prayer 4 Choir practice, 3:00-4:45 p.m. (Sunday) 17 Sabbath afternoon Youth Meeting 28 Youth Committee evaluation meeting	Isaac
May	1 Bible Study–Winning others to Jesus 15 Sabbath afternoon Youth Program 29, 30 Youth weekend	Thaddeus
June	5 How to give Bible studies 19 Sabbath afternoon Youth Program 27 Youth Committee planning meeting	Thomas
July	23-31 Youth Conference	
August		
September	26 Youth Committee planning meeting	
October		
November		
December	17-26 Youth Conference	Field Youth Com.

SEVEN STEPS OF LEADERSHIP AMPLIFIED

VERS. 2002-1

1. Let there be light and life

Well-organized activities require preparation. Focus on what can be done, what should be done, and what will bring joy when it is done.

“Stop kicking closed doors.” Using time and energy for things that are next to impossible, things that are negative, “I wish...” lists (“If only we had...,” or “If only we didn’t have...”) are unproductive. The Lord tells us that “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.” Ecclesiastes 9:10. “Be careful for nothing [don’t worry]; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.” Philippians 4:6. (See also Matthew 6:25-34; 10:28-33; John 16:33; 1 Peter 5:6, 7; Zephaniah 3:17; 2 Timothy 1:12, etc.).

2. Begin with the end in mind

Success depends on how the planning for the activity comes together, and then on how those plans are put into action. That is the behind-the-scenes work of the leader. Remember Jesus and the three who composed the inner circle of the disciples—Peter, James and John. The purpose is to prepare future leaders. Involving three or four youth in the planning is a way to train them.

3. Put first things first

“According to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Ephesians 3:11. Ephesians 1:11 makes us aware that the di-

vine plan will be accomplished “according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will...” In addition, “success can only attend order and harmonious action.” –*Evangelism*, p. 93.

Every day many different things attract our attention, and we must choose which voice to follow.

“Let those who claim to be sons and daughters of God aim at a high standard. Let them use every faculty God has given them.” –*The Youth’s Instructor*, January 1, 1907.

While we are to aim high, let us constantly remind ourselves that “nothing is so successful as success.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, p. 24.

The Time Matrix

We spend our time in one of four ways (good managers and leaders spend most of their time in quadrant II):

	Urgent	Not Urgent
Important	<p>I ACTIVITIES: Crises Pressing problems Deadline-driven projects</p>	<p>II ACTIVITIES: Prevention, production activities Relationship building Recognizing new opportunities</p>
Unimportant	<p>III ACTIVITIES: Interruptions, some calls Some mail, some reports Some meetings Proximate, pressing matters Popular activities</p>	<p>IV ACTIVITIES: Trivia, busy work Some mail Some phone calls Regrets, worries, and time wasters Pleasant activities, avoidance</p>

Those who spend most of their time in quadrant I are crisis managers. Remember that what you give attention to grows. Effective people try to stay out of quadrants III and IV, which contain activities that are unproductive time wasters and prevent one from attaining his or her goals. Quadrant II is where the most effective work is done.

Goals need to be S M A R T

1. **Specific:** State exactly what is to be accomplished so you can know when you have reached your goal.
2. **Measurable:** The goal should be a milestone event with a specific date. If it cannot be measured, it cannot be improved.
3. **Action-oriented:** Set up things to be done. It is the responsibility of the leader to see that the planned activities are accomplished.
4. **Realistic:** The goals should be challenging but achievable within the limits of reality. Accept your limitations as well as your responsibilities.
5. **Timely:** The time for completion needs to be reasonable, but not too long. Organize with a specific time frame for each goal—short-term, mid-range, and long-term.

Set goals that can be achieved and done well. Setting low standard just so one can say he reached his goal is humiliating. Aim high, but be realistic. Character development is the highest standard we can aim for, and our ideal standard is Jesus. If we do everything for His glory, we will automatically act to the best of our ability. Our talents can improve only when we do our best. When we strive to do something well, heavenly angels will join us. These unseen agents uplift humanity—both giver and receiver.

4. Think win/win

What makes us winners is overcoming faith. 1 John 5:4. God is “not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9. This is God’s attitude, and it should be ours, too. As long as there is life, there is hope. There may be times when we need to take other approaches besides Win/Win, but in general we should strive for Win/Win or No Deal.

In every situation, remember that it is character that God is looking for. Character is revealed in crisis as well as in our relationships. Character is the sum total of our habits. Habits are actions which we do without having to think much, because we have done them so often. And our actions come from our nature, our exposure (environment), and our own personal decisions. The decisions we make are based on three basic habits which we have cultivated: MORALITY, MATURITY, and Demeanor.

**“The religion of Christ
is sincerity itself.”**
– *The Desire of Ages*, p. 409.

If we are people of HIGH MORALS, we have INTEGRITY. People can TRUST us. But if we live on the level of “what feels good at the moment” or on the low level of satisfying our own personal happiness as our primary goal, we may or may not do what is right before God. Choices made solely by habit, from feeling, or out of fear are usually not thinking choices. But choices based on high moral principles give integrity to the character.

MATURITY is *the balance between courage and consideration*. Immaturity is the inability to handle conflict. Maturity also means being willing to take RESPONSIBILITY for oneself and one’s actions. When we are willing to give up something that is temporary for something lasting, we show maturity. When we are able to let go of things we cannot control and cheerfully take care of things we can do something about, we show maturity. When we take responsibility for our own happiness, we show maturity. When we believe others are responsible for our happiness, we show immaturity. “He that ruleth his spirit [is better] than he that taketh a city.” Proverbs 16:32.

DEMEANOR is the ATTITUDE we take toward life and its problems. An ABUNDANCE MENTALITY is what we see in nature and in God’s love, and it is also seen in God’s children. It means that we trust that God is in charge and that He has enough blessings and goodness for everyone, not just for us. We can give to others, because we know that God will always provide us with more so we can continue to give. When put together, morality, maturity, and demeanor make up a Win/Win mentality.

5. Leading by listening

Even before activities are officially approved, cultivate an open atmosphere so everyone who wants to can say something about different alternatives. Then call a meeting to decide which course to take. If you follow these steps, more people will be supportive than if they come to the meeting and have to make a decision concerning something they heard about less than an hour before.

6. More than the sum of the parts

When we know that God has called us to be an extension of Himself—a revelation of His character—we can work with confidence. One of the primary goals of a leader is to work for synergy. When that happens, angels will cooperate to give strength, and the presence of Jesus will be felt. Many times we have little success in our work, because there is no synergy; God cannot bless division. Matthew 18:19; Acts 1:14; 2:1, 46, 47; 5:12; 15:25; Philippians 2:2.

7. Life is an adventure

You come upon a man cutting down a large tree, and you say, “What are you doing? You look exhausted!”

Impatiently he answers, “Can’t you see, I’m cutting down this tree!”

You reply, “How long have you been at this.”

Sweating profusely, he answers, “About four hours.”

Observantly you suggest, “Well, why don’t you stop and sharpen your ax?”

His answer is not uncommon, “I don’t have time. I’m too busy cutting.”

The wise Solomon said: “If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength: but wisdom is profitable to direct.” Ecclesiastes 10:10. Sharpen the ax. A job is never finished until all the fragments are picked up and the tools are cleaned, sharpened, and put away, ready for the next use. But whether things are well or ill, remember the following:

“The Father’s presence encircled Christ, and nothing befell Him but that which infinite love permitted for the blessing of the world. Here was His source of comfort, and it is for us. He who is imbued with the Spirit of Christ abides in Christ. The blow that is aimed at him falls upon the Saviour, who surrounds him with His presence. Whatever comes to him comes from Christ. He has no need to resist evil, for Christ is his defense. Nothing can touch him except by our Lord’s permission, and ‘all things’ that are permitted ‘work together for good to them that love God.’ Romans 8:28.”
–*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 71.

One evening, Michelangelo was celebrating with friends the completion of one of his famous sculptures. As they sat talking about things, as young men do, they suddenly missed him. They went looking and found him working again. “Michelangelo! Leave it, its perfect, its perfect. Those are just trifles.”

Without hurry, Michelangelo gently continued to polish his masterpiece, saying, “Perfection is no trifle, but trifles make for perfection.”

More recently, Bruce Barton said, “Sometimes when I consider what tremendous consequences come from little things, . . . I am tempted to think . . . there are no little things.”

Someone has counted 36 specific days mentioned in the life of Jesus in the Bible. (“The next day,” “Again the next day . . .” “The day following . . .” John 1:29, 35, 43, etc.) Of those 36 days, 17 are ones when He said, “Come . . . apart . . . and rest.” (Mark 6:31, for example.) Almost half of His time was spent in preparation, prayer, and meditation.

This side of heaven, there are only oases in the desert—temporary stopping places. Life here is a battle and a march, a battle and a march. But the march, if undertaken joyfully and willingly, is an adventure. We can’t give what we don’t have. Refill. Like Jesus, daily take up the cross of refilling, re-sharpening, refreshing your own soul at the fountain of truth, eating from the tree of life, the Bible.

PLANNING A FOUR-DAY YOUTH RETREAT

EXTENDED WEEKEND

VERS. 2002-1

Every [youth] event needs to have:

- A Purpose (theme or objective)
 - A Time (specific) and a schedule of events
 - A Place to meet [and places to go for excursions]
 - Personnel to carry the various responsibilities

Schedule [Example]

Time	Friday	Sabbath	Sunday	Monday
6:30		Arise	Arise	Arise
7:30		Worship	Worship	Worship
8:00		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
9:00		Sabbath School	Visit elderly	Workshops 1, 2, 3
10:00			Excursion to some popular place	Workshops 1, 2, 3
11:00		Youth program		Free time
12:00		Lunch	Picnic	Lunch
13:00		Free time	Free time	Free time

GUIDELINES FOR CHURCH YOUTH LEADERS

Time	Friday	Sabbath	Sunday	Monday
14:00		Nature walk with a study or experience	Travel time	Workshops 1, 2, 3
15:00		Informal workshop in seclusion	Workshops 1, 2, 3	
16:00	Registration/ orientation	Musicals/ Testimonies		
17:00		Bible game	Travel	
18:00	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	
19:30	Worship	Worship	Bonfire Worship	
20:30				
22:00	Lights out	Lights out	Lights out	

Anticipation

Planning usually begins with an idea–inspiration. From there, we must find a time and the people to make it happen. Preparation needs to begin far enough in advance that people can be notified in time so they can make plans to attend. The wider the area and the more numerous the people expected, the more lead time is needed to announce the event. For example, a local church event may need only one or two months, but a Field-wide event will need six to ten months’ lead time; a Union event needs about one year; and a world event may need several years’ lead time and planning.

The above example is for an extended youth weekend. Adjust it to meet the needs and fit the resources available. Preparing a time schedule is one of the first steps in planning any event. It may need to be modified many times, but this is the place to begin–by putting the known pieces on paper. After this has been corrected, the real work begins–filling in all the missing parts and preparing all the other elements of the program (which may be many).

Suggestions

DURING ORIENTATION, give a simple explanation of what is and is not expected (i.e., Bring your Bibles; be at all the meetings dressed modestly; no shorts or bare torsos, please, etc.). The participants should also be given a survey form that asks about their interests and talents and has a place for suggestions and questions. They should be informed that there is going to be a question-and-answer period; and if they have any questions, each one may write them legibly on a slip of paper and give it to the moderator of the panel discussion.

If youth groups have presented **YOUTH PROGRAMS** on Sabbath (afternoon), these can be repeated for a larger audience. Three or four youth can prepare 5-7 minute talks on different aspects of the same subject. By sharing what they have discovered from the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, they learn the joy of discovery and sharing—two important principles! If you have not prepared far enough ahead for this, be careful to have a speaker who will speak **TO** the youth and not **AT** them—something from the heart. You can make or break the program here. It is best to have a guest speaker if you cannot have a youth program. If that is not possible, have a Bible Study on a subject of interest.

A SABBATH AFTERNOON NATURE WALK can precede a personal testimony hour. This should be something most participants have not heard before. The youth should also be encouraged to write out their own personal testimony, including an important Bible verse (or two), about their Christian experience. An individual's testimony need not be longer than five minutes.

EXPERIENCES AND TESTIMONIES given during the testimony meeting should be requested in advance. Many people will not tell their experience unless prompted. Encourage them!

BIBLE GAMES FOR SABBATH, such as "20 questions" can be educational as well as fun. One person thinks of something in the Bible—a person, place, thing, event—and everyone gets to ask "yes" or "no" questions to see if s/he can find out what that person is thinking of. A "NO" answer moves the questioning to the next person. Whoever gets the right answer is the next person to think of something in the Bible that everyone else must find out by asking "20" (MANY) questions. You can also play this

backward: One person goes out of the room, and then everyone thinks of something. The person is then called in. The person who gives the last “yes” is the next one sent out.

These games must be played with strict discipline. Anyone who gets out of turn must wait till the next game to play again.

Bible charades is a game in which the group is divided into two or more teams. Each team sends one member to the moderator, who gives them something to be acted out—a word, a person, or an idea—and the first team to discover the answer receives one point. The moderator (usually the Youth Leader) needs to have many ideas prepared ahead of time to play this game.

Another game is Bible “Pictionary.” The group is divided into two-person teams. One person from each team goes to the moderator to obtain the word for an item—object or concept—that s/he then tries to convey to his/her partner solely by drawing pictures on paper. It is very helpful to prepare the words in advance. Sometimes they can be written on slips of paper and selected at random from a basket.

CONFERENCES THAT HAVE TOO MANY MEETINGS are no fun. While Sabbath is a special time and we should not encourage worldly conversation, activities, and dress, neither should we crowd it with too many activities.

SINGING: There are many youth songbooks to sing from. Make your own if you can’t find one. Encourage the young people to practice for special songs in teams of 3 or more. Let each one pick his favorite (or one of his favorite) songs. Look up some of the stories behind the songs. Some are very interesting and can be related to the listeners.

MORNING AND EVENING WORSHIPS should be short (less than 15 minutes) and informal—no preaching. “At family worship ... let all bring their Bibles and each [a few if there are many] read a verse or two [and comment if they like]. Then let some familiar hymn be sung, followed by prayer.” —*Child Guidance*, p. 524.

CONCERNING BEDTIME we read, “No student should form the habit of sitting up late at night to burn the midnight oil, and then take the hours of day for sleep. If they have been accustomed to doing this at home, they should seek to correct their habits and go to rest at a seasonable hour, and rise in the morning refreshed for the day’s duties. In our schools the lights

should be extinguished at half past nine [10:30 during daylight savings time].” —*Christian Education*, p. 124.

MISSIONARY VISITS: Plan to do some kind of missionary outreach. Taking time to do something for others together is a wonderful learning experience. Share the best of what was presented on the Sabbath. The best songs, experiences, and ideas from the previous day can be repeated. If there is a nursing home in the community, the program can be presented there; or consider visiting a shut-in member of the church. Take along some music and instruments and even little children; elderly people come alive around little children.

AN EXCURSION TO SOME SPECIAL PLACE would be good after doing something for others—time for reward. Take along tracts and other materials, because you’ll be meeting people in public, and someone may ask some questions. But don’t tell them everything in five minutes. Seek to make a friend for Jesus.

INFORMAL WORKSHOP: This doesn’t have to be formally planned; however, the leader must prepare well, because everything needs to seem unstructured, even though the leader knows the direction being taken. Find a place where the group can stop and relax after the time in public. Share some refreshments. Then, with the help of well-informed friends, lead the group in some spiritual activity. For example, you and your friends (two or three) may want to have some Bible verses memorized on a subject of personal interest. After the short Bible study, have a season of prayer ... right in nature.

VIDEO OR SLIDE PRESENTATION ON CREATION, SCIENCE, OR HISTORY: After a full day, it is nice to do something different and informative—something that does not stretch the body or overstretch the brain.

WORKSHOPS: Divide the group into small parts and discuss and give instruction on a particular subject. Workshops are planned studies full of information and sharing. These sessions are the heart of the weekend. By now the group has been shaped into a dynamic whole, and the participants should be ready to discuss different points of view openly and frankly. They can be encouraged to climb mental mountains and follow spiritual paths. Appropriate preparation and prayer beforehand will make these meetings very rewarding. Give your attention to those who really want to learn and grow.

The workshops can be run like a school. Four or five can be conducted simultaneously, with the participants moving from one room or area to another. Classes should be small, with no more than about 20 students in each—fewer if possible. Five to seven individuals is a nice number to work with.

GROUP DISCUSSION: After everyone has attended every workshop and studied the subjects (the same teachers handle the same subjects—just as in school), bring everyone together and give them time to discuss what they have learned. A secretary can be assigned to each group to take notes and then report to everyone what was discussed. Then invite additional comments.

A PANEL DISCUSSION should include your best brains, including some of the ministers. They will have had time to look at the written questions collected that day. The panel members should meet before the scheduled time and discuss how they are going to answer the questions. The reason written questions are submitted is to avoid confrontation or controversy. Answer publicly only those questions that are productive and spiritual.

COMMITMENT: The ultimate objective is to help the young people make a commitment. There may be some present who have already prepared to be baptized during this event. Appeal to the youth who have not yet taken this step to consider committing their lives to Jesus. Ask God to impress you how to inspire them to prepare for baptism by the time of the next conference. Follow up with those who respond so this monumental decision can become a reality.

REFLECTION: Analyze what went right and what things can be improved. Begin planning the next event and making preparations so that the local church participates in helping prepare candidates for the watery grave.

The end is always better than the beginning, because doing is such a good teacher. Continue to improve, try different ideas, and help the young people see what a blessing it is to help others. Work constantly under prayer; and always remember that without Jesus, we can do nothing, but with Him we can do all things!

LOCAL CHURCH OFFICERS

“Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him show out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

“But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.’

“Let not those who cherish feelings of envy and strife claim advanced spiritual knowledge, for by so doing they lie against the truth.

“This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

“For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.’ James 3:13-17.” –*Review and Herald*, October 29, 1901.

“And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.” James 13:18.

The work of the local church leader is one of great responsibility. Upon his shoulders falls the oversight of the local work in all its aspects. He needs be a man of vision who can inspire others to be involved and do their part. Through prayer, careful administration, collective counseling,



and complete dependence upon God, a good work can be done. By precept and example, the church leader needs to teach that there is no substitute for personal effort and individual responsibility. The daily cry of his heart and each heart should be, "Teach me Thy way, O Lord; I will walk in Thy truth: unite my heart to fear Thy name." Psalm 86:11. "Help me to listen to the teachings of Christ, and not only know my work but do it by Your grace, to Your glory. Help me to remember that no one can do it for me, and that approval can never make up for my negligence nor disapproval overshadow Your revelations." If this will be "the language of each heart,... then we might see the cause of God advancing as it has never yet advanced." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, pp. 186, 187.

While the Lord has given the church leader his work—"Feed My sheep"—He has also given the Youth Leader a work that is no less important. His charge is, "Feed My lambs." John 21:15. (See BS Appendix: Seven Steps of Leadership Amplified.)

"O, let us all determine to crucify self
and to imitate God!"

—*Review and Herald*, February 23, 1897

1. Church Youth Leader

"For we are labourers together with God," and "stewards of the manifold grace of God." 1 Corinthians 3:9; 1 Peter 4:10.

DESIRED QUALITIES—A SERVICE OF LOVE

"The law of love being the foundation of the government of God, the happiness of all intelligent beings depends upon their perfect accord with its great principles of righteousness. God desires from all His creatures the service of love—service that springs from an appreciation of His character. He takes no pleasure in a forced obedience; and to all He grants freedom of will, that they may render Him voluntary service." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 34.

“Lessons of great importance may be learned from the history of Daniel and his companions. These youth were bound together in the sacred bonds of Christian fellowship. Daniel’s name is placed first on the record because he exerted a strong influence over the other three, who looked upon him as a leader. Had he failed to take a firm stand for the right, had he pleased and indulged self, his companions also would have failed. They would not have been handed down to us as young men signally honored by the God of heaven.” –(Manuscript 113, 1901, p. 7) *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 4, p. 129.



“When young men and women are sober-minded and cultivate piety and devotion, they will let their light shine forth to others, and there will be vital power in the church. It would be well to have an hour appointed for Bible study, and let the youth, both converted and unconverted, gather together for prayer and for the relation of their experiences. The youth should have a chance to give expression to their feelings. It would be well to have a judicious leader chosen at first, one who will talk little and encourage a great deal, by dropping a word now and then to help and strengthen the youth in the beginning of their religious experiences. After they have had a little experience, let one of their number take the leadership, and then another, and in this way let workers be educated that will meet the approval of God.” –*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, pp. 69, 70.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES—SOCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE

Ralph Waldo Emerson said: “What you are shouts so loudly in my ears that I cannot hear what you say.” The first duty of a leader is to lead by example.

“The knowledge of God’s grace, the truths of His word, and temporal gifts as well—time and means, talents and influence—are all a trust from God to be employed to His glory and the salvation of men.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, pp. 731, 732.

(See CO Appendix: The Seven Gifts of God.)

Go to the youth; don't wait for them to come to you. Visit them in their homes. Spend time listening, learning, and seeking to understand them. Encourage them to have faith. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." 1 Corinthians 10:13. God



tests and proves us, so He may bless us and use us. Encourage the young people to be faithful in little things—to be helpful in the home and not to let their mind be the devil's playground.

Don't wait for them to come to you with their problems. Being on their ground is important. When they are on your ground—in your office or at your house—they are not so free. That is one reason why the church building must remain a neutral place—a sanctuary. It is important for people to meet in a neutral place for good communication. To make peace, you

need to go on the enemy's ground. To make friends, it is best to be on neutral ground. To reinforce and establish authority, cause the people (or person) to come to your ground. It is very comforting to consider that Jesus didn't call us to heaven to solve our sin problem!

Another important factor in social relations is equality. God is no respecter of persons, and we must not be either. Jesus had His close friends, Peter, James and John; but He did not favor them. In fact, He required more of them than of the rest. And God is the same. He chastens those He loves.

Confidence begets confidence. By being exacting, overbearing, tyrannical, fretting, scolding, and censorious, we kill the affections of others toward us. Youth have just rights. They are not machines to turn on and off, according to our pleasure. We must watch that we do not provoke

them to wrath and thus discourage them. Give them love and affection. Love begets love; affection begets affection. The spirit which you manifest toward them will be reflected back to you. (Adapted from *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 94.) If you must censure, do it privately; but express appreciation publicly. If the youth have been willing to help and things have gone wrong, express appreciation for the efforts they have made. Keep on the bright side! Always stand behind your people before the public, and they will stand with you in the work!

Encouragement makes the youth happy. Never wait for them to make you happy. Look past their ignorance, defects, and weaknesses, but never indulge or excuse their vices. God loves us as we are, but He sees us as we may become if we will but yield to His love. Do the same for the youth.

Don't be late for activities. The Youth Leader should always be the first one on the scene. When it is time for the meeting to start, be cheerful. Never say, "Where is everybody?" Start on time; and when late-comers arrive, don't give much attention to the fact that they are late. Keep the meeting going. When those who are late understand that life and time will not wait for them and that to receive all the benefits from their efforts it is best to be on time, most will do better in the future. It is best not to give attention to unacceptable behavior.

As far as possible, let the meetings of the youth be their meetings. Plan in advance to have different individuals take a part. When they have no ideas, keep your suggestions in reserve. Aim high, but not too high; challenge them, but don't over-challenge them. Remember "Nothing is as successful as success." – *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, p. 24.

Keep balanced. Leadership constitutes a balance between motivation and coordination. People are motivated by all kinds of reasons and non-reasons. It is often a mystery why they do the





things they do, but the best motivation is love. On the other hand, coordination is the art of giving the right people the right amount of the right thing to do at the right time and then, in the right way, helping them do it.

Under prayer and with the help of the Spirit of God, organize the available talents and ideas and make a plan of work. Inform as many of the

youth as possible about this planning, but try to work with your counselor, minister, secretary / treasurer and prayer partner(s) to establish good objectives and plans.

Limitations of authority

“DO’S” AND “DON’TS” OF LEADERSHIP

When the youth do wrong things, some adults are ready to condemn them. The Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy tell us that the spirit of accusation is the beam in our own eye. The mistake is the mote in the brother’s eye. Matthew 7:3-5. “According to the figure that our Saviour uses, he who indulges a censorious spirit is guilty of greater sin than is the one he accuses, for he not only commits the same sin, but adds to it conceit and censoriousness.” –*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 125. When dealing with sin, we need the spirit of Moses and Paul. Exodus 32:32; Romans 9:3; Galatians 6:1. This counsel is very important when working with the impressionable minds of children and youth. They will make mistakes, but try to restore them in the spirit of meekness. Authority is based on a faith in God which works by unselfish love and has the people’s respect.

Remember the experience of Elisha with the son of the Shunammite woman. 2 Kings 4. Sending a servant to lay the rod (of authority) across the child’s body did not bring life. Elisha had to give the breath of his own life so the child might live. This is a picture of Jesus and a lesson for those who desire to lead others to Him.

We are not to think of a leader as a ruler but as a companion and true friend of the youth, someone who is ready to lay down his own life for another. True friends do not encourage destructive behavior, but neither do they overlook it. Faithful are the wounds of a friend. Proverbs 27:6. When we condemn, we are setting up something besides Christ as the standard. When we reveal Him, we are educating positively. Then the truth does the cutting. And if it is administered and received in love, it will perform the “operation of God” with few or no scars. Colossians 2:12.

A few reminders

Concentrate on being a good teacher and leading the lambs to green pastures and beside the still waters. Sheep will not graze in an atmosphere of confusion and fear. And students cannot learn without some kind of order. Sheep will not drink if the waters are troubled. And your students cannot receive if they do not have peace in their hearts.

When there is a problem, don’t begin by telling the young people they are wrong; first try to lead them to understand and realize what they would want to be done to them. Use the “golden rule” approach. Once the youth have discovered the difference between right and wrong based on principles, help them to do what is right.

When the young people come up with ideas and plans that you don’t think are workable, never say, “We can’t do this or that! It would....” Give the group time to discuss and decide. If they all agree that they want to do something difficult, suggest ways that might be possible so at least part of what they want can be accomplished. When ideas come from them, channel those ideas. But, as much as possible, plan. With Jesus at the center of well-planned work, there is no failure.

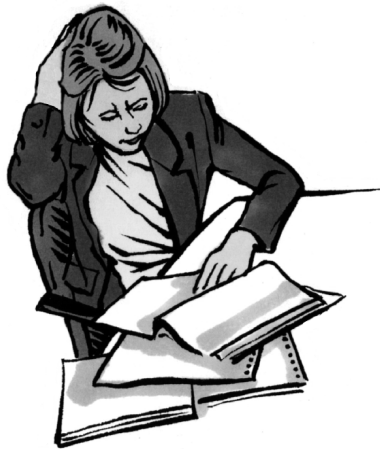


“Planning meetings” should not be conducted on the Sabbath. Therefore, to be able clearly to set the direction for the youth department in all its aspects for the next six months or year, schedule a weekday meeting to set goals. This is possible only if you have first done your homework by counseling with the church leaders and speaking with as many parents and youth as possible about their ideas. This is a good place to present the results of a written survey of the youth, good secretarial notes from a youth meeting where their desires were freely discussed, and your own notes of the ideas they shared with you when you counseled with them, the leaders, and the parents.

With the proper preparation, you are now ready to call the Youth Committee together to consult concerning future youth activities. Make the meetings spiritual: Begin with singing, counsel from the Word, and a season of prayer. The meeting’s agenda should have been distributed ahead of time. An agenda is a simple outline of what you hope to accomplish at the meeting, along with a time limit for each item. (See CO Appendix: Sample Agendas.)

In planning activities, strive for variety (mental, spiritual, physical and social—see the Balanced Education section).

After a meeting is scheduled, it is wise to take a little time to share the plans with the church leader and the Field Youth Leader so they can coordinate their activities to support the youth work. If they do not suggest alternative plans, the preparations can begin in earnest. Counsel with and help the people assigned to each task. As everyone works together wholeheartedly for a mutual objective, the Holy Spirit will aid and guide the work. This is the training ground for the youth. Don’t do everything yourself, for this teaches reliance on men and makes for a spectator religion. Even before an activity occurs, plan to record what happens. Notes should be taken during every event (and pic-



tures also). Just as anticipation is part of the enjoyment of any event, so too are the memories; they help building the spirit of unity.

When a meeting has taken place and been recorded, it is a simple matter to close the chapter by sending a report to the Field Youth Leader. In this way, you maintain good communication. Such a report can be as simple as a copy of the notes that were taken.

2. Secretary/Treasurer

DESIRED QUALITIES

The most important qualification for any office is a willingness to learn. Any young person who is spiritual, honest, diligent in his studies, can write proper notes, and shows that he is self-motivated and has a teachable spirit is qualified to be trusted with the responsibilities of Secretary/Treasurer. Systematic organization is something that can be learned. The highly prized trait of reliability takes discipline, but the rewards and results are great—having the confidence of his peers and the respect of the older generation as well.

SECRETARIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Taking minutes: The duties of the secretary are important but not difficult if a person can take proper notes and is willing and systematic in keeping records (minutes) of all decisions.



Tracking events: Keep a written calendar of planned events, and make sure everyone who is involved is informed and, if necessary, reminded of his responsibilities (including the leader).

Reminding: Keep the Youth Leader informed in plenty of time of upcoming events and things that need to be done. Keep the church bulletin board current and, with every reading of the minutes at each meeting, give a list of what youth events are upcoming. Inform the youth about

other activities, conferences, or seminars which they may wish to attend.

Communicating: Help the Youth Leader by maintaining personal contact with the youth. The Secretary is the hub of activity.

Counseling: Give counsel to the Youth Leader at committee meetings; counsel and encourage the youth; and monitor the meetings so time is used wisely.

Sending reports: Every quarter, send a summary report of activities to the Field Youth Leader. See the Secretarial Six-Month Report for the field for the statistics to be gathered. Any study materials or subjects developed, games, projects, or youth-initiated materials should be described in the report. When we share, we not only are living our Christianity, but others can learn from what God has shared with us—freely received, freely give.

A summary report of youth statistics and activities for the year needs to be submitted in writing before (and read at) the yearly church business meeting. A copy of this report should be automatically forwarded to the Field Youth Leader. (See CO Appendix: Forms for Youth Work and Treasurer's Ledger.)

TREASURER'S DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Luke 8:3 reports that Jesus had a group of quiet supporters. These people gave of their means to help sustain His work and bless the poor. It is not wrong to accept donations from others. If there is a well-ordered work, there will be help. Perhaps the most important feature of Christianity is honesty. Without honesty, there cannot be any confidence, and there will also not be any support.

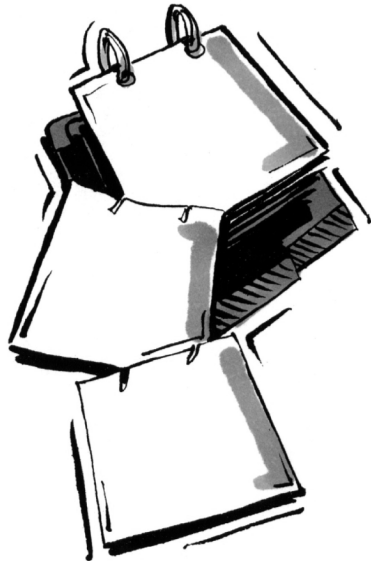


The Treasurer must keep a RECORD of ALL income and expenses IN A BOOK. It does not need to be complicated. If everything has been recorded and receipts have been kept and properly given and recorded, no questions will arise that cannot be answered.

Keeping a proper record (or ledger) of all income and expenses is also a way to help the committee and the youth know what funds are available for the youth work. Before any project is started, count the costs. Luke 14:28. The money gathered is held in the Youth Fund of the local church bank account, along with other church funds. While a summary is kept in the local church records, the detailed record needs to be kept by the Youth Treasurer.

A good Treasurer will always be looking for ways to increase the Youth Fund. Offerings may be collected at every youth meeting. Book work which places Christian literature into homes is a way to obtain funds for special projects. Literature can be sold by telling the people that the youth are working to earn money to accomplish "such and such." This way the youth are motivated to do missionary work while doing something to earn money for a special goal. To help in this, first arrange training sessions for the youth so they can learn how to canvass and earn money for themselves. Every step toward financial independence is a positive step toward adulthood and maturity.

Motivate the youth to be faithful in systematic benevolence. No one should come before the Lord with empty hands. Deuteronomy 16:16. One of the greatest blessings is giving. Be careful not to abuse the responsibility of raising funds, but let the Treasurer pray and ask the Lord to give him the right time to lay the burden and blessings of sharing on others. The church can also contribute to the local Youth Fund and have the joy of cooperating with and encouraging the youth in their missionary activities.





LIMITATIONS OF AUTHORITY—THINGS TO CONSIDER

The Youth Treasurer does not make decisions of how and when to spend the money in the Youth Fund, except with counsel from the other members of the Youth Committee. The Treasurer bears the primary responsibility for seeing that proper records are kept, that what is to be purchased is approved and paid for, and that those who are considering the needs know what the possibilities are so there will be no spending of money that the Youth Fund doesn't have. He needs to keep the bookkeeping up to date and have the balances available whenever needed.

The Treasurer is the right hand of the Youth Leader; he should maintain respect and be respected. Sometimes the Treasurer may need to be a loyal adversary; but in case of differences, always follow the counsel of Jesus and let love have her perfect work.

3. Youth Counselor

DESIRED QUALITIES

Ideally, the Youth Counselor is a respected, faithful church member. As an experienced Christian and friend of the youth, his/her counsel should be sought in all matters concerning the youth. The Youth Counselor can be anyone who loves the lambs of Jesus, young or old, who is a pillar in the church, and who is willing to spend time with the youth in

and outside of their activities and act as a facilitator and mentor. S/he is to be a catalyst, helping when needed by asking the right questions at the right time so the youth can more easily find the right way. By carefully observing and giving needed advice, the Youth Counselor can direct the minds and hearts of the youth to the fountain of living water. What the youth need more than good advice is the good news. Love and firm discipline make a perfect blend.

The Youth Counselor helps the youth to be balanced. Young people are sometimes inclined to take the easy and wrong way, and the Counselor should be always ready to give a loving word of encouragement, with the proper amount of firmness. For this reason, it is important for the Counselor to be involved and present at most of the activities of the youth and to give counsel in Youth Committee meetings. The Youth Counselor supports the Youth Leader and cooperates with him in the development and implementation of the plan of activities.

He needs to be able to having ongoing personal contact with all the youth and develop one-on-one relationships with them so they have someone to speak to about their needs. When visiting the youth in their homes, he should pray with them, seek to reach their hearts, and strive for family unity. Let him point to Jesus as the truest, best Friend of the youth.

CONSIDERATIONS

The Youth Counselor needs to remember that s/he is not the Youth Leader when someone else carries this responsibility. The Counselor is not a lawgiver or a judge of the youth, rather someone who helps them make the right decisions by being a spiritual parent to them and helping them find the right path through personal communion with God, study of His word, and mutual dependence.



4. Youth Committee

The members of the Youth Committee are the Youth Counselor, Youth Leader, Secretary and/or Treasurer. Other members of the youth group may also act as counselors.

The Youth Committee meets together for planning youth activities, regular evaluation of the work, and, as time passes and there is need for new activities, establishing new goals and objectives. The Youth Committee also bears the responsibility for making the best possible use of the funds available to it. When a specific activity is suggested, it should be evaluated from a financial as well as spiritual point of view.

Regular meetings foster good communication. By sharing personal insights, observations, and experiences, new and fresh thoughts will be generated as to how to guide the youth in positive directions. Spend more time on planning and developing the work than on money matters, organizational things, and problems. When there are problems, work together to find the best solution. Once a decision is made about what to do, let everyone carry it out with a willing, cheerful heart. Make it a rule to settle differences privately. Never undermine confidence in an agreed-upon plan by complaining about it to other people. (See CO Appendix: Some Thoughts on Counseling.)

THE SEVEN GIFTS OF GOD

VERS. 2002-1

"The knowledge of God's grace, the truths of His word, and temporal gifts as well—**time** and **means**, **talents** and **influence**—are all a trust from God to be employed to His glory and the salvation of men." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, pp. 731, 732.

God has given us six precious gifts and a seventh which we must never forget:

1. **His grace** (Genesis 3:15; 15:6; Isaiah 1:18; 51:10; Micah 7:19; Romans 1:16, 17; 5:1, 15, 17; 2 Corinthians 12:9; Ephesians 2:8; 3:7; 4:6; 1 Peter 4:10; etc.)
2. **His word** (1 Thessalonians 2:13; John 1:1; 2 Corinthians 2:1; 4:2; Colossians 1:25; Psalms 30:5; 119:11; Isaiah 2:20; 40:8; Luke 4:4; 8:21; John 5:38; 10:35; Acts 17:13; Romans 10:17; Titus 2:5; Hebrews 2:12; 1 Peter 1:23 (Luke 8:11); 2 Peter 1:22; 1 John 2:14)
3. **Time** (Genesis 1:5; Psalms 89:47; 119:126; Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, 17; 7:17; 8:6; 9:11, 12; Amos 5:13; Mark 3:13; John 7:6; Acts 17:21; 24:25; Romans 8:18; 13:10, 11; 2 Corinthians 6:2; Ephesians 5:16; Colossians 4:5; 1 John 2:8...)
4. **Means** (Psalm 15:5; Isaiah 55:1-3; Haggai 1:6; Malachi 3:10, Matthew 25:20-25; Luke 19:15, 17; Acts 11:29; 1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Thessalonians 3:10 1 Timothy 6:10)
5. **Talents** (Exodus 18:21; 1 Chronicles 9:13; Daniel 1:4, 17; 9:22; Matthew 25:15; Luke 5:2, 27; Romans 1:11; Ephesians 4:8-12; 1 Timothy 4:14; James 1:17; 1 Peter 4:11); and one of God's greatest gifts is that of speech

6. **Influence** (Genesis 4:9; Leviticus 19:17; Deuteronomy 1:38; 15:1; Judges 5:23; Job 31:21; Ecclesiastes 4:10, 12; Isaiah 58:7; Zechariah 8:16, 17; Matthew 5:14-16, 24, 43-48; 7-12; 18:15-20; Acts 15:32; 18:27; Romans 12:10; 14:19; 1 Corinthians 6:12; 8:13; 10:13; 2 Corinthians 1:4; 7:13; Galatians 6:10; Colossians 4:6; 1 Timothy 5:22; Hebrews 10:25)
7. And **our fellowman** (Ezekiel 34:15; Matthew 10:16; 16:24; Luke 10:2, 3, 33, 37; 17:33; 19:10; John 12:26; 13:16; 34; 20:21; 2 Corinthians 7:1; 1 Timothy 2:1; James 5:16; 1 Peter 2:9, 17; 3:1, 7, 15; 1 John 4:7)

Those who cherish doubts will boast of their independence of mind; but they are far enough from possessing genuine independence. Their minds are filled with slavish fear, lest some one as weak and superficial as themselves should ridicule them. This is weakness, and slavery to the veriest tyrant. True liberty and independence are found in the service of God. His service will place upon you no restriction that will not increase your happiness. In complying with His requirements, you will find a peace, contentment, and enjoyment....” – *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 88.

SOME THOUGHTS ON COUNSELING

VERS. 2002-1

What does it mean to be a Counselor? The Bible describes such people as “able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness.” Exodus 18:21. It also tells us that Jesus is to be our Counselor. Isaiah 9:6. “Come unto Me,” He says, “and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:29. So, at best, we can only be assistant counselors, pointing to the true Counselor.

A Counselor needs to be a friend—someone you can trust; someone who listens, asks questions, and helps you find where you are; someone who helps you discover where you need to go and is willing to help you get there. If you want to help others, you must first gain their confidence. Without that, the youth will not come to you when they have a problem. They will not take you into their confidence if they don’t trust you. They will go somewhere else; and, unfortunately, many times that is to someone who accepts them and justifies their attitudes and behavior rather than setting high goals and the beauty of holiness before them.

Things that build trust:

- 1) “Confidence begets confidence.” If you demonstrate that you don’t trust young people, if you never give them anything to do, or if, after you give them something to do and they don’t do it according to your exact requirements, you show that you are unhappy with them, they will not come to you for counsel. The most important word in gaining confidence is “acceptance.” Never deny that another feels a certain way or condemn him or her for having a particular opinion. Feelings and opinions are

just that—opinions and feelings. These come from experiences, and experiences cannot be questioned. You cannot say that something did not happen when someone saw, felt, and lived it. If you deny their experience, you reject them; and they will reject and deny you. But we can help the youth to look at something from another viewpoint—perhaps as something God has allowed. It may not be in **His perfect will** that something happened, but He may have allowed it in **His permissive will** to teach a lesson. And once we learn the lesson, we can move on to other things.

- 2) Anything you have been told in confidence must NOT be discussed with others without permission of the person concerned. If you want confidence from people, never betray their confidence to anyone, not even your spouse. There may be many things a Counselor will have to take alone with him to his grave.
- 3) It is also very important not to push those who are willing too far, or you may tire them out. As Jacob, “lead on softly, according as ... the children be able to endure.” Genesis 33:14. “He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.” Micah 6:8.
- 4) The Youth Leader is a friend who studies how to reach minds, and not all minds are alike. “It is a very nice work to deal with human minds. All children cannot be treated in the same way, for that restraint which must be kept upon one would crush out the life of another.” —*Child Guidance*, p. 205. This requires patient love, along with kind, firm discipline.
- 5) Respect the rules, but manage and lead by principle. We are members of the same family and servants of humanity. The youth need to know where the limits are; they will test their parents and those in authority until they find those limits. They cannot respect someone who does not mean what he says. “Rules should be few and well considered.” —*Child Guidance*, p. 323. The youth need consistent guidance. If you let them push you around, if you play favorites, or if you manage by manipulation, it is impossible for them to be secure and happy. It is best if the youth themselves establish and /or agree what the rules are, agree on what the consequence will be for violating them, and see that

those who deserve discipline receive the consequences of their behavior. But “let brotherly love continue.” Hebrews 13:1.

Things that kill trust:

- 1) Confidence is destroyed when you maliciously reprove someone in public. This treatment should be reserved only for the openly rebellious who have already been spoken to repeatedly in private. Take time to speak quietly to them and give them real solid reasons why “it would have been better if you...,” based on the love of God and your concern for their well being. Don’t speak often about what they have done to you or how much money their actions cost. That puts the wrong priorities up front.
- 2) You kill trust by playing favorites. Don’t be a respecter of persons. Everyone must play with the same set of rules.

Today God has given us His Holy Spirit to be our Counselor. “To all who have accepted Christ as a personal Saviour, the Holy Spirit has come as a counselor, sanctifier, guide, and witness. The more closely believers have walked with God, the more clearly and powerfully have they testified of their Redeemer’s love and of His saving grace.” –*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 49.

Youth Leaders, like “teachers need an intimate acquaintance with the word of God. The Bible, and the Bible alone, should be their counselor. The word of God is as the leaves of the tree of life. Here is met every want of those who love its teachings and bring them into the practical life.” –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, pp. 352, 353.

Regardless of our years of experience, one thing we can and should always do is encourage faith in God. Words of encouragement are like a cool drink of water in the desert, and Jesus said that those who give such help will not lose their reward. Often the problems of life relate to broken relationships. Helping bring about reconciliation between individuals at variance with one another is an important work. Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.” Matthew 5:9. Loss of a loved one, lost opportunities, sickness, or dashed hopes can all bring terrible pain into one’s life. At such times, people need friends. Sometimes the best way is to help the sufferer focus on someone else who is in need.

One day, more than a hundred years ago, a pastor was very troubled by the situation of several members in his congregation. As he was medi-

tating and praying about what could be done to help, one of them came to his study for a visit. After greetings and friendly conversation, the man began to open his heart.

“Brother John,” the man said to the pastor, “you must know that I’ve been struggling with my faith. Things we’ve studied and also your visits have caused me to do some deep heart searching, and I’m missing something. Physically, I have everything I need, but I’m just not happy. What is it? I’ve been faithful to my marriage, my children love me, I pay my vows to the Lord, I don’t miss church without a good reason, I pray, I study, I’m nice to people, I’m honest in my business. But I just am not happy. What’s wrong?”

Pastor John had been praying a long time for this brother (as well as for many others), but just at this point in time he was also trying to find answers to some terrible difficulties. Instead of thinking that this was an interference with his pressing problems, he prayed to God for guidance. As the brother was talking, the Lord gave him an idea.

“Brother Samuel,” said the pastor, “what you need is to take a trip to heaven. You need a vision of the better world.”

His visitor was a little shocked and questioned how that could be on this side of heaven. “If you’re willing, brother, you can have it now,” said the pastor.

“Show me,” said Brother Samuel.

“Come back tomorrow afternoon with your horse and wagon, and we’ll take a trip to heaven,” said the pastor.

When Brother Samuel came the next day, the pastor was delighted. He joined him in the wagon and directed his curious brother through the village to a small house on the outskirts of town. As they pulled up, a young boy and girl in ragged clothes hurried into the house, yelling, “Mommy, Mommy, the pastor’s here, the pastor’s here, and he’s brought someone with him.”

You can hardly imagine the scene of this poor widow. Her embarrassment at being visited by the well-to-do man was difficult for her to bear. Her shame melted into tears as she told some of the troubles she had passed through since her husband had died—the lack of clothes and having hardly enough to keep flesh and bone together. The pastor didn’t say much. He just listened. Brother Samuel didn’t say much either, but a light went on.

He took the children and their mother into town, and bought some things they needed. How much joy filled that little hut by evening. Thanks and praise poured from the depths of the poor mother's soul.

On the way home, all Brother Samuel could say was, "Thanks, Pastor John, for that trip to heaven. We need to take another one soon!"

Many times the best remedy for a sinsick, hurting soul is to put his hurting heart to work for others. Turn his eyes to Jesus, and show him how to be His hands and feet, His mouth, His heart.

"When in trouble, many think they must appeal to some earthly friend, telling him their perplexities, and begging for help. Under trying circumstances unbelief fills their hearts, and the way seems dark. And all the time there stands beside them the mighty Counselor of the ages, inviting them to place their confidence in Him. Jesus, the great Burden Bearer, is saying, 'Come unto Me, and I will give you rest.' Shall we turn from Him to uncertain human beings, who are as dependent upon God as we ourselves are?"
—*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 512.

Some words of caution:

We cannot solve even one person's problems. Only Jesus can do that. But we can assist him in working out his own problems with God's help. He is the One upon whom the Bible says we are to cast our burdens. Galatians 6:2; 1 Peter 5:7.

"It is your privilege to help those who need help, to speak words of encouragement to those who need encouragement." —*This Day with God*, p. 204.

But if you try to follow the path of modern psychology and let people bring all their problems to you, take warning! You may open a box you cannot close.

God has given us experiences, and through them we can help others. 2 Corinthians 1:4. If you cannot relate to someone's problem, you can at least encourage him or her with words such as those found in 1 Corinthians 10:13 and the many good counsels in the book of Proverbs. For instance, wisdom is personified to say: "I have counsel and sound wisdom," and "I have insight; I have strength." 8:14. Let "wisdom" help the troubled soul know what to do: "Do not rely on your own insight." This is directive counseling. We see it plainly in Proverbs 2:1-6; Isaiah 40:13, 14; and in the

way Jesus worked with Nicodemus, the woman at the well, the two men on the road to Emmaus, and His twelve disciples.

For the *Master's methods of personal evangelism*, see Appendix YE: Personal Evangelism.

Premarital and occupational counseling

One of the most sensitive and important issues in life is that of choosing a life partner. Many troubles begin here. Too often young people also make a great mistake by choosing the wrong occupation. Sometimes the mistaken choice is made because they don't know any better. Without good role models and with little or no instruction, it is difficult for them to make right decisions. The Youth Leader or Counselor can help by finding the right people to counsel with the youth in these areas. There is good advice in the Spirit of Prophecy on the subject of choosing a life partner. One of the most important counsels encourages the youth to seek advice from parents, relatives, and/or ministers before becoming seriously and emotionally involved. Once a person becomes emotional about anything, it is very difficult for him or her to be objective.

For further study

Messages to Young People, section XV, pp. 433-466

The Adventist Home, sections I-IV, pp. 15-96

The Adventist Home, chapter 18, pp. 121-128

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 2, pp. 380-383

Is he worthy?

“Before giving her hand in marriage, every woman should inquire whether he with whom she is about to unite her destiny is worthy. What has been his past record? Is his life pure? Is the love which he expresses of a noble, elevated character, or is it a mere emotional fondness? Has he the traits of character that will make her happy? Can she find true peace and joy in his affection? Will she be allowed to preserve her individuality, or must her judgment and conscience be surrendered to the control of her husband? As a disciple of Christ, she is not her own; she has been bought with a price. Can she honor the Saviour’s claims as supreme? Will body and soul, thoughts and purposes, be preserved pure and holy? These questions have a vital bearing upon the well-being of every woman who enters the marriage relation.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 362 (1885).

*“Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing,
and obtaineth favour of the Lord.”
Proverbs 18:22.*

Appendix
Local Church Officers

SAMPLE AGENDAS

VERS. 2002-1

Agenda [A] Date: _____
Time: _____ : ____ : ____ to _____ : _____ : _____

Meeting called by: _____ Total time: _____
Type of meeting: _____ : _____
Facilitator: _____
Recording Secty.: _____
Timekeeper: _____

Attendees (name): _____
Please read: _____
Please bring: _____

Min.	Agenda Topics	Presented by:
8	1. Open-Song/Read/Pray	Chairman _____
3	2. Min. of previous meet.	Secretary _____
5	3. Old business – disc.	Counselor _____
4	4. Treasurer’s report	Treasurer _____
5	5. Clarifications	Treasurer _____
	6. New Business	Counselor _____
20	A. Item 1	_____
20	B. Item 2	_____
15	C. Item 3	_____
15	D. Misc.	_____
	Etc.	
90	Total time	

Minutes need to include

1. Who called the meeting
2. The type of meeting
3. Who chaired (facilitated) the meeting
4. Who attended the meeting and any observers and/or resource persons present, and any special notes
5. Who opened the meeting and with what particulars and preliminaries
6. Time each agenda item's discussion began and any related information (very brief)
7. Time when each resolution was taken and what conclusions were reached (exactly stated)
8. How many votes were for and how many against each proposal
9. Action list:
Action to be taken: _____
Person responsible: _____
Deadline to complete the assignment: _____
10. Planned date of next meeting
11. Time meeting was adjourned, who called for adjournment, and who prayed.
12. Signatures of voting participants and the recording secretary.

Agenda [B]

For: IMS SDA Reform Movement, _____

Attendees: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Purpose: Clarify and share...

10:00 #1. Chaired by _____

Silent prayer

Opening in the name of the Lord with Song, # _____

Bible reading from: _____ with comments by _____

Opening prayer (season of prayer) by _____

10:10 #2. Introduction of participants

10:15 #3. Explanation of any special considerations for those present or not present and clarify who is taking minutes of the meeting

10:20 #4. Minutes of last meeting read by the secretary

10:25 #5. Finished and unfinished business

10:35 #6. Treasurer's report

10:45 #7. Comments by participants as to needs and hopes

11:00 #8. What changes, if any, need to be made to reach objectives on time

11:15 #9. Who can be involved in helping meet the objectives?

11:30 #10. Preparation for:

1. Next Youth Sabbath

- Topic and text
- Inviting special guest(s)
- Assignments
- Time frames

GUIDELINES FOR CHURCH YOUTH LEADERS

2. Year-end Youth Conference
 - Program committee
 - Notifying all possible participants
 - Music preparation
 - Who may be ready for baptism?
 3. Annual Church Business Meeting
 - Report of activities completed
 - Demographics report
 - Treasurer's and auditor's reports
 - Future goals and objectives to be included in the report
 4. Next Youth Committee Meeting
- | | | |
|-------|------|------------------------------------|
| 12:00 | #11. | Reading and signing of the minutes |
| 12:15 | #12. | Close of the meeting |

FORMS

FOR YOUTH WORK AND TREASURER'S LEDGER

VERS. 2002-1

1. Survey of desires, talents and needs of the youth

Youth Survey

Name _____ Birthdate ____/____/____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Language(s) _____

Occupation (goal) _____

Education (level reached) _____

Hobbies _____

Musical Instruments _____

I would like to Sing in a choir Visit and help the elderly
 (Other) _____

I would like to have more: Bible studies Social meetings
 Outdoor activities Open discussions Seminars or
Courses on _____

I am willing to help with: Choir Food preparation
 Giving talks Memorization presentations
 Coordination Musical specials (Other) _____

The Youth Department should _____

I have a question: _____
_____ ?

2. Analysis

Number of people: (e.g.) _____

Desired activities

- ____ More social meetings
 - ____ Outdoor activities
 - ____ Bible studies
 - ____ Sing in a choir
 - ____ Visit and help elderly people
 - ____ Open discussions
 - ____ Seminars or courses on _____
-

Analysis Sheet

An Example

Strengths (internal)	Needs (weaknesses)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>High enthusiasm</i> • <i>They like music</i> • <i>A strong desire to cooperate</i> • <i>Talented and prepared</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Worldly friends</i> • <i>Not united among themselves</i> • <i>Many worldly interests</i> • <i>Little interest in missionary activities</i>
Opportunities (external)	Dangers (external)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • •

Additional comments: *We need to build confidence in youth leadership. We have been one year without a Youth Leader. The brethren in the church have little confidence in the youth and show little support for youth activities.*

3. Objectives:

- Encourage participation in the various church activities
- Make a timetable of social activities
- Devise and develop different kinds of missionary work
- Organize a seminar (date, subject, etc.)
- Reestablish the confidence of the church in the youth
- Develop activities for physical development
- Find ways to increase the youth fund
- Create a choir

4. Activities:

- Schedule a prayer meeting by the youth
- Prepare a youth program for Sabbath afternoon
- Schedule an experience meeting for the youth
- Schedule a special local church youth conference and encourage prayer
- Plan some recreation together one day per month
- Conduct a social meeting once a month (with a definite subject for discussion)
- Visit a cultural, scientific, or historical site together
- Sing in a retirement center
- Visit shut-ins or minister to a family in need
- Set up a book table
- Organize canvassing days
- Organize a one-night-per-week cooking school (class)
- Ask brother _____ for a weekend seminar on _____
- Schedule the youth for participation in church activities
- Schedule meetings between church officers and the youth group
- Visit parents and encourage them to cooperate with the youth work
- Visit different families and sing and pray with them
- Encourage special projects, such as gardening (at the church)

GUIDELINES FOR CHURCH YOUTH LEADERS

- Organize an outdoor excursion (hiking, biking, etc.)
- Perform practical help in homes of church families
- Always take an offering during open youth meetings
- Develop canvassing work
- Ask for contributions from supportive members and friends
- Organize an outside sale of crafts or baked goods
- Give music theory class and singing instruction
- Conduct choir practice

5. Treasurer's Ledger

Date	Description	Income	Expenses	Balance
01.01	Beginning balance			00.00
01.09	Offering	150.00		
03.09	Sending reports		3.00	
10.09	Mailing <i>Youth Anchor</i>		50.00	
	TOTALS	150.00	53.00	
12.31	Ending balance			97.00

THE SUPPORT TEAM

1. Field Youth Leader

The Field Youth Leader is chosen at the bi-annual meeting of the delegates of the Field. He or she should be an experienced youth leader from a church or an active member of the youth department and one who has a positive attitude toward the youth and is well respected by them—someone who has their confidence. The Field Youth Leader



needs to be ready to give all his energy to the youth work. Youth are active and deserve someone with energy to direct their dynamic ideas and energies. This important department has as its charge the future of the church. Every investment in the youth is an investment in the future. At the end of time, the hearts of the fathers are to be turned to the children and the hearts of the children to the fathers. That is the promise of Malachi 4:6.

The Field Youth Leader carries the responsibility to develop a well-thought-out working plan which will further the youth work within the field. His primary responsibility is to help and support the church Youth Leaders in the youth activities of the local churches and coordinate all field-sponsored youth activities.

He can give seminars and work alongside the church leaders to develop the youth in the different congregations—the same way Jesus worked with His disciples.

He is also responsible to be a counselor, helping to develop the working plans of each church in his field and helping them successfully carry out their agreed activities.

According to the possibilities, he should visit the churches and groups once or twice each year and make personal contact with the youth, instruct, support, and encourage the church youth leaders, evaluate their needs, and report those needs and plans to the field leaders.

Integration of the young people from different churches may be done by organizing:

- Special Sabbaths in one place (for youth from 2 or 3 churches).
- Weekend regional conferences where youth from two or three churches come together in one church.
- Camp meetings of five to ten days (See CO Appendix: Planning a Four-Day Youth Retreat).
- Spiritual weekend retreats in nature.
- Work in harmony with the evangelistic or missionary department to encourage the youth in activity and give them a positive experience in reaching out to others.
- Organize activities that include all the youth groups in the field in one missionary program.

In addition to coordinating the activities of the various churches, the Field Youth Leader will do his best to:

- Give regular support and spiritual assistance by providing material to the church youth leaders that has been specially prepared for the young people in the churches, as well as those who are isolated.
- Write letter(s) of encouragement to specific young people.
- Write letters of encouragement and direction to the church youth leaders at the beginning of the year.
- Reproduce and disseminate youth literature to the church Youth Leaders.

2. Field Youth Secretary/Treasurer

The Secretary is the right hand of the leader, and the two of them should be in constant communication. It is the Secretary's responsibility to:

- Send materials to the different churches, such as the youth magazine, newsletters, and announcements of future activities, and encourage the exchange of experiences, ideas, and resource materials.
- Collect news to send on to the Union (or the General Conference if the field is so organized) and share news with the youth in the churches.
- Collect and transmit to the Union Youth Leader (or directly to the General Conference Youth Leader via the Secretarial Six-Month Re-

port) youth statistics and youth missionary experiences from the field, along with a report of the activities and needs of the individual church youth groups.

- Keep the Field Youth Leader informed about the different materials received from the churches.

The Treasurer's duties include:

- Looking for ways to motivate the local church treasurers to collect funds for their youth activities
- Keeping proper financial records (books) of all income and expenses of the field youth department. (The offerings gathered in the local church youth meetings should be handled according to guidelines established under mutual agreement between the local churches and the field, and between the field and the union. It is recommended that a portion of the offerings be retained in the local youth fund for use by the local church youth department and that a portion be sent to the field youth treasurer to cover costs of materials mailed to the churches. All income and expenses need to be recorded, and the bookkeeping records should be reviewed periodically by the responsible individuals of the field.

A report of all income and expenses is to be made at the normal business meetings of the field committee.)



3. Field Youth Counselor

The Counselor to the field youth department is the Union Youth Leader or the overseeing minister of the field (the Field President) if there is no union. He should be present for important counseling sessions, at camp meetings, and at all the main youth activities of the Field. His role is to give counsel as needed, support the youth both publicly and privately, represent their views to the adult members, and demonstrate to all the churches that the youth activities are supported by the ministry.

4. Administration of the youth work in the Union

The Youth Leader of the Union:

- Supports the Field Youth Leaders in making and executing their plans.
- Eliminates duplication of activities within the Union and coordinates the youth activities in the various fields.
- Encourages activities within the fields when the Field Youth Leader is unable to do so.
- Collects reports, experiences, and educational materials to be shared with others and sends them to the General Conference Youth Leader via the Secretarial Six-Month Report.
- Coordinates and integrates the activities of the fields, such as presentations by the youth at union conferences or camp meetings.
- Prepares materials for young people and instructs the Field Youth Leaders how to use them and how to work in harmony.

Sharing ideas

There are many ways to support each other. The very spirit of cooperation and helpfulness is a powerful means for winning the young people for Christ.

The General Conference Youth Department invites all young people and Youth Leaders to share their ideas and experiences with others through suggestions for improvement and additions to this *Guidelines for Church Youth Leaders* as well as submission of articles, reports, pictures, and announcements for the international youth magazine, *Youth Anchor*.



God will bless your every effort to honor His name!