



Youth Ministries: A Brief History



In its very earliest days, the Seventh-day Adventist Church had no specific "youth ministry"; young people were as active and involved in the work of the church as older ones were. Indeed, the original Advent movement was very much a youth movement, led by people like James White, who began preaching at twenty-one, Ellen White, who received her first vision at age seventeen, and John Loughborough, who began preaching when he was seventeen. These young people needed no one to minister to them; they themselves were the ministers, sharing the exciting truths they had discovered in God's Word.

Soon after the Adventist Church was organized and began to grow, people recognized the need for a work specifically directed at young people. And from those earliest days, the emphasis was on youth who would be workers for God.

Ellen White strongly advocated youth work within the church, but the work she envisioned was not one in which youth would be passive recipients of adult-directed programs. She foresaw a youth work in which youth would be trained and equipped for evangelistic work that they themselves would carry out—a true "army" to finish God's work in the world.

Appropriately, the credit for actually starting Adventist youth ministry goes to two teenagers who felt a need and sought God's help in meeting it. Many lifelong Adventists are familiar with the story of 14-year-old Luther Warren and 17-year-old Harry Fenner, who in 1879 knelt under a tree in their hometown of Hazelton, Michigan, to ask God's guidance in how to

win other young people to Christ. Inspired by that prayer, the two teenagers formed the church's first young people's missionary band, with a charter membership of nine boys.

Today, youth rallies and conventions are held all over the world at the local, national, and international level, sometimes with special emphases such as Bible study, prayer, or drug abuse prevention. Pathfinder camporees, also organized on every level from the local up to the international, have become another effective way of drawing Adventist youth together

Seventh-day Adventist youth work has grown so much and in so many ways since Luther Warren and Harry Fenner first knelt together in 1879 that the movement we are a part of today would probably have astounded those first pioneers. Let us hope, though, that it would not have disappointed them. The focus of Adventist youth ministry—preparing youth for service in God's work—has remained the same in over a century of growth and is manifesting itself in new and exciting ways each year.

As youth leaders, we often focus so much on the day-to-day aspects of our ministry—teaching the Sabbath school lessons, planning the weekend retreat, hosting the Saturday-night social—that we lose sight of the "big picture." A glance back at the long and proud history of Seventh-day Adventist youth work helps put our work into perspective. And the most important part of looking back is recognizing that this youth ministry has always been about leading youth to know Jesus, and then training them to share Him with others. We are still training that army of youth Ellen White dreamed about—and they are accomplishing His work. Through the Spirit's power, they will soon finish it.

Adapted article by Trudy J. Morgan-Cole, Elders Digest

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS AUGUST

- 1 IAD Continuation of Annual Activities for Conservation and Soul-Winning
- 3 Global Mission Evangelism
- 3 Lay literature distribution community impact
- 5-11 International Pathfinder Camporee, Wyoming
- 10 Reach the World: Church Planting
- 10 Lay Pulpit Exchange/Graduation of Lay Certification Evangelism Training
- 17 Adventist Education Day
- 17 Adventurer Bible Connection
- 17 Men's Power Hour (MPH)
- Mission Project (to be determined)
- Back to School Initiative (to be determined)
- 18 SBC Lay Campaign
- 22 Executive Committee Meeting
- 24 Pathfinder Bible Connection
- 24 Evangelism with Laity
- 24 Adventist Education Day (Bahamas Academy – Special Offering)
- 31 AY Bible Connection
- Baptismal Day
- 31-Sept. 1 EnditNow Weekend

ATCU PUSH INITIATIVE 2024 AUGUST

- July 28- August 3** World Church Leaders
- 4-10** Adventist World Radio & Hope Channel
- 11-17** Northern Caribbean University
- 18-24** Graduates Seeking Admission to University
- 25-31** Graduates Seeking Employment



HURRICANE RELIEF

During this hurricane season, the early and devastating arrival of Hurricane Beryl left a trail of destruction in its wake, affecting the island of Carriacou in Grenada, and causing havoc in parts of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Jamaica and Texas.

As it is our nature to come together in times of tragedy, especially when it strikes our own region, the Administration of the South Bahamas Conference is appealing to its members to lend a helping hand. We have contacted the affected areas, and they are requesting that we send funds instead of goods because of the logistics. Therefore, this Sabbath, we are asking members to set aside a few dollars to send to these affected areas. You may

submit your funds via a tithe envelope marked "Hurricane Beryl Relief Fund."

Your support, no matter how big or small, will make a significant difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters who have been affected by Hurricane Beryl. Thank you for your generosity and compassion.



BIBLE CLASS

Bible class will be held online on Zoom and YouTube this Sunday, August 04th, 2024 with guest presenter Dr. Martin Hanna. **TOPIC: Eternal Life Insurance. 1 Peter 1:3-6.** For further information contact Pastor Lynden Williams: at lwilliams@sbcadventist.org.bs.



WOMEN'S MINISTRIES SBC New Women's Ministries Devotional Book Release

The SBC Women's Ministries Department has released a second devotional book entitled, "Women of Faith." This devotional is a collection of testimonies and stories of the unshakable faith and resilience of the women within the SBC Conference. Each chapter offers themes such as Assurance, Blessings, Conversion, Faith, Hope, and Healing, providing readers with a more meaningful experience. **Women of Faith**, designed to uplift and encourage, is now available at the Adventist Book Center, Tonique Williams Darling Highway.

- Carla Rogers, Women's Ministries Director



HEALTH MINISTRIES INITIATIVE

For the rest of 2024, SBC Health Ministries is challenging you to improve your overall health. Each month you have a challenge, and you will be given tips on how to accomplish those challenges.

August Challenge: Be more active!

We want you to be social with us! Post and tag us (SBC Health Ministries on Facebook) when you are being active, drinking your water, preparing and/or eating your vegetables, and practicing self-care. It is our desire that you achieve the highest level of health possible. We want you to be happy and healthy!



GHANA MISSION TRIP

Interested individuals who would like to travel and assist the Amazing Grace Seventh-day Adventist church in Ghana, beginning October 15, 2024, can contact David Williams at 433-6917 for more information.



ADVENTIST LAYMEN'S SERVICES & INDUSTRIES (ASI)

The Inter-American Division's ASI convention will be held at the Riu Plaza in Panama with guest speaker Pastor Debleaire Snell from Oakwood University from August 14th-17th, 2024.

A General Meeting will be held on Sunday, August 4, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Berea Seventh-day Adventist Church. All individuals traveling to the Asi Convention are asked to be in attendance.



FUNDRAISER CONCERT

All are invited to an evening of vocal music with Stanesha Deligence of the Francophone church and friends, as she hosts a graduate school fundraiser concert. The concert will be held at St. Andrews Presbyterian Kirk Church on August 11, 2024, beginning at 6:30 pm.

-Annette Dorsett, SBC Music Coordinator



END IT NOW

The Adventist Church has designated August 24, 2024, as #EndItNow Day, an initiative aimed at raising awareness and providing practical solutions to combat violence in all its forms. This year, we are promoting the theme "Find My Sheep," which encourages active participation to shelter and support those suffering from violence and help bring justice.



BAHAMAS ACADEMY Alumni Weekend



YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pathfinder Camporee

Pathfinders everywhere are gearing up for the International Pathfinder Camporee to be held in Gillette Wyoming from August 5th-11th. Under the theme 'Believe the Promise', Pathfinders can expect to participate in special events, daily parades, trade pins, and earn honors. Let's continue to keep our Pathfinder in prayer as they grow closer to Jesus Christ.



Please Email Weekly Announcements

To: sbclagos@gmail.com

Or logos@sbcadventist.org.bs

By Tuesday at 3:00 p.m.

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SUNSETS NEXT SABBATH
Saturday, August 10, 2024

@ 7:48 p.m.

Have a Happy Sabbath!