

SOUTH BAHAMAS CONFERENCE YOUTH MINISTRIES STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2026



"To improve morally, intellectually, or culturally." Merriam-Webster Dictionary

BIBLICAL EMPHASIS:

- "If you indeed obey the Lord your God and are careful to observe all his commandments, I am giving you today, the Lord your God will **ELEVATE** you above all the nations of the earth." **Deuteronomy 28:1, NET.**
- "Since, you have been raised to life with Christ. Now set your heart on what is in heaven, where Christ rules at God's right side." **Colossians 3:1, CEV**
- **VISION:** "To **EDUCATE** the youth and to **ELEVATE** their morals. They should be trained to have courage to resist the tide of moral pollution in this degenerate age. With a firm hold upon divine power, they may stand in society to mold and fashion, rather than to be fashioned after the world's model." **Counsels to parents, students, and teachers pg. 46.2**

3 STRATEGIC METHODS:

- **Mission:** "A Christian reveals true humility by showing the gentleness of Christ, by being always ready to help others, by speaking kind words and performing unselfish acts, which **ELEVATE** and ennoble the most sacred message that has come to our world." **Christian Experience and Teachings of EGW 74.2**
- **Media:** "Every means that will **ELEVATE** and ennoble them is to be employed. They are to be taught to put their powers to the best use. Physical and mental powers are to be equally taxed. Habits of order and discipline are to be cultivated...This will aid them in the preparation for useful service. Daily they will grow purer and stronger, better prepared through His grace and a study of His word, to put forth aggressive efforts against evil." **Fundamentals of Christian Education, pg. 543.1**

- **Mentorship:** “Why is it that our youth, and even those of maturer years, are so easily led into temptation and sin? It is because the word of God is not studied and meditated upon as it should be...There is not the choosing of the better part, the sitting at the feet of Jesus, as did Mary, to learn the most sacred lessons of the divine Teacher, that they may be laid up in the heart, and practiced in the daily life. Meditation upon holy things will **ELEVATE** and refine the mind and will develop Christian ladies and gentlemen.” **Fundamentals of Christian Education pg. 132.2**

LOGO:

- **Black:** Represents the world as our mission field. “He called you out of darkness to experience his marvelous light, and now he claims you as his very own. He did this so that you would broadcast his glorious wonders throughout the world.” **1 Peter 2:9**
- **Gold:** Total dependency on God. “I advise you to buy gold from me—gold that has been purified by fire...” **Revelation 3:18** Taking the Gospel of Jesus to light up the world. “I am the light of the world,” he said. “Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness.” **John 8:12**
- **White:** The eternal reward that Jesus promises us. “All who are victorious will be clothed in white. I will never erase their names from the Book of Life, but I will announce before my Father and his angels that they are mine.” **Revelation 3:5-6**
- **3 M’s:** 3 Ways to carry the 3 Angel Messages: Mission! Media! Mentorship! “Then I saw another angel flying high in the air, with an eternal message of Good News to announce to the peoples of the earth.” **Revelation 14:6-12**
- **Arrow:** The creativity, diversity & relevancy of ways that youth can go on the mission field. “As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.” **Psalms 127:4**

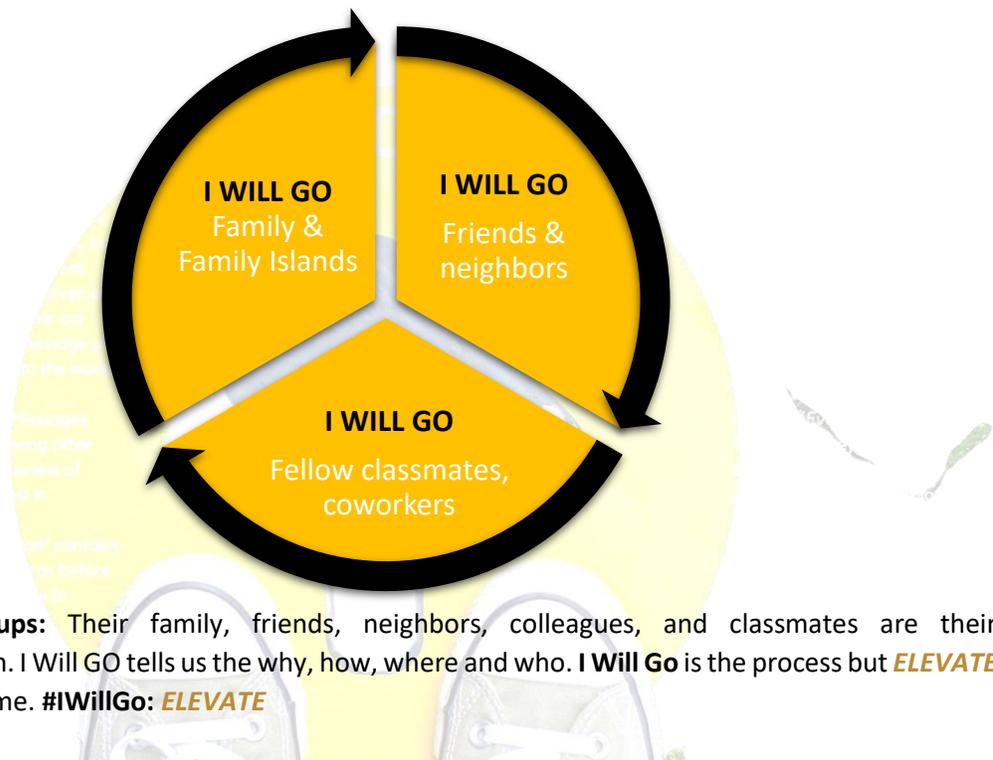
RESEARCH:

- Specific details of this strategic plan reflect data collected from Adventist members through several research studies. This information identifies areas that can help us, as Seventh-day Adventists, grow spiritually and become more effective in our mission to the world. Youth at all levels have called for an increased focus on mission projects, trips, activities, and initiatives both in their homeland, regionally and internationally. While instructions and initiatives will encourage homeland, overseas, evangelistic, and need-based missionaries, the SBC youth department will strategically prioritize homeland missions locally and media missions virtually.

RELATION TO GC YOUTH THEME:



- **I Will Go: ELEVATE** seeks to engage all youth in reaching the world, inspiring, and equipping them to use their God-given spiritual gifts as a positive influence in witness and service for Christ. Youth can't say I am going to church because they are the church. If youth are the church, then the church is present when and wherever youth go. Their community, workplace, school, college, and university are their mission field. What youth do in those places is the sermon.



- **Target Groups:** Their family, friends, neighbors, colleagues, and classmates are their congregation. I Will GO tells us the why, how, where and who. **I Will Go** is the process but **ELEVATE** is the outcome. **#IWillGo: ELEVATE**

Why go?

- “As we wait for and hasten the coming of the day of God.” **2 Peter 3:12 ESV** “It is the privilege of every Christian, not only to look for, but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” **Christ’s Object Lessons, 69**

How to go?

- “Not all can go as missionaries to foreign lands, but all can be home missionaries in their families and neighborhoods. There are many ways in which church members may give the message to those around them.” **Adventist Home, p.485**

- “My brethren and sisters, visit those who live near you, and by sympathy and kindness seek to reach their hearts. Be sure to work in a way that will remove prejudice instead of creating it. And remember that those who know the truth for this time and yet confine their efforts to their own churches, refusing to work for their unconverted neighbors, will be called to account for unfulfilled duties.” **Testimonies, vol. 9, pp.34, 35**

Where to go?

- “Wherever possible, students should, during the school year, engage in city mission work. They “the youth” should do missionary work in the surrounding towns and villages. They can form themselves into bands to do Christian help work. Students should take a broad view of their present obligations to God. They are not to look forward to a time, after the school term closes, when they will do some large work for God, but should study how, during their student life, to yoke up with Christ in unselfish service for others.” **Counsels to Teachers, p.547**

Who can go?

- “Every youth, every child, has a work to do for the honor of God and the uplifting of humanity.” **Education, p.58**
- “Every son and daughter of God is called to be a missionary; we are called to the service of God and our fellow men; and to fit us for this service should be the object of our education.” **MH 395.1**
- “Every true disciple is born into the kingdom of God as a missionary.” **The Desire of Ages, 195.**
- “Each one has a mission of wonderful importance, which he cannot neglect or ignore, as the fulfilment of it involves the weal of some soul, and the neglect of it the woe of one for whom Christ died.” **The Review and Herald, December 12, 1893.**
- “There is something for everyone to do. Every soul that believes the truth is to stand in his lot and place, saying, “Here am I; send me.” Isaiah 6:8.” **Testimonies for the Church 6:49.**
- “There is work to be done for those around you, that cannot be neglected. Your children are to be educated in the truth. Parents should talk to their little ones of Jesus, and of the plan of salvation. They should weave precious lessons of the life and character of Christ into their children’s minds that they may become the followers of Christ and heirs of eternal life. There is much talk of foreign missionary work, but the home work is neglected.” **RH April 21, 1891.**
- “The home missionary work will be farther advanced in every way when a more liberal, self-denying, self-sacrificing spirit is manifested for the prosperity of foreign missions; for the prosperity of the home work depends largely, under God, upon the reflex influence of the

evangelical work done in countries afar off. It is in working actively to supply the necessities of the cause of God that we bring our souls in touch with the Source of all power.” **Ellen G. White, Testimonies for the Church 6:27**

MISSION MEDIA MENTOR

ELEVATE

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Deuteronomy 28:1, NET



SBC YOUTH MINISTRIES 2022-2026

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ADVENTURERS	PATHFINDERS	YOUNG ADULTS	PUBLIC CAMPUS MINISTRIES
			
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The Adventurer Club is a Seventh-day Adventist Church-sponsored ministry open to all families of children ages 4 - 9.	Enlarging their windows to the world and building a relationship with God are the dual objectives of this club designed for children ages 10-15.	The story of the Adventist Youth Society began over 125 years ago along a dusty country lane in Michigan with two young boys kneeling in prayer and today serves ages 21-30+.	Transforming students on non-Adventist campuses into Seventh-day Adventist ambassadors of Christ in universities, colleges, churches, communities, and the world at large.
			

SBC YOUTH MINISTRIES 2022-2026

Youth Evangelism:

- “Jesus looked upon the world in its fallen state with infinite pity. He took humanity upon himself that he might touch and **ELEVATE** humanity... We should work as did Jesus, departing from our own pleasure, turning away from Satan’s bribes, despising ease, and abhorring selfishness, that we may seek and save that which is lost, bringing souls from darkness into light, into the sunshine of God’s love. We have been commissioned to go forth and preach the gospel to every creature. We are to bring to the lost the tidings that Christ can forgive sin, can renew the nature, can clothe the soul in the garments of his righteousness, bring the sinner to his right mind, and teach him and fit him up to be a laborer together with God.” **Christian Education, pg. 96.2**

Youth Alive:

- “It is the special work of Satan in these last days to take possession of the minds of youth, to corrupt their thoughts, and inflame their passions, knowing that by thus doing he can lead them

to moral pollution, and then all the noble faculties of the mind will become debased, and he can control them to suit his own purposes. All are free moral agents. And as such they must bring their thoughts to run in the right channel. Their meditations should be of that nature which will **ELEVATE** their minds and make Jesus and heaven the subjects of their thoughts.” **An appeal to Mothers, pg. 29.3**

Bible Connection:

- “The study of the Bible will strengthen and **ELEVATE** the mind as no other study can...There is nothing more calculated to energize the mind and strengthen the intellect than the study of the Word of God. No other book is so potent to **ELEVATE** the thoughts, to give vigor to the faculties, as the broad, ennobling truths of the Bible.” **A Call to Stand Apart, pg. 47.1 & 69.2**

Club Ministry Training:

- “God proves His people in this world.... Here, in this world, in these last days, persons will show what power affects their hearts and controls their actions. If it is the power of divine truth, it will lead to good works. It will **ELEVATE** the receiver, and make him noble hearted and generous, like his divine Lord...” **Maranatha pg. 43.4**

Adventurer Club:

- “Parents, **ELEVATE** the standard of Christianity in the minds of your children; help them to weave Jesus into their experience.” **Child Guidance 541.3**

Pathfinder:

- “The Bible presents a perfect standard of character. This sacred book, inspired by God, and written by holy men, is a perfect guide under all circumstances of life. It sets forth distinctly the duties of both young and old. If made the guide of life, its teachings will lead the soul upward. It will **ELEVATE** the mind, improve the character, and give peace and joy to the heart. But many of the young have chosen to be their own counselor and guide and have taken their cases in their own hands. Such need to study more closely the teachings of the Bible.” **Messages to Young People, 444.1.**

Master Guides:

- “We cannot be excusable in the sight of God if we engage in amusements which have a tendency to unfit us for the faithful performance of the ordinary duties of life, and thus lessen our relish for the contemplation of God and heavenly things. The religion of Christ is cheering and elevating in its influence. It is above everything like foolish jesting and joking, vain and frivolous chit-chat. In all our seasons of recreation we may gather from the Divine Source of strength fresh courage and power, that we may the more successfully **ELEVATE** our lives to purity, true goodness, and holiness.” **Messages to Young People, 364.2.**

Public Campus Ministry:

- “**ELEVATE** your soul to be as was Daniel, a loyal, steadfast servant of the Lord of hosts. Ponder well the path of your feet; for you are standing on holy ground, and the angels of God are about you. It is right that you should feel that you must climb to the highest round of the educational ladder...but your sacrifice of time and money will avail nothing, if you do not use your attainments for the honor of God and the good of humanity.” **Fundamentals of Christian Education pg. 191.3**

Senior Youth Leaders:

- “Our consecration to God must be a living principle, interwoven with the life, and leading to self-denial and self-sacrifice. It must underlie all our thoughts and be the spring of every action. This will **ELEVATE** us above the world and separate us from its polluting influence.” **The Faith I Live By, pg. 221.6**

Recreational Sports:

- “It is the privilege and duty of Christians to seek to refresh their spirits and invigorate their bodies by innocent recreation, with the purpose of using their physical and mental powers to the glory of God. Our recreations should not be scenes of senseless mirth, taking the form of the nonsensical. We can conduct them in such a manner as will benefit and **ELEVATE** those with whom we associate, and better qualify us and them to more successfully attend to the duties devolving upon us as Christians.” **Messages to Young People, pg. 364.1**

Young Adult Marriages:

- “In your married life seek to **ELEVATE** one another. Show the high and elevating principles of your holy faith in your everyday conversations and in the most private walks of life. Be ever careful and tender of the feelings of one another. Do not allow a playful, bantering, joking censuring of one another. These things are dangerous. They wound. The wound may be concealed, nevertheless the wound exists, and peace is being sacrificed and happiness endangered.” **Letters to Young Lovers 15.1**

Music Ministry:

- “The history of the songs of the Bible is full of suggestion as to the uses and benefits of music and song. Music is often perverted to serve purposes of evil, and it thus becomes one of the most alluring agencies of temptation. But, rightly employed, it is a precious gift of God, designed to uplift the thoughts to high and noble themes, to inspire and **ELEVATE** the soul.” **Messages to Young People, 291.3**

Socials & Retreats:

- “Jesus reproved self-indulgence in all its forms, yet He was social in His nature. He accepted the hospitality of all classes, visiting the homes of the rich and the poor, the learned and the ignorant, and seeking to **ELEVATE** their thoughts from questions of commonplace life to those things that are spiritual and eternal. He gave no license to dissipation, and no shadow of worldly levity marred His conduct; yet He found pleasure in scenes of innocent happiness, and by His presence sanctioned the social gathering.” **Messages to Young People, 384.1.**

Single Youth Ministries:

- “Great care should be taken by Christian youth in the formation of friendships and in the choice of companions. Take heed, lest what you now think to be pure gold turns out to be base metal. Worldly associations tend to place obstructions in the way of your service to God, and many souls are ruined by unhappy unions, either business or matrimonial, with those who can never **ELEVATE** or ennoble.” **Messages to Young People, pg. 436.2.**

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPI):

Missionary Evangelistic Objectives:

1. To revive the concept of worldwide mission and sacrifice for mission as a way of life involving adventurers, pathfinders, Masterguides, young adults, senior youth, and every church member, young and old, in the joy of witnessing for Christ and making disciples. The most effective activity to create a culture of intergenerational ministry is the work of a missionary.

- **KPI 1.1** Increased number of youth and church members participating in both personal, public, and digital evangelistic outreach initiatives with a goal of Total Youth Involvement (TYI)
- **KPI 1.2** IWILLGONOW AY projects conducted monthly outside the “walls” of the local church.
- **KPI 1.3** Increased attendance of youth, members and yet-to-be-baptized young people in local church AY programs and IWILLGONOW AY projects
- **KPI 1.4** Identified mission objectives through recreational evangelism (socials & sports)

2. To strengthen and diversify Adventist outreach in the inner cities, neighborhood communities, public and private sectors, humanitarian NPO’s, across Family Islands, among the unreached and underreached people groups, and to non-Christian religions.

- **KPI 2.1** Infographics produced on tips for being effective and relevant missionaries
- **KPI 2.2** Distributed age-appropriate mission-focused devotional books, magazines, blogs
- **KPI 2.3** Increased short-term Mission Trips to the Family of Islands by local AY, Clubs and groups
- **KPI 2.4** AY initiatives collaborated between NPO, humanitarian groups, family islands
- **KPI 2.5** Ethnographic surveys conducted in communities to assess needs of outreach

3. To make developing resources for mission to non-Christian religions and belief systems a high priority.

- **KPI 3.1** Webinars conducted on different world religious groups, unreached and underreached people groups and non-Christian religions and belief systems.
- **KPI 3.2** Academic and scientific articles provided for PCM students and AY to defend and share their faith

4. To educate and expose youth to digital missionary resources, initiatives, and strategies for upholding social justice freedom, wholistic health, hope through Jesus, and restoring in people the image of God. “A different mold should be placed upon the work. There should be less sermonizing and more personal labor. Fresh manna must be gathered from the Word of God, and every man must have his portion in due season. A great work can be done by dropping a word privately to your young friends, to those you meet in your daily walks.” **Review and Herald, September 17, 1914, par. 3**

- **KPI 4.1** Wholistic challenges produced for witness and outreach on social media platforms
- **KPI 4.2** Featured missionary youth speakers at annual retreats & youth congresses
- **KPI 4.3** Annual or Biannual international evangelistic and humanitarian youth mission trips
- **KPI 4.4** Produced shows with youth as hosts highlighting youth in missions

Spiritual Growth Objectives

5. To disciple youth into living Spirit-filled lives as missionary ambassadors by using their spiritual gifts.

- **KPI 5.1** Skills training workshops provided for youth in the areas of music, worship leading, vocal training, engineering, photography, videography, live-streaming, program hosting, video editing, marketing, and digital media.
- **KPI 5.2** Certified youth evangelists in online evangelism, as digital Bible workers and digital missionaries to conduct effective youth evangelistic programs and shows
- **KPI 5.3** Evidence of greater intergenerational unity and community among youth and senior members, of reduced conflict in local churches, and of an active commitment to zero tolerance of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse.

6. To increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults.

- **KPI 6.1** All youth members and yet-to-be-baptized young people embrace and practice stewardship principles regarding time, spiritual gifts, and tithes and offerings
- **KPI 6.2** Annual camporees held for adventurers, pathfinders, Masterguides and youth retreats/congresses to highlight mission
- **KPI 6.3** Increased teaching of missionary, vocational skills, public evangelism and personal outreach honors for adventurers, pathfinders and masterguides
- **KPI 6.4** New pathfinder clubs planted in city churches and family islands

7. To help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview of world issues.

- **KPI 7.1** Provide Bible Study resources for local youth Bible studies & small groups
- **KPI 7.2** Increased participation in Bible Connection at all levels
- **KPI 7.3** Publish online videos to social media platforms that address biblical & social issues
- **KPI 7.4** Improved retention rates of young adults, youth, and unbaptized children, based on the collection of specific statistics on those groups

- **KPI 7.5** Youth and young adults embrace the belief (FB 22) that the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, abstaining from alcohol, tobacco, recreational use of drugs and other high-risk behaviors, and embrace church teachings (FB 23) on marriage, and demonstrate sexual purity
- **KPI 7.6** Increased motivation to read and study the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy.

Leadership Objectives

8. To provide mentorship into leadership of youth. “Youth should be integrated into responsible leadership and in all lines of church work. As young elders, deacons, and deaconesses, for example, they can work with and learn from experienced officers.” **Church Manual, Page 105**

- **KPI 8.1** Demonstrated election of young elders under the age of 35 to eldership in local churches
- **KPI 8.2** Youth elected in all departments and ministries of their local church
- **KPI 8.3** The month of July to be recognized as Youth Month in all churches

9. To upgrade skills for online ministry enabling the local church to expand its mission reach digitally. “Let the workers for God manifest tact and talent and originate devices by which to communicate light to those who are near and to those who are afar off.” **Evangelism, 206.**

- **KPI 9.1** Featured Adventist Youth in entrepreneurship and mission
- **KPI 9.2** Increased ethical and responsible use of media platforms by youth, students, and members
- **KPI 9.3** Live stream AY programs Via Zoom, Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram
- **KPI 9.4** Promote Youth Online Ministries

10. To enhance the transparency, accountability, credibility of strategic planning for the local church, “experienced workers today do a noble work when, instead of trying to carry all the burdens themselves, they train younger workers and place burdens on their shoulders.” **Acts of the Apostles, p.368.**

- **KPI 10.1** Encouraged investiture services during divine services in all local churches

“Before entering the city of God, the Saviour bestows upon His followers the emblems of victory and invests them with the insignia of their royal state.” **Great Controversy, p. 645-646**

- **KPI 10.2** Youth summer internship plan implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Youth.