



## YOUTH MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH BAHAMAS CONFERENCE

### Philosophy:

I Will Go 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. Their family, friends, neighbors, colleagues, and classmates are their congregation.

The Biblical mandate for this strategic plan is rooted in the Great Commission found in **Matthew 28:19-20**, “*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.*” Christ was standing only a few steps from the heavenly throne when He gave His commission to His disciples. Including as missionaries all who should believe on His name, He said, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” God’s power was to go with them.—**The Southern Watchman, September 20, 1904**

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 virtually with the slogan: **I WILL GO: NOW!**





#### LOGO:

**Black:** The urgency, creativity, diversity, intensity, and relevancy of Youth serving people.

**Arrow:** "As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth." **Psalm 127:4**

**Flag:** Breaking cultural barriers to carry The Gospel by sea, air, land and digitally to all the world.

#### 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, par. 3](#)
- *"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 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
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- **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



#### ATCU Events:

1. Union Pathfinder camporee in The Bahamas- **2021**
2. Union Youth Congress in the Turks and Caicos Islands- **2023**
3. Union Master Guide camporee in the Cayman Islands- **2026**

#### GC/IAD Events:

1. **IAD Quarterly JOINT AYS**
  - ✓ Date for 2021 and beyond: Second Sabbath for beginning month of each quarter i.e. January, April,
  - ✓ ***IAD online AY Dates for 2021: January 11, April 11, July 11, and October 10.***
2. World Adventist Youth Leadership Congress – **September 5-10, 2023**  
Cancun, Mexico
3. IAD Pathfinder Camporee, **2023**
4. Oshkosh, **2024**

#### SOUTH BAHAMAS CONFERENCE AY

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sabbath of every month= LOCAL AY I WILL GO MISSION Projects
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sabbath of every month = JOINT AYS Park 'N Praise

#### GLOBAL YOUTH DAY THEMES 2020-2023

**2020** iCare: Strangers/Homeless/Refugees

**2021** Share: Clothes/Money/Time/Gifts

**2022** Visit: Missing Members/Neighbors/School or Work Mates

**2023** Appreciate: Police/Military/Fire Department/Medical Personnel

#### VOTED ACTIONS:

- 1ST Sabbath – I Will Go Mission Projects (Local Church)
- 4TH Sabbath- Joint AY aka Youth Church (Joint AY)
- Quarterly Joint AY services are held virtually by the IAD.
- Investiture Services- to be held in Divine Hour.
- All programs to incorporate virtual streaming platforms and social distancing.
- Friday night AY services should be held when Sabbath afternoon is disrupted.