

# Seminar 9: Youth Outreach

*Comprehensive Evangelism*



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# 1-INTRODUCTION

**We exist for a purpose; we have a mission:** to proclaim the virtues of Christ. Christ himself left this mission: to preach the Gospel to every tribe, language, and people. This same mission is identified in the context of the three angels' messages when we see that each angel brings with him a Gospel to announce to everyone on earth.



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# 1-INTRODUCTION

If the church exists for the purpose of evangelizing the world, then **our young people's programs should reflect this**. We as leaders should be about the business of **both evangelizing our youth, and recruiting them to take their place in the world church as young evangelists**.



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# 1-INTRODUCTION

If the word Gospel means "Good News," then the evangelist **must be happy about sharing**. To simply speak of the problems of society is not to evangelize. This is journalism. **Evangelism does not deny the sad reality, but it brings back to this sad reality the joy that hope produces in the hearts of those who believe in the "good news" of the Gospel.**



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## 2-SEMINAR OBJECTIVES

This seminar will consider different forms of evangelism and how **to motivate our youth to experiment with them to discover** what their particular best place in mission is.



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# 3-MANY DIFFERENT METHODS

When the writer of Hebrews begins his epistle by talking about the "various ways" through which God has always sought to speak to human beings, he not only describes a form of God's action, but grounds a reality: **in the transmission of the Gospel message, there are diverse ways and means of transmitting the same message.**



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# 3-MANY DIFFERENT METHODS

- Relational or Friendship Evangelism
- Small Groups
- Local Community Service Projects
- Public Proclamation



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# Relational or Friendship Evangelism

- **This is the method that is most often used and with which most people will be more comfortable.** Your youth already have friends. Help them learn to see that when they act in loving ways toward their friends they are doing the work of God.



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# Small Groups

- On a little more formal basis, all youth organizations should also have small groups which get together to sing, study the Bible, pray, and share stories. We have many excellent resources for how to begin and carry on small group ministries.



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# Small Groups

These friends would have already been invited to fun events, outings, or service opportunities the youth group is doing, and which many will enjoy even if they are not yet spiritually awakened.



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# Local Community Service Projects

**The priority area for the ministry of youth is the community.** One of the main needs of young people, one of the main reasons they become bored and restless, is the need to be needed. **The community is a real space, with real people, and real needs.**



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# Local Community Service Projects

Youth must be taught by example that every church has a special responsibility to its community. **The Jerusalem of every young person is the place where he lives, the school where she studies, it is his university, her work environment.**



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# Local Community Service Projects

In the ideals of Youth Ministry, we can clearly perceive this broad and inclusive vision of the Mission, **driven by the "Love of Christ."** The target challenges me to preach the Advent Message to the whole world in my generation. **"Everyone" means EVERYONE.** By committing myself in the Vow to take part in the Youth Ministry of the local church, I am showing interest in my local reality.



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# Local Community Service Projects

In the purpose, I am reminded that **I exist for the youth, the church and my fellow human.** In the Objectives I understand that I exist to **Save from Sin and Guide in Service.** In the Mission statement, I am urged to **"work for the young, fostering fellowship and spiritual motivation, empowering them to serve the church and the community."**



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# Public Proclamation

Here we come to the thing that most people first think of when they hear the word “evangelism.” **It is an important part of our mission to the world**, and some of your young people will be interested and gifted in the ways they need to be to help with public proclamation.



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# Public Proclamation

When members of your youth ministry has already been active in being true friends to those they know, meeting and praying in small groups and inviting others to join in, and doing visible community service that matters, simply because they are in need and it's the right thing to do, **then many more will, in fact, be interested in the public meetings.**



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# 4-TEACH THEM TO APPRECIATE THE DIVERSITY

Every method, every form, every way of evangelizing should be taught in such a way that the young enjoy it. Remember: “Gospel” is something happy for those who speak as well as for those who listen. **Therefore, evangelization must take place in such a context that the youth appreciate.**



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# 4-TEACH THEM TO APPRECIATE THE DIVERSITY

It is especially important that each young person is being carefully led to discover and use his or her own special gifts.



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The discovery of spiritual gifts will help to connect the young to the type of evangelism they are comfortable with.

- **The most effective way for evangelism to happen is for the young person to fulfill his mission in the context of exercising his spiritual gifts.** It is therefore the duty of the youth leader to guide the process of discovering the *Spiritual Gifts* of their youth.



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The discovery of spiritual gifts will help to connect the young to the type of evangelism they are comfortable with.

That is evangelizing. **Happy—it will be more effective. Happy—they will feel more fulfilled. Happy—they will be more creative in finding ways and means to bless their community with the reality of a transforming Gospel.**



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# 5-METHODS

Try it: Instead of you alone wanting to determine the form and manner in which your young people should evangelize, **dialogue** with them about possible ways and means, how they would like to see it done. **Ask** what they like to do. **Challenge** them to think of new ways to do what needs to be done. **Analyze** together the reality of your local community. **Help** them realize every community is different.



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# 5-METHODS

If evangelism is "Good News", what would be the "Good News" in the context of this individual community? The people of the community have already tried the "Bad News" of Satan. We all are victims of sin. **Look for ways to transform the life of the community for the better.**



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# 5-METHODS

**The human being is reactive.** By default, it reacts to the stimuli it receives. **If one is simply criticized in his worldview, he will become defensive (or go on the attack). He will close his heart (and maybe his fist ...).** Now if he feels loved he **will open his heart.** Jesus left the example.



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# 6-ELLEN WHITE ON JESUS' METHODS

**"Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, "Follow Me" (*The Ministry of Healing*, 143).**



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# 7-THE PROPHETIC DUTY OF THE YOUTH

**It is the youth who will finish the work.** The youth leader who is able to instill these mission principles into the hearts of young will not only be fulfilling a leadership role but will be helping the youth fulfill the purpose for which Adventist Youth Ministry exists. **The young have a mission, and this mission is a prophetic duty. *They will finish the job.***



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# 8-CONCLUSION

**It is the leader's responsibility and privilege to cultivate that passion and commitment,** while encouraging increasing levels of participation of each young person in the fulfillment of the mission in a holistic way.



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# 8-CONCLUSION

The world changed. Involvement in common experiences is the most effective way to convey values and make them common. It is the "Test Drive" of the Gospel. **First try it, then want it for yourself. It works.**



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# Be open to change.

Young are the best translation of the reality in which they are inserted. **They are the best thermometer of this reality, and can become an effective thermostat of the reality of a postmodern, relativistic, pluralistic, individualistic, and pragmatic society.** Ellen White said it accurately: **"The Lord appointed the youth to be His helping hand"** (3T, p. 104).



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# 9-ACTIVITIES

In pairs or small groups, discuss the four different evangelism methods outlined here. Which are your youth already involved in? Which do you want to branch out into?



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# 9-ACTIVITIES

Make a list of at least two ways to encourage each of the methods within your youth ministry.



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# 10-RESOURCES

- **While the website below is not specifically targeted to youth, it can very easily be adapted to fit a youth group.**  
<http://www.ifollowdiscipleship.org/index.php?id=98&search=small+group>



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# 10-RESOURCES

- **Do you know what your spiritual gifts are? Visit our website and do the Spiritual Gifts Self-Assessment:**  
<http://youth.adventist.org/Resources/Spiritual-Gifts-Assessment>



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