

SHOW UP

IN THE CITIES

GLOBAL YOUTH DAY

MARCH

16

2024



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Show Up! In The Cities

From its inception in 2013, Global Youth Day (GYD), had at its core salvation, discipleship, and mission. We are still committed to that vision and hope that all the youth and young adults who participate in this outreach will realize that Global Youth Day is not just about what they are doing, but also why they do what they do. This year we are bringing a fresh approach to make Global Youth Day a more mission-focused outreach initiative for young people.



MOTIVATION AND PURPOSE

In Genesis 19:13, God destroyed the two cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, because the people's wickedness had reached unbearable proportions. Only Lot was saved!

God is ready to save city dwellers! Are we ready to be God's messengers who will do acts of kindness and share His Word with those in the cities?

"There is means now tied up that should be used for the unworked cities in Europe, Australia, and America, and in the regions beyond. These cities have been neglected for years. The angels of God are waiting for us to give our labors for their inhabitants. From town to town, from city to city, from country to country, the warning message is to be proclaimed, not with outward display, but in the power of the Spirit, by men of faith." *Evangelism*, p. 428.

There is no doubt in my mind that young people around the world still look forward to Global Youth Day with eager anticipation. Over the years we have observed the great excitement and creativity generated as millions of Adventist young people implement humanitarian projects in their communities. This is appreciated and commendable. However, we believe the time has come to refocus our attention back to GYD as a lifestyle, not an event. Remind ourselves that our ultimate goal is to love God and love others, and not just on one day but every day. According to scientists kindness makes you healthier and happier! They say that kindness changes the brain, impacts the heart and immune system, is healing for depression, and even slows the aging process. WOW! Imagine doing something for someone outside your family and immediate circle, as an ongoing process. We can no longer wait for one Sabbath in March "to be the sermon". Let us "be the sermon" every day and every hour. We call upon the senior youth and the Public Campus Ministries (PCM) students to make GYD a lifestyle—in your communities and on your campuses; in your homes and in your churches. By using this approach March 16, 2024 will become the day to share your reports from around the world. The GC will have a live broadcast to showcase all the community and mission projects from the world field.

150 YEARS OF ADVENTIST MISSION

“On September 15, 1874 John Andrews left New York for Neuchatel, Switzerland as the first official overseas missionary of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He was accompanied by his sixteen-year-old son Charles and twelve-year-old daughter Mary, and a Swiss Sabbath-keeper, Ademar Vuilleumier.”¹ September 15, 2024 will mark the 150th anniversary of Adventist Mission.² To commemorate this 150th anniversary milestone the General Conference Adventist Youth Ministries will refocus our attention to the mission emphasis of GYD.

RECOMMENDED PROJECTS³

The focus for GYD in 2024 will be on the cities. Young people and their leaders are encouraged to prayerfully consider community projects that are practical, relevant, and sustainable for their cities. These are some of the projects that young people could consider: blood drive, health projects (screening etc.), cleaning campaigns, literature distribution, adopting homes (orphanages, old people, hospices etc.), providing skills training for the youth (teach Pathfinder honors and establish Pathfinder Community Clubs), nature conservation projects (planting trees, pollution awareness, etc.), church building maintenance (for Adventist and non-Adventist churches), helping to establish and offer services in Centers of Influence, conduct lifestyle seminars, mental health awareness campaigns, and Youth Alive seminars⁴ (contact your conference and union offices for more information), initiate or support evangelism programs, PCM members can visit university students in the cities (provide study tips, mental health awareness and support, provide them with tips on how to deal with Sabbath related issues⁵), and many more.⁶

¹ Visit this website: <https://adventistreview.tv/programs/mission150> to view/listen to the interesting podcasts on the history of Adventist Mission.

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³ Visit the GC Sabbath School and Personal Ministries website to read about Adventist Community Services (ACS): <https://www.sabbathschoolpersonalministries.org/acs-international>

⁴ Visit the Health Ministries website for information on YA: <https://www.gcyouthministries.org/initiatives/youth-alive/>,

⁵ Visit the GC PARL website for more information on religious liberty: <https://www.adventistliberty.org/>

⁶ Visit this website for information on how to reach the cities: <https://www.missiontothecities.org/>

GC YOUTH MINISTRIES COMMUNITY PROJECTS

We, the staff of the General Conference Youth Ministries Department, take the concept of making GYD a lifestyle seriously. We made a decision, as a department, to actively participate in a sustainable project in our community and so we are distributing “blessing bags” to needy people in our communities (Maryland, USA). Each person donated money (a small amount each payday) to purchase the items that we put in the bags and to fund the November 5 project. We are also planning to offer free showers, haircuts, food, and clothes to the homeless in the Washington DC area on November 5, 2023. We hope that by sharing this information with you it will encourage all the youth departments of the divisions, unions, and conferences to do the same—get together as a department and contribute monies to fund a project, it might be small but it is a start. Don't worry about the big things, start small.

IDEAS FROM AROUND THE WORLD:

Click any of the links below to see activities that are being done by young people around the world:

- [Hong Kong-Macao Conference of Seventh-day Adventists \(HKMCSDA\)](#)
- [GYD activities from West-Central Africa Division](#)
- [South West Ghana Conference](#)
- [Western Nigeria Union Conference of Seventh-Day Adventist Church - WNUC](#)

GYD SUSTAINABLE PROJECT POSSIBILITIES: [ADRA CONNECTIONS](#)



ADRA Connections is ADRA's short-term volunteer program that takes you into the field to put compassion into action and make an impact for communities in need. Service Scholarships offering student volunteers a discount to help pay for their trips might be available!

A FIVE-MONTH PLAN FOR A SUCCESSFUL GYD IN 2024! (OCTOBER-FEBRUARY)

September 2023 (Preparation: Prayer and Planning Month)

1. Unions and Conferences to encourage and help churches identify cities that are not far from most of the youth.
2. Young people should identify community service projects to be implemented in their cities.
3. Let us remember that reaching out to people in the cities requires a different approach.
4. Do area studies to appreciate the size and the scope of work to be done.
5. Where possible, divide the youth in small groups of six for effectiveness. But the nature of the project will determine the size of the group.
6. Contact all the missing/inactive youth and young adults. Invite them to a small group Bible Study series. Visit our website for more tips on doing this.
7. Assign leaders for the small groups: group leader, secretary (to compile reports), spiritual coordinator, media coordinator (permission should be obtained before publishing or sharing any photos and videos) and project coordinator.
8. Youth leaders should visit city authorities to seek permission to do service projects and share their vision.
9. Youth should be ready to start their service projects in October 2023.
10. Churches to designate the last Sabbath of September 2023 as the day of prayer for the youth service projects. Specific community projects should be dedicated to the Lord in prayer.

October to December 2023 (Implementation months)

1. Young people go out into their cities to do specific projects.
2. The last Sabbath of each month should be for giving progress reports in the churches.

3. The secretaries of the local church small groups should compile records of the people they are serving (names, telephone numbers, emails and addresses.)
4. Week of Prayer preparatory Bible Study lessons can begin in October. Visit our website for free downloadable Bible Studies.
5. By November 30, 2023, GYD reports of project process/work done so far should be sent to the unions.
6. In some parts of the world December to January is a long school break. We suggest that the third week of December be dedicated to recruiting young people to participate in Caleb Mission⁷ (a project where youth utilize their vacation time to do community projects and evangelistic programs).
7. The last part of December is normally the time where families spend time together⁸. We recommend that the youth give special consideration to the lonely, the bereaved, the depressed, the sick, the disabled, the homeless and destitute⁹.

January 2024 (Spiritual and Mission Focus month)

1. The global church's Ten Days of Prayer will be on January 10-20, 2024¹⁰. Visit our website to download the 10-day Prayer and Devotional book, Righteousness by Faith by Dennis Smith.
2. We encourage the youth to immerse themselves and the community projects they are doing in prayer.
3. January 2024 should be dedicated to spiritual and evangelistic projects in preparation for Global Youth Day, Week of Prayer, and Homecoming. Homecoming Day is the Sabbath after GYD and the last day of the Youth Week of Prayer. Preparation should include Bible studies, outreach seminars, evangelistic campaigns (Voice of Youth¹¹), and recruiting young people to participate in Caleb Mission or One Year in Mission (OYiM) in 2024¹².

⁷ Visit this website for Caleb Mission resources: <https://www.gcyouthministries.org/initiatives/public-campus-ministries/>

⁸ Visit the GC Family Ministries website for ideas on families: <https://family.adventist.org/>

⁹ Visit the Possibility Ministries website: <https://www.possibilityministries.org/>

¹⁰ Visit this website for the ten days of prayer resources for 2024: <https://www.tendaysofprayer.org/>

¹¹ Get VOY resources here: <https://www.gcyouthministries.org/wp-content/uploads/Voy-Proposal-v10.pdf>

¹² Read more about OYiM and the resources you can use: <https://www.gcyouthministries.org/initiatives/one-year-in-mission/>

February 2024 (Follow-Up month)

1. This is the month to revisit those we have been serving over the past months.
2. Those who were late to do their service projects, can use this month to engage in intensive community work.
3. The unions and conferences should send their reports to the divisions.

March 2024 (Celebration month)

1. GYD will be on March 16, 2024¹³.
2. In the first two weeks of March, we encourage churches to celebrate with the youth what God has accomplished through them.
3. This is the time to invite to church those we have been visiting and providing services to.
4. This special GYD Sabbath could be dedicated to baptisms of young people who have expressed their desire to be baptized because of the intentional ministry of their peers.
5. On March 16, 2024, the GC will be showcasing to the world what young people have been doing for Jesus.
6. On March 16-23, 2024, there will be a global Youth Week of Prayer¹⁴.
7. On March 23rd each church should have a grand Homecoming Celebration to end the Youth Week of Prayer. We are expecting a huge baptism of young people who would have responded positively to the promptings of the Holy Spirit during the meetings.

Christ's method was about taking care of the needs of the people and calling them to follow Him. Let us not be ashamed to call people to follow Jesus!

¹³ Visit: <https://www.gcyouthministries.org/events-and-projects/global-youth-day-gyd/> GYD promo materials were sent out to the divisions.

¹⁴ Youth Week of Prayer Materials will be sent out to the divisions by the end of September 2023.



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