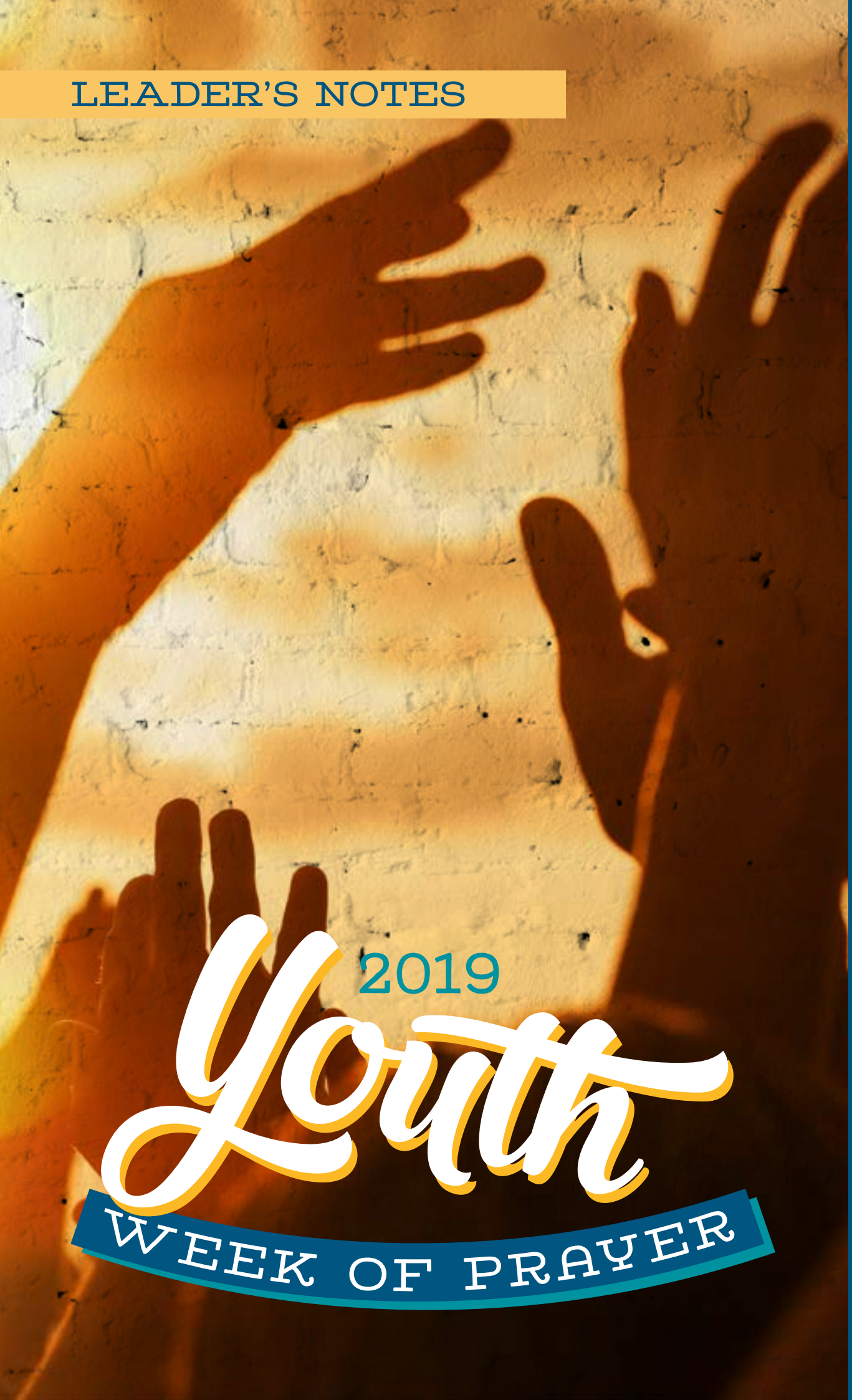
LEADER'S NOTES



2019

Youth

WEEK OF PRAYER

2019 Youth Week of Prayer

TITLE: BACK TO THE BASICS

THEME: ASPECTS OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

LEADER'S NOTES

8 Lessons on Aspects of the Local Church

DAILY SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS INCLUDED.

WRITER: Charles Blythe

EDITOR: Pako Mokgwane

OFFICIAL DATE FOR THE WEEK OF PRAYER IS:

MARCH 16 - 23, 2019

Global Youth Day: March 16, 2019

Homecoming Sabbath: March 23, 2019

General Conference Youth Department

Translation Guidelines

To meet the needs of our youth, youth leaders, and those needing to use our resources, we are offering opportunities to translate from English into other languages. Below are some guidelines to help you produce culturally appropriate translations.

1. Be objective.
2. Please be faithful and accurate to the source text.
3. Translate for meaning (rather than word-for-word), in a culturally sensitive way. Translation should preserve the content and meaning of the original text, with cultural and linguistic adaptations as needed, so that the translated text sounds natural and is easy for the intended readers to understand and use.
4. Do not do literal, word-for-word translation; this can be confusing or misleading. Consider the differences in linguistic structure and complex connections between culture and language.
5. Be culturally sensitive. Cultural adaptation may be needed where necessary.
6. Reproduce the precise contextual meaning of the text and message at all times without omission or distortion. Do not soften, strengthen or alter the messages being conveyed.
7. Do not alter, change, add, or omit texts. Only alter a text with the consent of the GC Youth Ministries Department.
8. All pronouns used for God or Jesus should be capitalized. (E.g. "God Himself is the author and finisher of our faith. He is the beginning, He is the ending.)
9. Do not add to what is written or said, nor provide unsolicited explanation, comments, or make recommendations.
10. Do not show bias towards the intended readers of the translated document.
11. Do not do literal (word-for-word) translation of Bible verses. Use a Bible translation (version) that is closest to the one used in the original source document, and make sure to cite (or reference) it.
12. Do not do literal (word-for-word) translation of Spirit of Prophecy quotations. Take the quote directly from the translated Spirit of Prophecy books referenced in the original document. When citing translated work, please remember to change the page number to the one in the book (in the language you are translating to).

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New King James Version (NKJV)

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If you are using a copy editor to copy edit the translated work, the person name and contact information MUST also be listed.

ABOUT THE WRITER:



Pastor Charles Blythe recently served as a pastor in the Chesapeake Conference in Maryland, United States of America. Prior to living in Maryland he served the Seventh-day Adventist church in Jamaica for 23 years as a district pastor and Youth and Chaplaincy Ministries Director for the Central Jamaica Conference, West Indies Union, and the Jamaica Union Conference.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Religion from Northern Caribbean University, and a Master of Arts Degree in Counselling Psychology from Caribbean Graduate School of Theology in Kingston, Jamaica.

Pastor Blythe is an invested Master Guide. He enjoys camping, swimming, playing scrabble and spending time with his family. He is married to the former Marvalyn Walker. They are the proud parents of two children: Charles Phillip, II and Charlyn Phioniq.

His philosophy is "Quality Preparation for Quality Service". His desire is to see the youth maximizing their God-given potential and committed to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

EDITORIAL BY PAKO MOKGWANE



Pako Edson Mokgwane, MA, pastor and chaplain, serves as an associate director of the Youth Ministries department, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Silver Spring, Maryland, United States. He can be reached at MokgwaneP@gc.adventist.org. Website: youth.adventist.org

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK WITH A SMALL OR LARGE GROUP

1. **Journal Space.** This book is designed to be filled with your thoughts. Use the space provided to record your reactions to the something you may hear in the sermon and the questions at the end of each day. It can also be used to write a prayer request or praise to God. Encourage participants to use it anyway they want. It's their journal! Tell them there are no rules, just guidelines. The important thing is to listen to the Lord and open their heart in response to His leading. Leaders, if you take the time to read the daily readings prayerfully and with the anticipation that God will reveal new things to you, you will be surprised at what will flow through your pen or pencil onto the pages of these journals.
2. **Start a Prayer Journal.** Nothing is greater for your personal spiritual growth than time spent in prayer. Your youth group will grow as you grow. Prayer journalling will help you encounter God in new and exciting ways. You will be able to "track" your walk with God as you go back and review answered prayers and see how He has led you step by step each day. New, fresh ideas will come to mind as you spend time in His presence journalling your prayers. You can find many ideas online on starting and keeping a prayer journal. Just go to www.google.com and type in the words "starting a prayer journal."
3. **Daily Questions.** At the end of each sermon are questions and statements designed to get you thinking form small groups and discuss these questions. Take a moment to really think about what they are asking. Listen to the Holy Spirit as He teaches you through Scripture. Encourage participants to record their thoughts in their journal.
4. **Global Youth Day** is set to launch the official week of the Youth Week of Prayer meetings. Ahead of time, please contact your pastor or conference youth leader to see what projects your church will be involved in on this day, March 16. If you are planning a full day event, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) has an amazing activity, In Their Shoes, that can be done during your afternoon AY program.

   In Their Shoes is an interactive poverty experience that takes teens on a 24-hour journey into the lives of teens from other countries around the world. Through the eyes of this new identity, they will begin to understand the challenges that millions of people in developing countries face every day. You'll discover what ADRA is doing to help and what the Bible has to say about living a life of Christian service.

READ THIS FIRST

Planning for the Week of Prayer

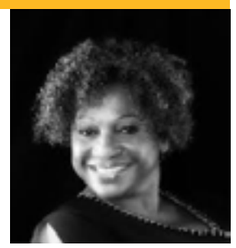
1. **Start Your Planning Now.** We know that leadership sometimes changes at the end of the year, but please, if you will no longer be the AY leader next year, do not let that stop you from planning for this special week. Start your planning, develop your target, get your team together, and make sure your pastor is a part of that team.
2. **Global Youth Day Information.** Get information on the Global Youth Day project. This day will be the launch of the Youth Week of Prayer. Please visit our website, youth.adventist.org, or contact your local youth director to find out how you can participate.
3. **Commit Your Prayer Warriors.** Get a team of adults together who will commit to praying for you and your ministry on a regular basis. Make sure this is a group with whom you can confidentially share both your personal and ministry prayer needs.
4. **Plan a Day of Fasting.** What is a Week of Prayer without prayer and fasting. Please make arrangement to include at least one day of fasting during the week. Our suggestion would the middle of the week, Wednesday. It could begin from the night before (or whenever the last meal is eaten), and carry through until right before the meetings begin. If you are at a church where fasting is not a regular occurrence, then you may want to begin with a 12 hour fast. You would begin the fast 12 hours before your meeting time and break it right before the meeting. For example, if your meeting begins at 7:PM, then the fast would begin at 7AM. There are three main types of fast: Water Fast, where you abstain from all food and juices. Partial Fast, this is when you eliminate certain foods or specific meals. "Juice" Fast, this is when you drink only fruit or vegetable juices during meal times. Please visit our website after February 15th for tips on fasting and how to break your fast. Try to provide some light, healthy refreshment for those who will be breaking the fast at church.
5. **Choose a Theme Song.** Involve your youth choir. If your church does not have a youth choir, this is the perfect time to get one started. Pick out songs that you all like and which fit the topic of each evening, or choose a song for the entire week.
6. **Form a Week of Prayer Development/Review Team.** Depending on the size of your church, this group can be four to eight persons who will go through all eight readings with you. Include on your team only interested and committed young adults and youth ministry leaders (Pathfinder, Sabbath School, etc., your pastor/s); this is important because it gives ownership to the entire group, rather than just you and your assistant. Ask the group to commit to meeting for at least three weeks—at least one week for four lessons, and an extra week to wrap things up. Be sure to identify the goal and direction you want to go, preferably at the first meeting, and choose a young person to speak for each day.
7. **Integrate Global Youth Day (GYD) into Your Week of Prayer Plans.** Ideally, GYD should be a time to teach youth how to sacrificially give of themselves by providing opportunities in the church and the community. If you are a small youth group and do not have the resources to arrange a community-based GYD event, you can use this opportunity to break down denominational barriers in the area by partnering with and pooling resources and ideas with other youth groups from other churches in your area.

ASPECTS OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

1. **Sabbath:** *The Theology of the Church (Ekklesia)*
   how the Bible brings to light the idea of the local church
2. **Sunday:** *The Mission of the Local Church*
   how youth and young adults can be involved in mission.
3. **Monday:** *The Functions of the Local Church of the Body of Christ (Local Church)*
   this is in relation to Spiritual Gifts and how youth can avail themselves for services in the operations of the church.
4. **Tuesday:** *The Stewardship Responsibility of the Youth and Young Adults*
   how youth and young adults can be involved in the finances of the local church. How young adults can have spiritual accountability for the finances that God has blessed them with.
5. **Wednesday:** *The Leadership paradigm of the Local Church*
   explanation of the structure of the local church and how the youth can benefit from being cooperative mentees
6. **Thursday:** *Importance of Worship*
   how to express devotion to God. Unity in diversity!
7. **Friday:** *Adventist Identity*
   what identifies you as an Adventist Youth
8. **Sabbath:** *The Church as a Bride*
   how Youth ought to prepare for the coming of Jesus.

KEEPING IT REAL

by Maria Manderson



Maria Manderson serves as an editorial assistant in the Youth Ministries department, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Silver Spring, Maryland, United States. She can be reached at MandersonM@gc.adventist.org. Website: youth.adventist.org

KEEP FIRST THINGS FIRST

Proclaim, Preserve, and Promote on God's Term

A lot of time when you ask people about the role of the Christian ***Church*** they think of it in terms of New Testament teachings, and the first scripture that comes to mind is Matthew 28:18-20, where Jesus commissions the apostles to proclaim the gospel to all the nations.

But is that all the ***Church*** was called to do?

No, the Bible says the ***Church*** belongs to God and was given the unique mission of proclaiming, protecting, promoting, and preserving the gospel.

Let's look at what the Bible (Old and New Testament) says about the role of the local ***Church***.

Isaiah 12:14	Here we see that God is giving Judah a chance to tell others what the Lord has done to deliver the nation (Israel) from its sin.
Isaiah 45:22	In return, they are supposed to make known to the heathen (unchurched) nations around what God has done for them, and point them to the only true God.
Ezekiel 3:17-19	The local church's responsibility is to deliver the message of salvation to everyone. In this text God commissions Ezekiel to deliver His message and warnings. If we do not preach/deliver the message and fail to warn people they will not have that choice to choose/accept the message, and will die and it will be our fault. It will be on our shoulder.
Ezekiel 38:23	The local Church makes God's greatness known.
Malachi 1:11.	The local Church shares God's greatness with everyone

So, we see that the Old Testament ends with Malachi reminding the people to share God's goodness with everyone. Now, let's look at the role of the local ***Church*** in the New Testament.

Is it different or is it the same?

Matthew 9:35-38.	Jesus points out the importance of prayer in the ministry/mission of reaching the world with the gospel.
Acts 13:47	Christians/***Church*** members are part of God's goal of redeeming the whole world to himself.
2 Timothy 2:15, 4:2 2 Timothy 3:16 Romans 10:10-17	**Proclaiming the gospel** is central to the ***Church's*** mission and it is a necessary part of the process of salvation.
Romans 10:10-17	The local ***Church*** is the light of the world and is a necessary part of the process of salvation. The ***Church*** is here to get people saved.

Matthew 28:19-20 Acts 2:42 Ephesians 4:12 Colossians 1:28	To prepare members for the work of service so that the ***Church*** can be built up. Our regular services should be primarily aimed at teaching and ministering to the members *"to equip His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. Eph. 4:12"*
Galatians 2:1-10 1 Timothy 1:3-4; 3:15; Titus 1:9 2 Timothy 1:13	**Preserve the gospel.** Paul refers to the ***Church*** as a stalwart and cornerstone of the truth. One of its duties is to preserve the truth of Jesus. The ***Church*** must faithfully deliver the gospel, disprove false teaching, and maintain doctrinal and moral purity among its members.
Ephesians 3:10	
1 Cor. 12:12-26	Live the gospel and Promote the gospel. Paul says that through the ***Church*** God makes known his wisdom to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. Through the holy lives of its members and its unity-in-diversity, the ***Church*** is called to be a kaleidoscope of the gospel it preaches.
Acts 13:47	Christians are part of God's goal of redeeming the whole world to himself.

The commission to be a missionary was given to every individual Christian, but in another sense, it was given primarily to the local churches. Sure, it is good that the ***Church*** fulfils our social needs (find friends, network) and social deeds (help the homeless, donate blood, participate in food drives, etc.), but if we fail in following God's command to proclaim, defend, preserve, and promote the gospel; as well as disciple and retain believers, then we have failed in our Christian mission.

Prayer, according to the Bible, is the number one priority in reaching people and pointing them towards salvation.

In a nutshell, the Church belongs to God and must operate on His terms.

1. **There are two things that the local church should always be operating as: a soul-winning station for the unsaved, and a soul-building station for the members. We reach (the unsaved) and we teach (the saved).**

2. **If we are reading the Bible, verse by verse, and book by book, we will be eating the kind of spiritual food that will nurture and strengthen us to be good followers of Jesus. We will become indoctrinated with the plans of God for our lives and the Church.**

3. **Did you know that if you read the complete 5-year Revival and Reformation Morning Watch series that's available on our website you would have read the entire Bible? Yes, in five years, a little at a time, and you can read through the entire Bible. That is nourishment for the soul. Visit the following link to download the Morning Watch: https://youth.adventist.org/Resources/Bible-Readings.**