



Sabbath, March 19, 2016

## PHILOSOPHY

With the support of GC Administration, the 13 Division youth directors, MENA Union and the Israel field, “Global Youth Day” was launched on March 13, 2013. The vision of GYD is to recapture the reality of Adventist youth as a global movement mobilized for service, contributing to the proclamation of the everlasting gospel and ushering in the second coming of Jesus Christ.

## BIBLICAL FOUNDATION

The philosophy of GYD is grounded in one of Jesus’s most well-known parables, namely the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10. A priest and a Levite, two religious leaders on their way to the synagogue, indifferently pass by a beaten up man who has been left for dead by the side of the road. In fact, they purposefully change course in order to cross to the other side of the road, positioning themselves as far as they could from the victim of a harsh and cruel world. They were so busy “going to church” that they had desire to make time for a fellow human being with dire needs.

The irony of the parable is that the third passerby, a so-called “irreligious” Samaritan, was the one who had mercy on the stranger. He saw him, he was touched, he drew close to him, and he bandaged his wounds. He then put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him until he was completely healed. Jesus was telling this story in response to the “million dollar” question, “What must I do to be saved?” that a bunch of Pharisees posed to Him. Jesus taught them that the lives of the saved would be built on the foundation of love for God and love for neighbor. The Pharisees wanted to know who could be considered their neighbor, hence the story.

Jesus is teaching us that there is a lot more to religious faith than simply going to church and listening to sermons. The true practice of religion involves the revelation of God’s love in living out Jesus’s gospel commission as He bade us to before He ascended to heaven: through all manners of selfless acts that point a desperately needy world to the ultimate hope of the better world He has made possible for us. Grounded in the concluding words of Jesus in the parable of the Good Samaritan, “Go and do likewise” (Luke 10:25-37), the theme of the Global Youth Day is “Be the sermon.”

## “BE THE SERMON”

## WHAT IS GYD?

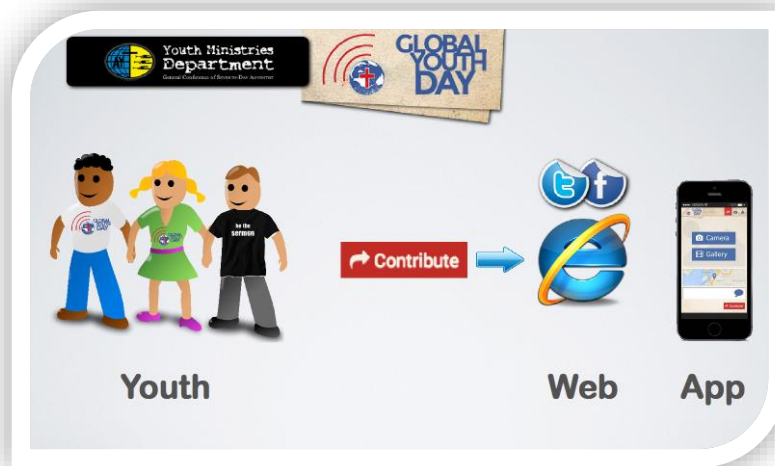
GYD is a Sabbath when Adventist youth around the world are challenged to “**Be the Sermon**” for one weekend out of 52, rather than hearing another sermon like any other weekend. Eight million Adventist youths are mobilized on the streets of our villages, towns, and cities around the world to be a living, breathing sermon communicated through purposeful acts of service. The ultimate intention of GYD is not to create a yearly holiday set aside for community outreach; our real dream is for GYD to be a springboard to service as a way of life. Leaders are encouraged to choose projects that have the potential to be a sustainable form of activism throughout the rest of the year.

## THE OBJECTIVES OF GYD

1. Recapture the reality of the Seventh-day Adventist youth as a global movement;
2. Lead our youth to rediscover the sense of belonging to that global movement;
3. Reposition Mission at the heart of global youth ministry;
4. Embrace service as a way of life.

## GYD AND SPIRITUALITY

GYD is scheduled on the first Sabbath of the dates for Youth Week of Prayer in most parts of the world. Choosing to coincide the dates is intentional, to recall the necessity for our practice of what we preach. It is our hope that all GYD participants globally will engage in the Week of Prayer, thus rooting the movement in the solid foundation of the Word of God. On GYD, the sense of a global community is created as young people report their acts of kindness by posting their “love in action” on the GYD Facebook page or through the GYD app to the GYD homepage; their stories are told to the rest of the world via a 24-hour live television broadcast, as well as streaming online.



## GYD – WEEK OF PRAYER – HOMECOMING SABBATH

GYD marks the beginning of the Week of Prayer; on that first Sabbath, the army leaves the barracks; the church leaves the building to be the foot soldiers on the ground reaching a world in need as part of Christ’s mission on earth. Homecoming Sabbath marks the end of the Week of Prayer, when we reach out particularly to our friends who used to fellowship and worship with us and who have disengaged. It is a Sabbath of celebration, a day of rejoicing as we offer our community to these individuals as a safe place where it feels good to be home.

## PROPHETIC COUNSEL

*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." (Ministry of Healing, p. 143)*

*It is no violation of the Sabbath to perform works of necessity, as ministering to the sick or aged, and relieving distress. Such works are in perfect harmony with the Sabbath law. Our great Exemplar was ever active upon the*

*Sabbath, when the necessities of the sick and suffering came before Him. The Pharisees, because of this, accused Him of Sabbath breaking, as do many ministers today who are in opposition to the law of God. But we say, "Let God be true, and every man a liar who dares make this charge against the Savior." (BLJ 152.2)*

## **STRATEGY FOR GYD**

On Sabbath, March 19, 2016, youth will hear one less sermon, but THEY will be the sermon. They will step out of the building to be the Church reaching out in Jesus's name.

### **There will be six elements to Global Youth Day:**

1. Young people from local churches, regions, or Conferences/Missions will meet for a time of consecration before spending the better part of the Sabbath reaching out in local communities.
2. They will be involved in acts of service that respect the Sabbath and that will have been chosen and planned for in advance.
3. Young people around the world are encouraged to donate blood, as the symbol of the ultimate life-saving act of compassion.
4. To complete the day's activities, young people will congregate in their local churches, regions, or Conferences/Missions for a time of worship and sharing of experiences to mark the beginning of the Week of Prayer.
5. The youth will be connected through the internet and live coverage as stories light up the world via an uninterrupted chain of activity that moves from one time zone to the next.
6. Each church group's initiative to create a specially designed T-shirt for GYD will provide identification and solidarity with the global initiative.

Global Youth Day is an annual event that will reposition youth at the center of the Church's life and Mission. As we all join hands to show the world God's love, Global Youth Day has the potential of being the dawn of youth ministry's finest hour.

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