



January 6, 2010

Dear Friends,

The Center for Youth Evangelism (CYE) launched the annual 180th Symposium as a gathering point for free thinking dialogue on matters critical to youth and young adult ministry. Intentionally inviting participants from within the Church structure, our expectation is that we will create smart networks advocating and seeking solutions. Ultimately our desire is that appropriate change will take place. That our Church's inquisitive and searching nature for present truth will lead us into new grounds for the sake of the Gospel. That as we deepen our theological reflection, we will engage the culture and follow our higher calling to ministry.

To that end, last October at our second gathering, we addressed the rising crisis in public campus ministry. Under the theme "Reach the Campus, Reach the World" we brought professionals proposing solutions in the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors of education. Conservative statistics indicate that more than 70% of our Adventist youth and young adults in North America alone are currently on public campuses. That statistic only accelerates upwards at alarming rates in other divisions.

Our research and report, edited by Steve Case, will be published by Advent Source in February and serve as a tangible resource for those passionate about reaching the throngs of youth and young adults desperately seeking authentic community. David Kinnaman in his acclaimed research and publication "Un Christian" suggests on page 208 that like Jesus, it is through relationships that we are able to move people from Un Christian to Christian. There lies deep within youth and young adults a desire to find authentic community. We believe and teach that authentic community is in Christ and His Church, that the kingdom of God must be lived here and forever more. As a result our ultimate desire is that our Church consider the following concepts:

1. That each division where possible assign one full time coordinator to work directly with Unions and Conferences supporting and establishing efforts on every campus.
2. That we consider switching the name of the ministry from "Public Campus Ministry" to simply "Campus Ministry".
3. That we encourage local Churches to claim whatever educational institution that is on their doorstep as the field to work in. That using the principles similar to those in the "Church of Refuge" ministry from CYE, and they embrace the hub of their community and serve as an active resource to the education and leadership development of the current and next generation.

Yours truly,

Japhet De Oliveira
Director, 180th Symposium