Rolle’s Role
Meet the new Youth Ministries Director for the Central States Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

FaithBook
Exercising your Faith on Social Media

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Central States Conference Youth Ministries
The Simple Life
As believers of the gospel, we are encouraged to live the simple life. The Bible is filled with stories of individuals who chose the simple life over material excess. Throughout our history, Seventh-day Adventists have promoted a simple lifestyle. As other Christians are taking a new look at the simple life, it becomes even more crucial for Seventh-day Adventists to rediscover its principles. But the simple life is hard to define. I define it as getting “Back2Basics.” Here are things for us to keep in mind...

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Based in Atlanta, Georgia, Higher Ground Artist Management Group specializes in building and maintaining careers of Christian artists. We are now accepting applications for the 2012 Summer/Fall time. You can go to our website to fill out the first part of the application: www.highergroundmanagementgroup.com or call 256-797-4134.
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Before the explosion of the Internet, it really meant something to have published work. Even having your name published somewhere was a big deal. Being published was a big deal because it gave someone an opportunity to tell the world their point of view. Nowadays, it’s so easy to be published that people have to try hard not to see someone’s point of view. We live in a world where technology allows our thoughts, pictures, and stories to be shared instantly; with everyone and anywhere. All things considered, if Christians are bestowed with the honor of the Great Commission, is social media the best way to do so?
The Almighty Facebook

If you don’t have a Facebook profile yet, consider yourself in the minority. As of April 2012, Facebook has over 900 million active users. The main purpose of this social network is to connect with other people.

Unfortunately, most use the website to post hundreds of self-portraits and exercise their voyeuristic side.

Occasionally, there are the rare status updates that include a biblical thought. However, if a quick search through that person’s pictures and past statuses dispels the shroud of Godliness, then what’s the point? On the other hand, one too many religious updates may turn people away because it looks like you’re trying too hard.

The key to displaying your faith through Facebook is balance. When people stumble upon your profile, there should be some sort of identifier of your faith other than your religious views. They should be able to see that your status updates, pictures, and even friends represent what it means to be a Christian.

A Tweet with Twitter

Twitter is a service that allows you, in 140 characters or less to instantly share your thoughts. For example, if you received a big tax refund, you can instantly tweet about how happy you are. Other people can comment on your tweets and even quote you on their own twitter accounts. Well, they say that no good deed goes unpunished, and in the case of Twitter, it’s absolutely true.

There are essentially three parts of your mental psyche; the id, ego, and super ego. In tweet form:

• *Id*; always wants instant gratification

• *Ego*; the balance between the id and super ego

• *Super ego*; always wants perfection

Twitter allows you to share the first thing that comes to your mind in that moment. So if you’re an avid user of Twitter, then you are reinforcing the id (instant gratification) while suppressing the ego, and super ego. Often times, the first things out of our mouths aren’t necessarily the smartest things. In my case, sometimes the fifth and sixth things I think of shouldn’t be said. In any case, there are over 125 Bible verses that warn us about the power of words, but my favorite comes from Proverbs 29:20, “Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.”

I’ve seen malicious tweets start over the simplest of thoughts said at the wrong time. And don’t even get me started on the creation of twit pics, right?

Twitter isn’t all that bad, though. There are some who use it and haven’t gotten into any trouble and there are also those who use it to share their faith. By using a hashtag (#) at the end of your tweets, this can connect your thoughts to a group of thoughts using the same hashtag. For instance; if you tweet “Church is bomb today! #mtrubi” then anyone using that hashtag can add their thoughts to yours. I’ve seen hashtags grouping thoughts about Jesus, the church, and other social/spiritual issues that have connected Christians and those who are curious. This is when Twitter is at its finest; when it creates an atmosphere of learning.
Good Ol’ Blogging

In its traditional sense, blogging isn’t the same anymore. We’ve gone from lengthy posts exceeding hundreds of words to a couple of words and a picture. Thankfully, the message hasn’t been lost. Through sites like YouTube, Instagram, and Blogger, people are finding more and more ways to express themselves virally. Sites like these give you the option of subscribing to that specific person. As long as that person keeps doing and saying things that people like, that blogger will have many subscribers. Just look at the natural hair movement happening all across YouTube.

Seemingly overnight, black women threw out their relaxers and sent hair moguls scrambling to figure out why they suddenly were losing customers by thousands. The answer; black women were tired of the chemicals. The most prominent of them all is Kim Love, better known as “kimmay,” who has over 2 million subscribers. With the world at her feet, Love turned her hard work into an opportunity by creating her own natural hair care line, LUV Naturals, of which she is the founder and CEO.

Love’s success can be traced back to the simple fact that she tells the truth about black hair. That’s it. She may dress it up a little for media purposes, but she’s only telling the truth. Nothing more, nothing less. The Bible is already the ultimate source of truth, how much more should a Christian be able to do with that?

In Closing

Social media is probably one of the best ways to help spread any message quickly, including the Great Commission. However, the better question is; are Christians sending the right message? Anyone can tell you how awesome God is, but if our actions don’t mirror His standards, then we are misrepresenting our faith and essentially taking God’s name in vain. At the end of the day, the sum of your social media will define who you are. Don’t get caught up with the frivolous status updates and tweets. Let’s be less like them, and more like Him.

Sources:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Facebook
http://www.facebookdetox.com/
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twitter

125+ Bible verses http://www.openbible.info/topics/power_of_words
http://www.youtube.com/user/kimmaytube
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Rolle’s Role

Being a youth minister is no small task.

It requires both the “easier-than-it-looks” skills of preaching, teaching and planning (just to name a few), and the innate, inborn, sort of natural knack for connecting with young people (ages 13-35). It requires a passion that no Conference President can give you. It requires a creativity that no book can teach you. It requires strength of a mind and character that only God can produce in you. Youth ministry is a calling you’re born with. And this is definitely the case for Pastor Donald Rolle. We managed to catch up with the very busy Harlem native and talk about his views on ministry, how he came to this point in his life and his role as the new Youth Ministries Director for the Central States Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.
For Pastor Rolle, youth ministry all about saving young people and empowering them for the work of Christ.

For Pastor Rolle, youth ministry all about saving young people and empowering them for the work of Christ. From the way he talks about ministry, you would think that pastoring was all Rolle ever wanted to do; however, young Donald had some unsuspecting aspirations. At first he wanted to be a veterinarian, but then his aspirations changed to marine biologist. Sensing my failure to see the connection, he explained his childhood dream of having an urban nature show. “I wanted to be the Jack Hanna of the ‘hood like the Crocodile Hunter, [Steve Irwin], but based in the city,” he offered with a slight chuckle. “Hanna in the ‘hood” may seem strange, but Pastor Rolle explains a little later, “I’ve always wanted to reach people with something different – something they may not have known was so close to them - right in their backyard.” So while a veterinarian, marine biologist and animal expert are a far cry from a youth pastor, that desire to “reach people with something different” is a perfect fit for youth ministry.

Now if you’ve never met Pastor Rolle, the first thing you should know is that he genuinely loves God and people. This has always been true of Donald who grew up as the oldest of 3 boys. He was used to being around people and thrived in group settings, especially during his time at Oakwood College (now University). He was used to being surrounded by people and had a higher level of comfort with doing certain things as a group. So, when he answered God’s call not only to ministry but to a life of true Christ-likeness, it was only natural for Donald to expect his group of friends to join him.
While they were very supportive of his new journey in Christ, most of his friends were not in the same place. Some of his friends were just not ready to make that kind of commitment. Some wanted to take that stand but could not do it the way God was calling Donald to do it. This could not be a group effort. He had to go it alone. It was then that he learned one the toughest lessons of his young Christian life – the lesson of loneliness. It wasn’t that his friends didn’t care or didn’t want to be there for him, it was that they could not. No one could take his journey but him. It was God’s design for Rolle to have this experience, and it was in this experience that God forged the framework of the man known today as Pastor Rolle.

As he recalls his lonely time, his tone becomes more melancholy and reflective. “I wanted to bring everybody with me, you know? But you can’t make anyone take your journey with you. I mean, it’s your journey.” It was beginning to sound like he wasn’t just talking about his own experience anymore, so I prodded, “Do you think this is a universal part of the Christian experience?” His response was a decided and definitive, “Oh absolutely. There are [necessary] things God does during that time.” He went on to explain how many young people today are in a similar place to where he was then.

That’s part of what makes him so great at connecting with young people. He remembers what it was like when he was in their shoes and acknowledges the unique challenges and opportunities that confront the average young person in today’s society. This empathy with the youth experience drives his passion for young people. When I say he’s passionate, I mean he is ON FIRE for young people! Just talking to him got me fired up about what he calls “experimental ministry.” Experimental ministry, simply put, is trying things we haven’t done before, trying to exhaust every possible avenue for ministry. His logic is, “No one can say something new doesn’t work because no one has tried it before. Our young people have what it takes.” His confidence in the youth is astronomical and with good reason. “They have the ideas, they have the creativity, and they have the energy to get the job done. I want young people to be bold for Christ, you know? I want them to feel comfortable just sharing Christ with anybody,” Rolle says. His leadership as Youth Director will definitely reflect his desire to empower young people. Rolle says, “As far as leadership, my job is to support the people who support the youth and youth [based] ministries.” In other words, I want to help individuals and ministries targeted at youth as much as I can, and I want to do it as best as I can.”

Pastor Donald Rolle is indeed fit for his task as Youth Director of Central States Conference, a job that means a great deal to him. But what is even more important to him is his family? “The highlight of my day is waking up to my wife [of eight years] and my [two-year-old] son.
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Contributors

Back2Basics is always looking for young people who are interested in informing and inspiring their peers. B2B Mag is a forum for you to express yourself.

www.back2basicsmag.com

Tanya Loveday

Tanya Loveday is a graduate of Oakwood University where she studied music and ministry. The Brooklyn native has always had a deep love for ministry, music and the arts. Though known more for her music ministry, Tanya’s writing is yet another way she uses her art for the purpose of ministry. This up and coming writer likes taking readers on a journey to fresh perspectives and innovative thought. Her desire is to use every gift she’s been given to lift up the name of Jesus and point others to Him.

David Robinson

David Robinson holds a BA in Communications with an emphasis in writing, and a Minor in English. He is a columnist for Guide magazine and volunteers as the men’s varsity assistant basketball coach at Spencerville Adventist Academy.

Glenn C. Burgess II

As a photographer, I fearlessly document seemingly ordinary life in my own unique way. Making what was once a scene or story retold, into a refreshing spring of creative development. I realize everyone has their own uniquely interesting personality, lifestyle, and self concept that if captured, would essentially challenge and promote each of us to simply be ourselves.
What does the word "success" mean to you?
Success to me means reaching the goals God has set for you.

What is one of your favorite quotes?
You can not impress the world with the world.
- Nehemiah Mabry

What motivates you?
Seeing others not giving up and working toward their goals

What is your number one priority?
My number one priority is to not go insane!!

If you had an extra hour every day what would you do with it?
SLEEP!

What area did you obtain your most recent degree in?
Social Work

How has your education prepared you for your career?
Social work has taught me patience, how to work with people, and endurance to write never ending notes/data.

What would you name the autobiography of your life?
Chaney Chronicles- Im really crazy!!!
Having grown up deprived of the luxury of affording latest fashions, video gaming systems and modern trends, I was forced to make the most of the few things I did have. It wasn’t until adulthood that I realized my depravities would fuel my creativity. As a teen, I would challenge things in life we are conditioned to only see in only one way. As a photographer, I fearlessly document seemingly ordinary life in my own unique way. Making what was once a scene or story retold, into a refreshing spring of creative development. I realize everyone has their own uniquely interesting personality, lifestyle, and self concept that if captured, would essentially challenge and promote each of us to simply be ourselves.

My work displays an everlasting desire to improve on yesterday’s successes. My goal is to make people aware of the beauty they possess, and in all others around them. To promote Christ in an extraordinary fashion unique to our generation, and to grow in His will. As Noah was criticized for building a boat in the middle of the desert, but still persevered relentlessly, so too will I hold steadfast to my own creative conviction. To challenge people to alter their perspectives, and realize that things may not always appear as they seem, and at times the most monotonous tasks in life are full of creative beauty, while some of the most glamorous things in life are not always as breathtaking as they seem.

Perspective is the transformation that will take place in my audience as they experience my work. To be bold in the unique creative perspective each person is given is key! So the question remains….what do you see?
JASMINE SWAIN

Three weeks ago my dad had a heart attack.

He was home alone when it began. He made his way outside. Hoping someone was around, he called for help. It just so happened that my cousin was remodeling my aunt’s bathroom when he heard a cry for help. He rushed my dad to the hospital. The doctor looked at him and said he has to go to Birmingham, Alabama to have open heart surgery. We, his family, were heart broken, however, we knew God’s will will be done. He was in high spirits. He said God gave him peace right before he went back to surgery. I can truly say God is awesome! My dad is doing great. Not only did God answer our prayers, but He put a smile on this girl’s face because she has her daddy and her best friend again. Thank you Jesus! You never know how short life is so hug more, pray more, love more, cry less and show others the life that Christ has given us time and time again. It may sound or look hopeless, but when it’s all done, if we give it to God, the end result is great!

We'd love to hear from you on the 'Testimonials' page on the website - http://back2basicsmag.com/index.php/testimonials.

You could be featured in the next issue!