Message to Young Women Aspiring for Ministry

Some will argue that the last five years have been the most interesting in the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church because of the "Women's Ordination" debate.

I have purposely abstained from the discussion. This is my first public comment about the issue, as I attempt to share a positive message with young girls who already feel called and dream about ministry as a profession.

Thousands of dollars' worth of precious resources and time were spent setting up committees, writing papers, advertising, and debating Scriptural support "for" or "against" the ordination of women. Many people found themselves "un-friended" on Facebook due to their position on this issue. Others got much-needed attention and financial support for their independent ministries.

As an "ordained" minister in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, I was totally embarrassed by the debates, the process, and the motion presented for vote during the 2015 General Conference Session in San Antonio, TX. I honestly did not expect anything to change--and I thought that was unfortunate. More importantly, I am convinced that we have entirely over-played the whole concept of "ordination!"

Please permit me to share part of my own journey to this point. My father prayed for a son who he could dedicate to God for ministry. Fortunately or unfortunately, they got me. My seven sisters would've said it was unfortunate! During my early years, all I ever heard was "he's going to be a preacher." I was always asked to be the preacher when we played "house" in the neighborhood. Truth be told, I wanted to be the daddy, because then you got to kiss whoever was momma! But during the summer breaks, I "preached" every day as a child. Although I did not agree with my father's certainty, I went along with the game.

It was not until I arrived at Oakwood College (now Oakwood University) in the fall of 1976 that I was convicted and accepted the call to ministry. At that time I embraced two Scriptures: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations." (Jeremiah 1:5)

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent me to heal the broken hearted..." (Isaiah 61:1-3)

The latter passage in particular became my mission. Whether I was employed by a conference or not, I had no doubt what I was placed on earth to do.
In 1983, I was hired by Southwest Region Conference and assigned to Baton Rouge, LA. After three years of service I was sent to the seminary. Following seminary I was sent to the Lubbock/Amarillo, TX district. After three more years, I was told that I would be “ordained.” The ordination interview was interesting, given some of the questions, but we managed to get through it. My ordination date was June 9, 1990. It was an awesome day; my family and friends from Savannah came to Lone Star Camp in Athens, TX to support my ordination to the gospel ministry.

I appreciated dressing up for the occasion, the special program, the prayers and the laying on of hands, but something was missing. I never received what I expected. Nothing really happened between God and me. I was expecting to feel something different than I felt when I was “called” to ministry. Finally, I realized that I was looking for something that had taken place sixteen years earlier. My true ordination came from God. What the denomination added was only a confirmation.

It is imperative that we do not get our focus twisted. The real questions should be “Who is called to do God's work?” and “How will we support them?” Instead, we have made it our business to say that, regardless of God's calling, certain ones will NOT be chosen for ordination. Lord Jesus help us!

My message to young ladies: “PLEASE DON'T LET YOUR FOCUS BE TWISTED. PLEASE DON'T GET DISTRACTED BY A VOTE.” Embrace your ordination in Jeremiah 1:5 and embrace your mission in Isaiah 61:1-3. Then preach “in season and out of season” like you have lost your mind! Share the love of Jesus like you mean it, proclaim His second coming like you believe it, become a champion for the underdog and turn this world upside down for real!

Don't let what anyone thinks of you determine your ministerial destiny. You may be studying theology; you may be a graduate looking for a job. You may have been “played” in an interview, or given empty promises. You may feel like it is not worth the fight, and be tempted to let go of your dream. I encourage you TODAY in the name of the Father, in the name of the Son, and in the name of the Holy Spirit to stand your ground. Be the woman of God He ordained you to be while you were in your mother's womb. Don't let a vote stop you, don't let an opinion hinder you, don't let stereotypes label you, don't let male chauvinism intimidate you. More importantly, don't let the little devil punk you out of your calling! What God has prepared for you is more than what any vote can provide.

Know your PURPOSE, be more DETERMINED than ever, and remain as FOCUSED as a lion on her prey. And I promise that one day you will hear the words of Jesus at His General Conference Session: “Well done, you good and faithful servant…” (Matthew 25:21).

As our female youth accept God's call and prepare for the gospel ministry, the church should be determined to help and support them. Please assist us in identifying all those who God has called, and mentoring them while they are young. Reach out to that dedicated young woman in your church today and share Joshua 1:9: “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

Blessings

Pastor JB
North American Division
Youth & Young Adult Ministries Director

Prayers
West Coast Wildfires
The west coast, especially California, is experiencing an extreme fire season. Please pray for those affected by this ongoing natural disaster. We praise God that recent Facebook videos show that one church, in Middletown CA, miraculously survived the Valley fire although all the area around the church and school was scorched. View Video

Praise: Union College Student Walked Out of Hospital...
We have prayed for Heather Boulais, the young gymnast from Union College for months. Union College, along with local news channels reported September 12th that she was able to walk out of the hospital last week -- a long-prayed for miracle. While here journey has many more steps, we praise God for his leading this far in her journey. Read More...

Conference Leadership

JCI5 World Changers
Spirit growth and development is a major part of ministries to young people and encouraging them to have their own relationship with Jesus. The JCI experience has helped thousands of youth and young adults get to know Jesus in a personal way and see the bigger part of the church. We hope and pray that leaders are encouraging churches to support this division wide youth prayer movement by bring their youth to the national conference or planning a JCI for your local church. The early bird registration is open now so don't miss out!

View / Download Promotional Video (password: jci)

More Information | Promotional Materials | School Excuse Letter
Register Now!

Announcements / Highlights / Reports

Pastor JB's Travel Schedule
September 21-22 JCI Planning Committee, Arizona Conference Office, Scottsdale, AZ
October 2-3 2Pray JCI Local – Church in the Valley, Vancouver, British Columbia
October 10 2Pray JCI Local – Lake Nelson Church School, Piscataway, New Jersey
November 7 2Pray JCI Local – West Houston Church, Houston, TX
November 12 Columbia Union Youth Advisory – Columbia, MD
November 16-17 Southern Union Youth Advisory – Miramar Beach, FL
December 1-2 Assoc. of Adventist Camp Professionals (AACP) Board – Camp Yava Pines, Prescott, AZ
December 3-6 AACP Convention – Camp Yava Pines, Prescott, AZ
December 6-9 PELC – Pastors Evangelism Leadership Conference – Huntsville, AL
December 10-13 NAD Admin/Directors Retreat – Farmington, PA
December 16-22 Tonga Youth Congress – Tonga

Pastor Armando Miranda's Travel Schedule
Sept. 21, 22 JCI Planning session - Phoenix, AZ
Sept. 24-27 Ontario Conference "Amp Leadership Training" - Niagara Falls, Canada
October 2-4 Northern California Conference PF Camporee
October 13, 14 CIC 2019 Meeting - Chicago, IL
October 23-25 Adventurer Campout - Mt. Aetna, Hagerstown, MD
Oct. 29 - Nov. 4 Year End Meetings - North American Division - Silver Spring Maryland

Pastor Tracy Wood's Travel Schedule
Oct. 9-11 ACF Catalyst, Seattle, WA
Oct. 19-21 GC Public Campus Ministries Global Strategy Planning, GC Office
Oct. 29-Nov. 4 NAD Year End Meetings, NAD Office
Nov. 11-24 Vacation/Holiday
Camp (website)

Upcoming Dates
ACP Convention December 2 – 6, 2015 Camp Yavapines – Prescott, AZ
CCCA Convention December 7 – 10, 2015 Arizona Grand Resort & Spa – Phoenix

New Summer Camp Nature Resource
A new nature site is up on Facebook which is composed of current and former SDA nature center staff, elementary teachers, college professors, and students. The mission of the group is to provide a spiritual platform from which nature enthusiasts may share their love for nature and teaching it in a safe and Christian environment. Their goal is to provide a place where young, old and everyone in between may learn the art and skill of teaching nature and benefit from each others’ prayers and counsels.

To check this site out, go to Facebook and type in “Summer Camp Nature Center Resource”.
Source: Camp Ministries’ September EXTRA E-News 2015

Want More from the AACP Newsletter?
If you enjoyed the Camp articles, sign up for the AACP Monthly E-News. Contact terry@leominemeadows.org.

ACF (website)

Campus Catalyst
Campus Catalyst is a weekend introduction to public campus ministry that includes the Ten Essentials for launching, growing and sustaining campus ministry, The Journey Bible Study: A Fresh Look At the Mission and Message Of Jesus For Seekers, And The Power Of One Student inspirational message. The weekend begins on Friday evening and concludes Sunday morning. It includes a campus ministry kit with Campus Catalyst manual, Quick Start Guide for launching a ministry on your campus, The Word On Campus: A Guide To Public College Ministry, Serendipity Bible filled with great small group resources for campus Bible studies, pen, note pad, 8 GB thumb drive filled with great campus ministry resources and a Campus Catalyst T-shirt.

Here’s what some have shared about Campus Catalyst:
...The catalyst was a HUGE success and is already starting to have an impact on the students here. I am praying their “fire” stays strong despite the semester coming to a close. And I'm excited to see what next semester brings! EM (Student)

...Thanks for all your support, flexibility and passion for our Hawaii collegiates & young adults. We have a network forming of passionate, inspired disciples. I can't wait to see what happens when they are united in mission and empowered to reach other young adults for Jesus. Watch out! JS (Conference Youth Director)

...Thanks again for the outstanding training event! Our students are on fire for their campus and have a much larger campus ministry vision after attending CC. GB (Conference Youth Director)

2015 Scheduled Campus Catalyst Training:
February 13 - 24, Brisbane Australia
April 11 - 13, Chicago, IL
May 1-3, British Columbia
September 25 - 27, Alberta, Canada
October 9 - 11, Seattle, WA
October 23 - 25, Miami, FL
November 6-8, Southern, CA
November 13 - 15, Madison, WI

The 2015 Campus Catalyst calendar is already full. We are now scheduling CC events for 2016. To reserve a date contact us at Campus Catalyst.

ACF Today Monthly Newsletter
We can't list all the resources you would receive on a monthly basis if you took the 20 seconds to sign up! Even YOU can take 20 seconds! Sign Up Now!
Young Adult Life (website)

Young Adult Filmmaker Turns Bible Prophecy into Youtube “Hit”!
Hip, fast-paced “Leopard Vision” about Revelation 13 has 156,000 views and counting
Read More...

YAL Convention 2016
February 17-20, 2016

LOCATION
Radisson Hotel Ontario Airport, 2200 E Holt Blvd, Ontario, CA 91761

ATTENDANCE
All young adults – Post high school and at least 18 years of age.
All young adult ministry leaders, pastors, conference union, and division leaders
Because this convention is focused on young adult leadership development there is no programming planned for younger children.

THEME, PURPOSE, GOAL
The theme – “We Are Listening” is an experiential interactive community where young adults and older generation leaders come together to have a conversation where they intentionally hear each other.
The purpose – of this “We Are Listening” Young Adult LIFE Convention is to gather young adults from around the division who are seeking to grow in their relationship and service for Jesus.
The goal – Learning and culture transformation happens when older generation leaders understand younger generation issues both learn from each other how to live and do ministry together.

EXPECTATIONS
Those serving in leadership roles whether in churches, schools, conferences, or unions will be encouraged in their leadership development journey.
Those who attend will expand their leadership networks by making new life-long friends.
They will enlarge their ministry capabilities by rubbing shoulders with other young adult leaders.
They will develop their leadership potential and opportunities by connecting with ministry mentors.
And best of all, they will experience Jesus-focused authentic worship together!

INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS
The workshops that will be offered are not the traditional style of classroom lectures – thus they are not called “classes” but rather “interactive workshops.”
It is intended that these workshops will not be filled with downloadable handouts and information. Those can be downloaded online or learned from a static webinar.
Rather the interactive workshops will be relationship-building experiences that lead to networking and peer mentoring relationships.

GUESTS
The Guest Speakers for “We Are Listening” Young Adult LIFE Convention are not special guests but rather the young adults (ages 18-30) who attend. They will be heard!
The Guest Listeners are pastors and teachers, conference, union, and division leaders

REGISTRATION INFO
· All attendees must register online at Advent Source Plus Line. Registration opens Oct. 1
· Participation Fees will be posted online soon at www.YoungAdultLIFE.com Events tab by Oct. 1
· Preliminary Schedule and more information coming

YAL Blog
Young Adult Life is a focused initiative worth sharing Join the Conversation Now!

Mission Lifeguard (Mission Lifeguard website)

Catch and Release
When you have something good, do you save it or spend it? Do you put it in a safe place to use for only special occasions or use it daily? Do you keep quiet for fear it might vanish or do you tell everyone about it? It might depend on whether it's a retirement portfolio, a newly developing friendship, a box of fresh strawberries, or an honor or promotion recently received. What about church and the people who attend and those who lead? Do you want to keep them or lose them? Make them permanent or temporary? Conserve and preserve or liberally share and even give them away?

If you have a good leader at church, the tendency is to try to lock them into a long-term contract as though the person is a factory machine that needs to keep cranking out your product. But the Church is the Body of Christ—living and giving. The tendency to conserve can easily become ungodly!

Will you trust God to provide for the ministry and mission of His Church? Do you believe leaders are
placed, equipped, and empowered by God? Expect things will change as others come to church and those within the church mature. Leadership should change as well.

Instead of holding back because some youth or young adult might not stay in your congregation for 50 years, invest in that young person now and expect them to move because of school or job or family or other relationships—probably multiple times in the next five years. You can be part of the shaping of that child of God, and God will shower blessings on your church and the rest of His churches. This matches Christ's parting words to his disciples that they would receive power from the Holy Spirit and would witness in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the world. That hasn't changed.

Chesapeake Conference Connections
Chesterstown & Rock Hall SDA Churches in Maryland are personally contacting inactive members. Pastor David Byrkit says, "We make a couple of visits. Then, personalities are identified to match an active member with the inactive member for ensuing visits. We extend an apology after identifying why the member has stopped coming to church. There's always a reason to apologize. The inactive member is more receptive to this humble approach, rather than our trying to 'explain away' issues."

Newsletter Signup Here!
We can't list all the resources you would receive on a monthly basis if you took the 20 seconds to sign up! Even YOU can take 20 seconds! Sign Up Now! [Link]

Youth/High School (website)
Angel 1 Project
Sidewalk evangelism for reaching out to high school students is getting ready to pilot. Check it out and send a critique: angel1project.com and sign up to pilot starting November of 2015.

Pastoral CE Course in Public High School Outreach
The Living it website will be the main resource for a new pastors CE course on public high school outreach. This is being created by Adam Fenner at the Adventist Learning Community along with Scott Ward. Should be ready early 2016.

Statistic:
70% of Adventist students and 90% of all high school students attend public high school. WE NEED TO REACH THEM!

Find More about Adventist High School Life on High School Campuses!
More info...

Adventurers (website)
New Adventurer Logo
Download the hi-res eps file for use in your own church Adventurer program.
Download hi-res logo from Dropbox

New Materials SPLASH for Adventurer Classes
Each of the 6 Adventurer classes underwent a significant facelift, with new booklets, additional resources, and retooled workbooks for all ages. You'll love the easier-to-access features and the handy take-it-and-teach-it style of the new curricula. Order Now! (Note: Resources are continuously being developed. If one of the resources you desire is not yet available, be patient, it is worth the wait!)

New Awards Available!
Four new awards were voted at YPAC 2015.

Photo Fun
Delightful Sabbath
Feeding the Poor
Good Samaritan
Snowshoeing
Induction, Sabbath, Investiture Bulletin Covers FREE download!
Created by AdventSource for use with Adventurer club ministry across the NAD.
Adventurer Bulletin Cover downloads

New Class Pins
Do you want to know what the new class level pins look like? visit Facebook https://www.facebook.com/SDAAdventurersNAD

Craft/Activity Ideas - 20 Ways to Use a Pool Noodle

Pathfinders (website)
PBE 2016 Materials top Popularity Trends on Pathfindersonline.org
Over 50% of traffic to Pathfindersonline.org is trending towards materials available to support and inform Pathfinders and their coaches about the increasingly popular Bible learning team event -- Pathfinder Bible Experience. Find out what you're missing or learn new tips for your preparation for area, conference, union, and division levels of competition.

Need Training Resources - AYMT Expanded Resources Online!
You asked for additional AYMT resources as you train leaders. We are responding.
In addition to the checksheets and portfolio covers already offered, we have the AYMT Overview and Seminar Specifications documents also available for download at Pathfindersonline.org

Master Awards - Become an Expert!
Master Awards info about new Masters here Read More...

Resources (website)
Christianity.com - “Stop Taking Jeremiah 29:11 Out of Context!”
“We often approach this text as a security blanket” but should we?
Read More....

NEW NAD Master Guide Record Card (PDF download)
Download it here or Purchase at AdventSource.

Ministry Welcomings/ Openings / Ministry Seekers
Paulo Tenorio Texas Youth Department Associate Youth Director
Pastor Tenorio has served in Texas conference as an Academy Chaplain and as Youth Pastor in Austin prior to joining the team. Welcome aboard!

Looking for Opportunities in Camp Ministry?
Are you looking for a position in the year-round camp ministry? Or do you know of someone who is interested? Have them email terry@leonimeadows.org to get it placed here in future issues. You can also look at the AACP website for job openings as well as individuals looking for work.
In Closing

We share with you words posted recently on Facebook: NAD Youth and Young Adult Ministries speaking specifically to Adventist Campus ministries, but also applicable within our other varied ministry contexts.

“My hope:
• the vibrancy of campus ministry on our Adventist campuses will be embraced and multiplied in the local churches where these young adults land following college.
• the support of campus ministry extended to 20% of our collegians will be offered to 100% of our students.
• every Adventist leader will mentor someone from the next generation.
• every effort, initiative, program, product, event provided/sponsored/funded by the GC, NAD, Unions, and local conferences will be able to show a direct benefit/support/endorsement/resourcing of the local Adventist church.
• Jesus Christ will become the most recognizable and unanimously beloved figure and focus of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.”

Amen.

NAD Youth Ministries Team

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