

Leadership

a transformational youth ministry model

Have you ever been in a group situation where someone stood up and began speaking and as they begin, you become transfixed by the sheer passion of their personality and what they say? They communicated a clear vision of the group's goals, a marked passion for the work and an ability to make the rest of the group feel recharged and energized? You sit and are spell bound and find yourself wishing that you could be like this person. This person just might be what is called a transformational leader (TL).

What is transformational leadership?

James MacGregor Burns in 1978 first introduced the concepts of transformational leadership in his descriptive research on political leaders. He made the point that transformational leadership is a process in which "leaders and followers help each other to advance to a higher level of morale and motivation".

Bernard M. Bass in 1985 noted that the extent to which a leader is transformational, is measured first, in terms of his influence on the followers. The followers of such a leader feel trust, admiration, loyalty and respect towards the leader and they will do and give over and above any expectation.

The basic assumption of transformational leadership is that people will follow a person who informs and inspires them. Such persons will have a vision; charisma; great passion, energy; enthusiasm and they communicate well in order to achieve the vision. Such a person will care about those whom they are leading and not just hold an office because the church has asked them to.

1. Relationship with the Lord

Transformational leadership must begin with acknowledge and a dynamic relationship with God through Jesus Christ. This is the foundational platform from which any effective and meaningful ministry is based. It is God who should be informing our vision, our direction and our goals.

2. Create a vision

TLs will then develop a vision. All youth leaders must know where he or she believes God wants him to take the youth. This is not about a Sabbath afternoon entertainment or adult-sitting pro-

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Link2Uth
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Teammate 2 Teammate

by Baraka G. Muganda, World Youth Director

God uses problems **To Protect Us**

Sometimes we do not see God's leading in our lives, especially when we are pressed on all sides, and it may seem like God is not good to us. We often ask why God is allowing this thing to happen to me. Everything that God does or allows to take place in our lives is good for a reason.

Recently while teaching at the Adventist University of Africa on the campus of Helderberg College, Cape Town, I came across an incredible story from one of our church members who related it to me after seeing how God protected her from what could have been even worse.

Hilda Solomon puts her experience in her own words: "It was one of those typical Friday days, fully packed and short. I woke up full of vigor and vitality ready for the busy day. I checked my diary of events and knew I had to touch the office for a morning briefing and then leave for a seminar at a nearby conference center. I thought it prudent to leave my hand bag, lap top and all my valuables in my office cupboard and took only my notepad and my cell phone. The seminar progressed well until 3:30 pm and by the time I got to the office it was 4 pm only to discover the main building to my office was already closed. That's when I realized oh my goodness it was Friday and office work ends at 3 o'clock.

I was panic stricken, tried to frantically get a hold of the security person who told me he had no keys. My handbag, which contained my purse and in it where all my money, bank cards (ATM and Credit cards) my ID and drivers license and passport, had been left in my office cupboard.

I was bewildered I had a planned a weekend of fun and now I had no cash, no ATM card nor credit card. To make it worse I had no I.D. to access funds straight from the bank. So what did this mean? It meant my weekend was spoiled and had no food in the house.

I called my Managing Director who had the keys but unfortunately he was on his way out of town for the weekend. I tried to contact a friend to ask her to lend me some money for the weekend but she was unavailable. After all options had failed I cancelled my weekend plans and retired.

Saturday morning woke up to go to church and grabbed an empty bag just shaved in my lesson study guide and Bible and left

for church. After church as I was driving to my home I stopped at a red traffic light. Before I knew what was happening, a man broke into my passenger window and grabbed my empty bag which had just my lesson study as I had left my Bible at church.

At that time it dawned on me that had I had my usual bag with all my valuables I would have been stripped of all my cash, bank cards I.D. and passport." She ends up her story saying, "God protects us all the time. I went home full of joy and amazement it was a bitter sweet ordeal. I spent the whole weekend praising the Lord and Romans 8:28 was ringing in my ears: *All things work together for good to them that love the Lord and are called for His purpose*".

Wow, when I heard this story I joined Hilda in thanking God for protecting her from what could have been a catastrophe. Yes, sometimes God takes care of us by using problems to build a wall around us. **L2U**



(from p. 1)

gramme, neither is it about a series of activities designed to occupy a time slot. This vision may be developed by the leader, by the youth team or may emerge from a series of discussions with young people. Co-operative ownership of this vision is crucial if this ministry is to be effective and successful.

3. Selling the vision

It is important that the leader buys into this vision himself; hook, line and sinker. The TL selling their vision amounts to actually selling themselves with all their God given gifts and passion for the benefit of realising the vision. This stage is where the leader seeks to convince with enthusiasm and passion the followers that his/her vision is worthy of following. The young people should feel inspired to believe that this vision is attainable and so begin to buy into the journey toward the goal. Therefore, such a leader must live intentionally with trust, integrity and transparency for the benefit of the realisation of the vision and committing people to that vision.

4. Pressing toward the goal

The TL should have some idea of the direction in which they desire the youth to go. This may be the result of his/her preferred way or the synergy from the team or the youth themselves. The TL is never phased

by suggestions from the group because getting to the goal and making the vision a reality is the object and it is not about 'bigging-up the leader.

5. Lead by example

Any leader who is worth their 'salt' will model the things they proclaim. The principles that served as the basis for the vision must become evident in the lifestyle of the leader if they are to become a reality for the followers. The leader should be seen to be leading, walking around, chatting, laughing, and engaging with the youth. A TL cannot be a behind the scenes person.

The transformational approach to leadership is people-focused and the TL will from time to time evaluate the value of the approach and how successful the strategy is in rallying the troops toward taking ownership of and making the vision a reality.

So why not take time to inform yourself and allow God to place a vision upon your heart for the saving of our youth and putting them to service for His Kingdom. **L2U**

by Des Boldeau, British Union Youth Director
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Visit us during the 59th General Conference Session in Atlanta, Georgia.

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TRAVEL
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Baraka

7 - 12: Ecuador, Youth Congress

29 - (May 4): Mexico, Pathfinder Camporee

Hiskia

7 - 11: Ohio, JCI2

Jonatán

1 - 6: Mexico: Youth Leadership event

7 - 11: Ohio, JCI2

2nd Master Guide Summit

by Isaac Chía, Spanish Union Pathfinder Director

In January 2010, the Spanish Union Youth Department organized, for the second time, a Master Guide Summit. During this event 72 Master Guides, and those who desire to become one, gathered in Entrepeñas, Spain.

We looked forward to this promising weekend with the purpose of being better-equipped to serve our youth and children. The seminar presenters were Antonio López and Antonio Martínez and their respective families. Both “Antonio” (like we would friendly call them) have ample experience and knowledge in youth ministry.

On Sabbath, Antonio López presented an uplifting sermon opening our minds in regards to reality and truth and its importance in every aspect of our lives, and the impact on our eternal destiny.

Later on that day, Antonio Martínez spoke about youth psychology. The aim was clear: we should have better knowledge to perform better with our youth; we should be able to reach them by being respectful and effective. It was a total success! Antonio presented a series of structures that will be valuable in our ministry.

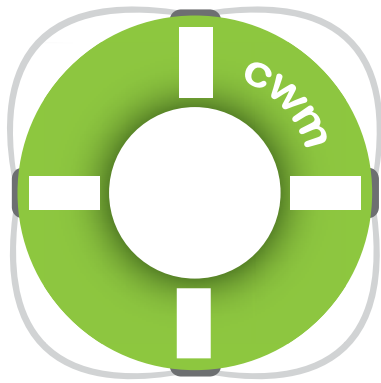
On Sunday, Antonio López developed an interesting seminar speaking about youth evangelism. We learned about the need of a Christ-centered evangelism based strictly on the Bible and we reviewed certain strategies to put into practice in our churches.

Unfortunately, this successful event came to an end, but at the same time we were thrilled to start putting into practice new ideas and strategies to excite our young people. **L2U**



Trans-European Division (TED)Camporee

The 10th TED Pathfinder Camporee will be held at Iso Kirja, Finland, July 27 to August 2, 2010. For more information, go to www.camporee.fi



cruise/mission

Cruise with a Mission, Dec. 12 – Dec. 19, 2010. The Center for Youth Evangelism is holding its third Cruise with a Mission trip! An experience of a lifetime that offers mission work, a cruise and spiritual retreat all wrapped up in one. The ports we will be visiting this year are: Key West, Florida; Falmouth, Jamaica; Georgetown, Cayman Islands; Cozumel, Mexico. The cruise fee starts at \$599 per person for this seven-day experience exclusively for young adults ages 18-35. Regular rates are: Cruise fee + \$250 until January 31st; Cruise fee + \$350 until March 30th; and Cruise fee + \$450 until September 10th. For more information call: 269-471-8380 or 800-YOUTH-2U, or email: cwm@adventistyouth.org. Please visit us at adventistyouth.org/CWM to book your Cruise with a Mission!

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ORADORES:

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LIDER JA - AG

PTR. BERNARDO RODRIGUEZ
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Union Mexicana Central

JUST CLAIM IT 2010

For the first time we are combining “4Extremes”: Youth Ministries Leadership Summit, the Just Claim It Prayer Congress, Ignition – God-encounters (Young Adults), and a Children’s Worship Festival (Sponsored by Ohio Conf). All in same location – Separate Programs.

4Extremes are filling stations for spiritual growth, training, motivation and encouragement. We invite you to join over 15,000 youth/young adults ages 14-35 mainly for “JCI2”, the 2nd World Youth Prayer Congress April 7-11, 2010 at the Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, Ohio. Delegates can fill their spiritual cups through our Prayer Initiatives, Community Mission Projects, Evangelism Outreach, Teens Preaching/Testimonies, Mass Choir/Orchestra, Workshops/Seminars, Sabbath Youth Rally/Parade, and Recreation. More info: www.Jci2.org or (800)732-7587.



Atlantic Union Conference

The Atlantic Union Conference will be conducting a Pathfinder Camporee, May 5 - 7, 2010 under the theme “Courage to Shine.” All are invited. For more information contact: Bill Wood, bwood@atlanticunion.org