

Adventist Youth Ministries GENERAL CONFERENCE

# AN BASSADOR DAY



2025



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Pako Mokgwane, PhD

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# More Than Ordinary

Everyone desires to live a life of importance. As an Adventist Ambassador, your life is a powerful testimony; you are equipped to share your faith with others and live an extraordinary, mission-focused life of impact.

Over the years God has used many people to do His work, and He sometimes choses ordinary 16–21 year old youth, like yourself. At this age you are in a season of discovery, growth, and opportunity—a time to embrace your calling to make a difference for Christ. It is a time to be a loving and lovable person. These young men and women were able to impact the world because they lived for Jesus. Living for impact means that wherever God has placed you right now, you are to use your skills and experiences to point others to Jesus. Choose a purpose-driven life that inspire others and points them to Jesus.

Being an Ambassador means you are more than ordinary, yes, God's desire for you is to live an extraordinary life of impact. It is not about waiting for the future to make a difference; no, it is about stepping out and making a difference now. Whether it is showing kindness to a classmate, serving in your community, or standing up boldly for your faith, every action matters. Jesus said, "Let your light shine before others" (Matthew 5:16). Shine with integrity, passion, and love. You can lead, inspire, and transform lives—starting with the people closest to you.

But to be used in such a way means that YOU must be surrendered to God. My plea to you today is that if you have not yet surrendered, do so now. Do an inventory. Take a moment to start over, look at your life and see where you are in your relationship with God. Does He take priority?

You were made for this moment. Live boldly. Live with purpose. Live for impact.





Maria Manderson Editorial Assistant | GC Youth Ministries

# Peer Pressure

One of the things that affect people negatively, but is especially harder on teens, is peer pressure. Being caught in that place between what you know you should do and what others want you to do, that you know is not right—dressing differently, lying on social media, cheating in school, smoking, doing drugs, and other unhealthy and sinful habits. Sometimes it is hard to spot the hidden pressures and it is hard for many young believers to stand up against peer pressure. This pressure is tough and can derail young Christians, making them feel confused, anxious, and even sometimes depressed.

# What if some of my family and close friends are not Christians?

We do not always have control of who we are spending our time with, for example....we do not have a choice in who our family members are. So, while we cannot say we are going to just pull ourselves away from the world and only hang out with other Christians, we are challenged to carefully evaluate who we are getting close to and the influence they are having on our character. Always be mindful of our Bible text, 1 Corinthians 15:33, "Do not be deceived: 'Bad company corrupts good morals".

# So, what can you do to combat peer pressure?

Young people, the Bible gives us some guidance in combating peer pressure. The Bible tells us that we should not be deceived into thinking that good character will redeem bad company, we are warned in I Corinthians 15, verse 33 that "Bad company corrupts good character." You may say, "Oh, they are my friends. We can hang out and I will just not do what they are doing. I will be the one to light up their way." Don't be deceived. It is the Holy Spirit that changes a person, and we must choose our friends wisely. Let this verse serve as a warning about the people we spend most of our time with. Generally, we tend to adopt the values and attitudes of the people we spend the most time with. Because just as bad company can corrupt good morals, good company can have a positive influence on our character. As you pray ask God to keep you from choosing bad company. Ask Him to help you in choosing your friends.

# Look to Jesus!

The best defense against peer pressure for everyone is to spend time with Jesus because spending time with Jesus changes us. We read in Jeremiah 29:13, "You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart." The same way we get close to our best friend in school, college, or on the job, is the same way God wants to get close to us, too. Spend time getting to know Him by listening to or reading the Bible, spending time in prayer, listen to Christian music, dance to Christian music, worship and obey Him, and do His will by participating in His work.

So, remember that the best defense is to start the day with God and then consciously walk with him throughout the day and listen to him talk back to you.





# Dr. Drakazh Jacob

# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Prakash Jacob, D.Min., originally from Kerala, India, is a passionate missionary and seasoned educator with over eighteen years of dedicated service in youth ministry. Renowned for his innovative and engaging approach to ministry, he has held various leadership roles within the Adventist Church. His most recent position was as Chaplain at the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIIAS) in the Philippines, where he mentored students and faculty in their spiritual journeys.

Early this year (2024), Pastor Jacob began an exciting new chapter in his life, relocating to Bali, Indonesia, as a missionary frontline, reflecting his unwavering commitment to spreading the gospel and connecting with diverse communities. He is happily married to Elena Gold Gonmei, whose partnership and shared dedication to ministry further enrich their missionary work.

Dr. Jacob's creative approach to youth ministry emphasizes discipleship, community building, and contextualized evangelism. Whether mentoring young people, organizing outreach programs, or connecting with multicultural audiences, he exemplifies the gospel's transformative power. He continues to inspire and serve as a dynamic leader and missionary, modeling dedication, creativity, and resilience in every aspect of his ministry.



# **SERMON**

### LIVING FOR IMPACT

By Dr. Prakash Jacob

# Introduction

Good morning, Ambassadors of Christ!

Today, Ambassadors around the world will be reminded to "Live for "Impact". More than just a call to action, Live for Impact is an invitation to actively live out your faith, boldly share the gospel with your peers, serve your communities with love and compassion, all while shaping your life with a purpose for eternity. Let me ask you something. What kind of legacy do you want to leave in the world?

Imagine your life as a stone thrown into a still pond or a boat gliding across a lake, leaving ripples in its wake, extending far beyond our immediate presence. The ripples represent your influence. Whether you are intentional or not, your actions, your decisions, your interactions with others—positive or negative, good or bad—can reach far beyond yourself and either encourage or discourage others in ways you may not even realize. Your influence does matter.

You may be thinking, "I'm too young," or, "I'm not important enough to make a difference". Well, let me tell you this: You are important, and God has called you to be a ripple-maker.

Remember.... Jesus used a handful of young, untrained disciples to change the course of history. They weren't wealthy, famous, or perfect, but they were available. Are you available for God's call? Are you available to take the time to care about others?

Today, we'll explore three ways to live for impact:

- Knowing who you are (Identity).
- Living differently (Purpose).
- Lighting the way (Influence).

# • KNOW WHO YOU ARE (IDENTITY)

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." *1 Peter 2:9 (NIV).* 

Identity can help us create a sense of belonging, but it can also make us feel left out. In today's world, it's easy to feel outof-place, or just lost. Society is constantly pressuring us to define ourselves by our appearance, achievements, the groups we belong to, or our social media following.

Here is the truth: You must think differently, with a focus on Jesus. You are called to live purposefully in God's will, not doing what everyone else is doing or what others want. You are not who the world says you are—you are who God says you are.



The Bible declares that you are:

- Chosen: God handpicked you for a unique purpose.
- Royal: You are part of God's family, a prince or princess in His kingdom.
- Holy: You are set apart by God's grace for God's purpose.
- Special: You are loved beyond measure.

Let me share a story: David, the shepherd boy, was overlooked by his family when Samuel came looking for Israel's next king. While others saw a boy tending sheep, God saw a warrior and leader. "But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." *1 Samuel 16:7 (NIV)* 

How often do we let the world's opinion of us shape our self-worth? Maybe someone told you, "You are not smart enough," or "You will never be good enough." But God says, "You are fearfully and wonderfully made" *Psalm 139:14*.

Think of your birth certificate. It proves your identity no matter where you go. Similarly, your identity in Christ is your spiritual birth certificate. It doesn't change based on how you feel or what others say.

Knowing who you are in Christ is the foundation of living a life of impact. You're not just a teenager but an ambassador of God's Kingdom!

# • LIVE DIFFERENTLY (PURPOSE)

When we know our identity, we begin to understand our purpose. Living for impact means living differently. The world says, "Follow the crowd," but God says, "Follow Me. Stand out." The Bible records multiple times when Jesus said, "Follow Me". That means, it was important to Jesus that we purposefully follow Him.

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing, and perfect will." *Romans 12:2 (NIV)* 

Daniel and his three friends in Babylon were taken from their homeland, given new names, and pressured to conform to Babylonian culture. But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the king's food (*Daniel 1:8*). His choice to honor God set him apart and positioned him for greatness.

Living differently requires courage. It means saying "no" to peer pressure, dishonesty, and anything that pulls you away from God's purpose. It means choosing integrity over popularity and service over selfishness.

"The greatest want of the world is the want of men—men who will not be bought or sold, men who in their inmost souls are true and honest, men who do not fear to call sin by its right name, men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall (Ellen White, Education, p. 57)."

Think about a thermostat versus a thermometer. A thermometer reflects the temperature around it, but a thermostat sets it. As Christians, we are called to be thermostats, influencing the world around us instead of being influenced by it.



Because Daniel and his three friends CHOOSE TO OBEY and honor God, He blessed them with great skills and abilities in their role in the King's palace. This is an example of the importance of choosing good friends and choosing wisely. Daniel and his friends did not conform to this world, they distinguished non-conformity to the world.

Are there habits, friendships, or attitudes that are holding you back? Pray for the courage to live differently, even when it's hard.

# • LIGHT THE WAY (INFLUENCE)

The final step in living for impact is to shine your light. Jesus didn't say, "Try to be the light." He said, "You are the light." This world is filled with darkness—pain, injustice, loneliness—and you have been placed here to bring hope and healing.

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden" Matthew 5:14 (NIV)

Being a light means that you must be intentional in doing your best to live each day to please God. You must be purposeful in making your light shine brighter each day and help others discover their light.

"Let your influence be persuasive, binding people to your hearts because you love Jesus. These precious souls are his purchased possession. This is a great work! If, by your Christlike words and actions, you make impressions that will kindle in their hearts a hungering and thirsting after righteousness and truth, you are co-laborers with Christ. Purity of thought must be cherished as indispensable to the work of influencing others. (Unpublished Testimony, PH048 9.7)."

Light is powerful because it's contagious. Have you ever been in a dark room and lit a single candle? That tiny flame changes everything. Your actions, no matter how small, can illuminate someone's life.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, a group of young people in Italy started writing encouraging notes and leaving them in random places. These simple messages of hope brightened people's days and inspired others to do the same. One light sparked many others.

You don't need a platform to shine your light. You can start right where you are:

- At school, by being kind to someone who feels left out.
- At home, you can show respect to your parents and siblings.
- In your community, by volunteering or standing up for what is right.

Think of a lighthouse. It doesn't chase ships or beg them to notice it. It simply stands firm, shining brightly to guide others to safety. You, too, can be a lighthouse, pointing people to Jesus through your words and actions. Be a lighthouse for Jesus.

Practical Steps to Live for Impact

- Every morning, ask God to use you that day. Prayer opens the door for God to work through you.
- Use your talents for God's glory, whether you're good at music, sports, writing, or leadership.
- Don't be afraid to share your faith. Start small—maybe by inviting a friend to church or sharing a Bible verse on social media.
- Look for opportunities to help others. Service not only blesses others but also strengthens your faith.
- Surround yourself with people who encourage your spiritual growth. Being part of a supportive community helps you stay strong in your walk with Christ.



# CONCLUSION

As we close, let me share one final story. In Acts 9, we meet a disciple named Tabitha, also known as Dorcas. She was a disciple of Jesus who followed Jesus' teachings about how to treat each other and was known for always doing good and helping the poor (*Acts 9:36*). When she died, the entire community mourned her death because her life had touched so many. God worked a miracle and brought her back to life, but her story reminds us of this truth. A life lived for impact echoes far beyond our years.

Young ambassadors, the world doesn't need more followers but leaders. It doesn't need more noise—it needs voices of truth. And it doesn't need more darkness—it needs light-bearers like you. If you're ready to live for impact, I invite you to commit today. Stand where you are as a sign of your dedication to God's purpose. Pray with me, asking God to guide your steps and use your life and the gifts God has given you to make a difference.

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for reminding us through the life of Tabitha of the ripple effects of a life of faithfulness, and calling us to live for impact. You have chosen, equipped, and placed us in this world for such a time as this. Help us to stand firm in our identity, live with purpose, and shine Your light in every corner of the earth. Use us, Lord, to bring hope and transformation to those around us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

# **FINAL CHARGE**

- Know who you are.
- Live differently.
- Light the way.

Be bold. Ask people for feedback on who you really are. Listen humbly and respectfully and celebrate where you are making life-giving impact! Go out and live for impact. Be the change this world desperately need. May your life ripple for eternity! Amen.



# SUGGESTED PROGRAM OUTLINE

# 1. Opening

- Song Service/Praise Group
- Welcome and Introductions
- Opening Prayer
- Review Mission Statement, Aim, and Motto
- Review your goals
- Opening Song

# 2. Scripture Reading

*Scriptures – If this is a multi-language group, read in at least two languages and use youth as readers. Depending on the size of your group read a few or all the Bible texts below.* 

- Matthew 5:16
- Hebrews 13:16
- James 1:27
- Galatians 6:2
- 1 Peter 2:9
- Proverbs 13:20
- 1 Corinthians 16:14
- Galatians 1:10
- Acts 5:29
- Exodus 23:2
- Psalm 1:1-2
- Proverbs 1:10-16
- Proverbs 4:14-17
- Ephesians 5:11

### 3. Team Building Activities

- Do one or two get-to-know-you Icebreakers to welcome everyone. Use your own or choose from the list available at the back of each Ambassador manual.
- Video: if available, show 2–4 minutes video of Ambassador groups meetings/activities in session

### 5. Special Music

- 6. Offering
- 7. Worship Service (sermon provided)
- 8. Altar Call and Music
- 9. Closing Prayer



# SUGGESTED PROGRAM OUTLINE after lunch activities

# \*\*LUNCH\*\*

# **AFTERNOON PROGRAM OPTIONS**

# **1. Ambassador Session**

Ahead of time choose leaders who can lead small groups through a session of the Ambassador's manual. The suggested session the first one, *Discipleship Module* #1. During this time you will have participants create their Individual Discipleship Plan (IDP). This is a good experience for everyone.

# 2. Team Building Activities

- a) Do one or two get-to-know-you Icebreakers to welcome everyone. Use your own or choose from the list available at the back of each Ambassador manual.
- b) Video: if available, show 2–4 minutes video of Ambassador groups meetings/ activities session.
- c) As a group, go through the IDP instructions and create your IDP (instructions on the next page)
- d) Goals: creative thinking; making do with what you have; working as a team and sharing/pooling ideas.

# **3. Small Group Discussion**

a) Icebreakers to get to know each other better (use your own or choose one from the back of the Ambassador manual)

- b) Build bridges and network for future activities
- c) Brainstorm on Global Youth Day ideas.....ways to do something good for humanity-beyond bringing canned food to a food drive
- d) Discuss how teens/youth can make a difference in the world
- e) Be reminded that as Christians we are called to do good
- f) As a group, go through the IDP instructions and create your IDP (instructions on page 10)

# 4. Concert

Ahead of time plan a concert.



# CREATING YOUR IDP Individual Discipleship Plan

As a human being with a nature that naturally tends to move away from God, growing to reflect Jesus as an Ambassador will rarely happen by chance or without much thought. That's why for each of the Ambassador's modules, you will be creating your own IDP. The focus of each IDP will relate to the theme of your current module and last for the duration of that module.

### Here is an example of what an IDP will look like. Fill in your own IDP on the form provided

- 1. IDP Module Name: CHRIST-CENTERED DISCIPLESHIP
- 2. **Spiritual Companion:** Who is the spiritual companion who will encourage and support you in the next stage of your spiritual journey of growing as an Ambassador of Jesus? They will remain your spiritual companion throughout the current module. JOHN WILCOX (*Your choice of spiritual companion is added in session 3. Leave blank for now.*)
- 3. Personal Vision Statement: This includes two parts:(a) What do you see in your life today that you would like to change in order to become more effective as an Ambassador for Jesus?

(b) Describe how you would like to see yourself in the future. Before you start writing, take a moment to pray for God to guide your thoughts.

CURRENTLY, I DO NOT HAVE A REGULAR OR VERY MEANINGFUL DEVOTIONAL LIFE.

*I WOULD LIKE TO DEVELOP A DEVOTIONAL LIFE THAT CAN EQUIP ME SPIRITUALLY TO BE AN EFFECTIVE AMBASSADOR FOR JESUS.* 

- 4. Expected evidence of change: After looking at your personal vision statement, list the evidence you might expect to see that reveals you are growing in Christ (example below).
  - I THINK AN EFFECTIVE AMBASSADOR IS SOMEONE WHO IS ALWAYS PRAYING FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO REVEAL THE CHARACTER OF JESUS WHEREVER THEY GO. THAT IS WHAT I WANT FOR MY LIFE.

- 5. Next steps: List the practical steps you will take to accomplish your personal discipleship vision. Think about how these steps will also shape your daily devotions with God.
  - SET MY ALARM CLOCK FOR 7AM TO START MY DEVOTIONS
  - SPEND 30 MINUTES IN PRAYER AND BIBLE READING
  - REPEAT BEFORE I GO TO SLEEP
  - FIND A BOOK TO READ THAT TEACHES DIFFERENT WAYS TO STUDY THE BIBLE
  - PRAY EACH DAY FOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR GOD TO USE ME AS HIS AMBASSADOR
- 6. Reflection: How did I do? This is completed at the end of the module. It gives you a chance to reflect on what worked well and what you would like to improve in the future. You can compare your expected evidence of change to what actually happened.

(a) I REALLY ENJOYED THESE LAST FEW WEEKS
(b) THE MORE I READ AND UNDERSTOOD, THE MORE
CONFIDENT I BECAME TO PRAY FOR OPPORTUNITIES
FOR GOD TO USE ME
(c) I THINK I WILL EXPAND THE TIME FOR
DEVOTIONS I HAVE IN THE EVENING, AND NOW THAT
I HAVE READ A BOOK ON BIBLE STUDY
(d) I WOULD LIKE TO READ ANOTHER ON INTERCES
SORY PRAYER
(e) I HAVE FOUND THAT I REALLY ENJOY PRAYING
FOR OTHERS.



# **MY IDP**

MY INDIVIDUAL DISCIPLESHIP PLAN

IDP MODULE NAME:	
SPIRITUAL COMPANION:	
PERSONAL VISION STATEMENT:	
EXPECTED EVIDENCE OF CHANGE:	
NEXT STEPS:	
REFLECTION:	



# GETTING IT TOGETHER: ADVENTIST AMBASSADOR

Below are creative ideas for running an Adventist Ambassador Ministry that can seamlessly incorporates the four essential elements: Spiritual Companionship, Individual Discipleship Plan (IDP), Projects, and Social activities.

### SPIRITUAL COMPANIONSHIP

**Focus:** Building strong spiritual relationships among Ambassadors.

- **Prayer:** Encourage prayer among the Ambassador partnerships. Each partnership commits to weekly prayer sessions, accountability, and spiritual check-ins.
- Faith Walks: Pair Ambassadors for nature walks where they discuss spiritual goals and reflect on God's creation.
- **Mentorship Pods:** Match Ambassadors with Senior Youth Leaders (SYL) or church elders for spiritual mentoring, ensuring ongoing support and guidance.
- **Circle of Testimonies:** Host monthly gatherings where Ambassadors share personal faith journeys and lessons learned, fostering mutual inspiration.
- **Mission Prayer Maps:** Create a global map highlighting mission fields. Ambassadors pray in pairs for a specific country each week and research Adventist work there.

### **INDIVIDUAL DISCIPLESHIP PLANS (IDP)**

**Focus:** to be a loving and lovable Ambassador.

- Vision Boards: Encourage Ambassadors to create spiritual vision boards detailing their goals, such as scripture memorization, personal ministries, or leadership aspirations.
- Monthly Goal Check-Ins: Set aside time during meetings for Ambassadors to review their IDP progress with a mentor or peer.
- Faith Challenges: Introduce 30-day challenges like "Share Your Faith," "Devotion Consistency," or "Acts of Kindness," aligned with each member's IDP.
- **Spiritual Journals:** Provide custom journals for Ambassadors to track their Bible reading plans, prayer requests, and reflections based on their IDP.
- Spiritual Gifts Assessment: Help Ambassadors identify their spiritual gifts and incorporate these into their personalized plans. https://www.gcyouthministries.org/resources/spiritual-gifts-assessment/







# PROJECTS

Focus: Engaging in meaningful activities that reflect Christ's ministry.

- **Community Needs Assessment:** The members of the Ambassador Ministry must conduct a needs assessment
  - of their community and come with projects based on the needs. Here are some ideas:
    - **Community Care Packages:** Create and distribute care packages to the elderly, the homeless, or hospital patients, combining Ambassadors' efforts with scripture-based encouragement.
    - Neighborhood Improvement Projects: Identify a local park, school, or street in need of cleaning or beautification.
    - Health and Wellness Expos: Ambassadors organize health check-ups, exercise sessions, and cooking demos for the community. Use a holistic approach to cover various aspects of wellness like nutrition, fitness, mental health, and disease prevention, all while sharing Adventist health principles
    - Mini Mission Weeks: Designate a week for targeted projects such as door-to-door literature distribution, free tutoring for children, or conduct Voice of Youth (VOY) campaigns
    - Skills for Service Workshops: Teach practical skills like sewing, basic carpentry, cooking/baking, or first aid, culminating in Ambassadors using these skills in service projects.

# SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

**Focus:** Strengthening bonds through wholesome fun and fellowship.



# Themed Fellowship Nights:

Host cultural nights, dress-up events, or talent shows to celebrate diversity within the group.

# Bible Campfire Nights:

Plan an outdoor evening with songs, skits, and reflective discussions around a campfire.





# Ambassador Sports League:

Organize friendly sports competitions, emphasizing teamwork and fair play.

# Escape Room Challenges:

Create Bible-themed escape rooms where teams solve puzzles tied to scripture stories.





# Adventure Sabbath Hikes:

Combine a nature hike with a devotional thought, emphasizing rest and reflection.



Name						
Address						
Phone: Email:						
Birth DateG	ender: Male	Female	Baptised: Yes	_ No		
I would like to join Ambassador Ministry at theSeventh-day						
Adventist Church.						
I will attend and actively participate in the Ambassador Ministry						
$\Box$ I agree to live by the guidelines and rules established by the ministry in keeping with the lifestyle taught by						
the Seventh-day Adventist Church.						
I have been a member of other Adventist youth organizations: Yes No If yes, which?						
Adventurers Pathfinders Master Guide Senior Youth LeaderYouth Federation/Youth Committee						
Youth Emergency Service Search and Rescue Adventist Youth Society Other:						
PRINT NAME HERE	S	IGNATURE		DATE		



Ambassador

Date

**Spiritual Partner** 

Date