

1993: Youth Evangelism Year

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In August of 1992, approximately 600 Seventh-day Adventist leaders and youth representatives from around the world met in Prague, Czechoslovakia, to prepare a global program of evangelism for 1993. During one week they prayed together, studied and asked for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they made preparations to lead more than 400,000 of their fellow youth to Christ by December 31, 1993.

A key factor in this global strategy is the outreach centered on public colleges and universities. Following the mandate of Jesus, Adventist students, teachers and employees of these centers of learning will see themselves as God's ambassadors to their fellow students and colleagues.

Those present in Prague agreed to promote the organization of fellowships of Adventist students wherever possible, with the support of leaders from the local conference or mission and nearby congregations.

The Committee on Adventist Ministry to College and University Students (AMiCUS) has prepared a useful *Handbook on Adventist Ministry on the Public University Campus*. It contains many ideas on how to organize and carry out a dynamic program in secular colleges and universities; it also provides a bibliography of resources for this ministry. To obtain a copy, contact the AMiCUS representative for your division (listed on page 2 of this issue) or send a check for US\$7.00 to Dialogue - Handbook: 12501 Old Columbia Pike; Silver Spring, MD 20904; U.S.A.

Once these fellowships are organized, their members will study the social and spiritual needs of those around them, and will design a program to meet those needs. If you are interested in participating in this type of ministry, think of both the students living in residences and off-campus and seek the involvement of Adventist teachers and professionals in your area.

Listed below are some activities and projects that have been used successfully by Adventist student associations in the past. They are provided here as suggestions to stimulate the creativity of each student fellowship as they plan their strategy.

Service programs offered to alleviate specific physical needs in and around the campus:

- Smoking cessation seminars
- Weight reduction seminars
- Stress clinics
- Nutrition classes
- Physical fitness and healthful living seminars
- Sex in an AIDS-riddled society
- Living the drug-free life

Bible study classes designed to involve other Christians and people who are just curious about the Bible.

- Daniel and Revelation seminars
- Encounter lessons
- Discussions centered on a book

or theme in the Bible

- Films, videos or slide programs on biblical subjects, followed by discussion

Public meetings conducted to provide a service and establish friendships:

- Speakers brought on campus to speak on topics that coincide with the evangelism theme or emphasis; for example, "The Historicity of Jesus," "The Creation Story," etc.
- Musical concerts by Christian artists or student groups
- Christian film/video series, followed by discussion

Publications, tracts, booklets, magazines or books can be used to inform, educate, and awaken interest in spiritual topics:

- Person-to-person handouts
- Tract racks in the student center, cafeteria, residence halls, and other public places allowed on campus
- Sale of Adventist magazines or books, with the support of the local publishing director

It would be advantageous, as the student fellowship is organized, to invite the youth, health, and publishing directors of the conference or mission to meet with the group and provide guidance and materials for outreach.

May God grant each student association or fellowship the vision, courage, and dedication to give a strong witness for Christ on the campus.

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