



PUBLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY DAY

My Campus
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JUNE
24 2023

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 General Conference Youth Ministries





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Hello everyone:

Sometimes we forget that even those we love, who are sometimes the closest to us at home, have needs that they cannot always meet. You may have elderly parents who are home by themselves and struggling with being alone. Or what about that classmate or workmate who is struggling with loneliness or maybe are not good at adjusting to change and making new friends. How can you help them? You can pray for them?

This year's PCM Day focus is to bring us back to the need to show and give compassion on campuses, Christlike compassion, that is different from what the world will give. On this day we will be reminded that everyone need to be changed. Everyone need Christ.

Public Campus Ministry Day 2023 (#PCM23) is a global program celebrated at the **local church** level. PCM is the ministry to Adventist students and faculty on public university and college campuses that will help PCM members to understand that compassion is not just about meeting the needs of someone in the moment, but it is also about giving what is right, useful, and beneficial to the person being helped.

It is our hope that this PCM Day will inspire you to be more like Jesus when you look at others. We read in Mark 6:34 that Jesus was "Moved with Compassion", may we also be deeply moved when we see our families, friends, workmates, classmates, and even the stranger on the streets, heading for eternal death. Jesus was so deeply moved with compassion when he looked at them and saw that they were headed to death that he stopped and took the time to teach them. To show them how they could be saved from sin. This is what we are called to do, to teach them, to show them how they could be saved from sin.

#PCM23 is also designed to:

- Connect the Local Church with Adventist students and staff on Public Campuses.
- Increase visibility and function of the PCM Leader at the Local Church.
- Encourage Local Church Members to support students in their academic journey.
- Encourage Local Church Members to support staff on their professional journey.
- Encourage Students and Staff to "GO" using the method of Jesus.
- Inspire Adventist students and staff to evangelize and increase their Commitment to Christ.

Please make use of the downloadable sermon that were written by Pastor Xolisa Swartz of the Cape Conference in South Africa. Local churches are encouraged to invite a student and/or faculty member from the public college or university to deliver the sermon.

Use the link: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/k1r1j3aj5icnhuz/AABIWbTWuWRutgUposNbno37a?dl=0> below to access the #PCM23 media package.

Pako E. Molegware, PhD

Associate Youth Director
GENERAL CONFERENCE



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SERMON BY

**Xolisa
“Candy”**

SWARTZ

Serves as a pastor in a new district of 16 churches in the Cape Conference territory of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in South Africa. She is an alumnus of Helderberg College in Cape Town, South Africa.





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About the Author:

Xolisa "Candy" Swartz, serves as a pastor in a new district of 16 churches in the Cape Conference territory of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in South Africa. She is an alumnus of Helderberg College in Cape Town, South Africa.

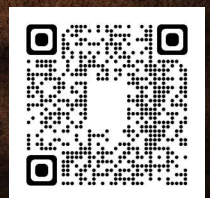
Pastor Swartz was working as a radio journalist for the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) when she heard the Lord calling her to ministry. At the age of 44 she responded to that call and left her radio journalism career to study theology at Helderberg College, where she received a Bachelor of Arts in 2010. In January of 2011 she was contracted as a Bible worker and the following year was formerly accepted as a fully-fledged gospel minister. On November 28, 2022, she made history when she became the only woman pastor in all three of the divisions on the African Continent to receive a commissioned minister credential.

While serving as an intern in the Cape Midlands District her giftedness in working with youth and young adults was recognized and she was given the responsibility of overseeing the student churches on the campuses of four public universities (PCM). She also served as chaplain of all four campuses and pastor of the student churches. Twenty-five persons were baptized as a direct result of her ministry. Her passion for young adults led her to co-author "Theatre of Grace", a book about nurturing and developing young girls in a deprived rural location. She is passionate about community building, touching lives, and bringing hope to the downcast.

Her verse of note is Mordecai's call—to which she believes her ministry is a response:

"For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14).

Pastor Swartz is a grandmother and a mother of two adult children. Despite all the challenges of ministry she has been able to find a balance between work and family and has stayed at the forefront of the gospel work. More than anything else she loves the Lord and vows to serve her Master tirelessly.





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Ideas for Local Church support of Adventist Students, Chaplains and Staff on Public Campuses.

These are ideas were solicited from students through GC Youth Ministries social media pages

 [gcyouth](#)  [GCYouthMinistries](#)

1. Present and dedicate students and staff to God in prayer at the beginning of every semester/quarter and on World PCM Day.
2. Families in the local church "adopt" a student, so they have some connection to church members in their community (especially if they live away from their own family). Mentor the students.
3. Provide a budget for the PCM ministry and make it available for the PCM Coordinator to use in performing their duties.
4. Have a farewell service for graduates who do not participate in their graduation ceremony on a Sabbath. Please involve Adventist staff and chaplains in the planning of this event. Thank them for their service and representation of God on/at public campuses.
5. Establish connections with Chapter/Association/ACF Leader and staff members. Attend Chapter/Association/ACF/staff activities and programs.
6. Have an up-to-date database of members who are students, staff and chaplains serving on/at public campuses.
7. Pray and fast for students to realize their academic dreams. Pray for staff to discharge their duties with excellence. Communicate the prayer schedule to the students through the Chapter/Association/ACF Leader and staff members.





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8. Invite students and staff to potluck and social gatherings. Be liberal with healthy food packages (especially during finals week).
9. Provide transportation on days when there is inclement weather.
10. Advocate and promote freedom of worship especially as it relates to Sabbath observance. Call on the Conference/Union/Division Public Affairs and Religious Liberty leaders for intervention when such rights are in jeopardy of being infringed on.
11. Support and contribute towards student, chaplaincy, and staff in mission endeavors.
12. Encourage church members to send PCM members notes of love and motivation.
13. Start a book club for staff.
14. Offer training for staff on how to provide emotional and spiritual support to students.
15. If there is some kind of association or Mission/Conference/Union for Adventist teaching staff, create a subgroup for those working on public campuses, and target their individual needs.
16. Mentor the students.





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SUGGESTED PROGRAM

Be sure to follow COVID-19 protocols of your country/state/local area.

Sabbath School

Lesson Study

Prayer Time

- Break into groups of five (5)
- Offer Thanksgiving and Praise
- Pray for protection of students, chaplains and staff. Ask God to bless their faithfulness in Sabbath observance.
- Pray for the positive influence of student leaders
- Pray for robust leadership of PCM leaders in all local churches
- Pray for the inspirational leadership of youth directors (PCM)

Main Service

Music: hymns about fellowship, worship, discipleship

Sermon by student(s)/staff/chaplain/pcm leader.

Latter rain prayer and dedication by elder/pastor/chaplain

LUNCH – Potluck

Afternoon Program

Visit students and staff at their residences





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I MODEL JESUS' COMPASSION ON CAMPUS

Pastor Xolisa Swartz
Cape Conference, South Africa

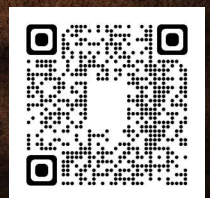
Aim:
Students become aware that compassion, and the comfort that only Christ can bring, is essential to their Christian journey—on and off their campuses. It is to inculcate the significant meaning of compassion, that it does not mean feeling sorry for others, but reaching out so that they can understand the Man of Galilee deeply.

Introduction:
There is no story that holds me than that of Irvine who attended a university away from home and who stayed with non-Adventist family friends. On Sabbaths, instead of returning home for lunch he would linger alone on campus. He grew a bit lonely as he watched everyone dashed into their rooms or got together in groups for lunch. Observing this, he decided to ask a friend to prepare Sabbath lunch for them, and he would contribute to the expense. This Sabbath fellowship over meals grew to include not only fellow believers—who were initially going back to their rooms to have bread for lunch—but non-Adventist visitors as well. Compassion can spread the gospel from one's need, to sharing—not just food, but the gospel.

Matthew 9:36-38 is today's Scripture reference.

But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

Can you imagine you are at church, school, a concert, actually it can be anywhere, and you have the ability to look around and see ALL THE PROBLEMS that everyone is having—all at the same time? Well, Jesus could. He could look in a crowd and see who was stressed, broken-hearted, happy, sad, oblivious, suffering, annoyed, or uncomfortable—all at the same time. All hearts were like an open book, opened to His scrutiny, as well as His tender gaze. In today's Bible text, we see that the main emotion expressed is compassion. Jesus felt compassion.





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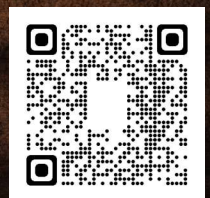
If we could sum up the whole character of Christ in reference to ourselves, it can be concluded thus: "He was moved with compassion..." Belief holds that all students attend university prepared from their own backgrounds, but on close inspection a whole excess of complexities can be detected through the fearful reactions that stick out. The best way to perceive them is through the eyes—open enough to see through, ears—alert enough to hear through silence, hands so extended that they reach another hand easily and feet—so that willing they reach deep and far.

One theologian and commentator has a way to define Jesus Christ and compassion. Interpreting the Apostle's experience of Jesus, he says: "I suppose that when our Savior looked upon certain sights, those who watched Him closely perceived that His internal agitation was very great, His emotions were very deep and then His face betrayed it. His eyes gushed like fountains with tears, and you saw that His big heart was ready to burst with pity for the sorrow upon which His eyes were gazing." C.H. Spurgeon, (*The Compassion of Jesus, Hope Messages in Times of Crisis*).

Please note that the eyes through which Christ gazed were eyes of grace and compassion. Eyes of compassion looking around at the scattered sheep, confused, broken, mangled, and distressed. So, as we gaze around us, let us remember Jesus touches us every moment with compassion, let us in turn touch others through His compassion. Let us grow in Christ-likeness. As Seventh-Day Adventists on public campuses we sometimes see pain and brokenness that we do not experience at many of our Seventh-Day Adventists educational institutions. Let us remember that Christlike compassion will move us to meet .

Compassion

Orientalism needs explanation, like the word 'compassion'. Kenneth Bailey demonstrates a profound cultural ethos coupled by Middle Eastern Rabbinic literature. The Greek word for 'have compassion' "*splanchizomai*" has its root from "*splanchnon*," meaning 'innards' - (Bailey, 2005, p. 68). In the East, the Greeks and the Hebrews thought the seat of the emotions was the abdomen and their perceptions are easy to understand (Bailey, 2005, p. 68). Whenever a close friend or family member is hurt or even when one thinks about such a potential accident, there is an almost sickening contraction in the abdomen (Bailey, 2005, pp. 67, 68).





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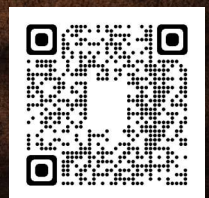
For the Greeks, the abdomen was the seat of the violent passions of anger and lust. The Hebrews understood it to be the center of tender affections, such as kindness and compassion (Bailey, 2005, p. 68). In villages, the same forms of speech remain, when a villager hears an especially moving story of suffering, he might say 'You are cutting up my intestines', or when a close relative or friend leaves his companions will say, 'Do not cut up my intestines', meaning I will be deeply hurt by your absence if you leave us (Bailey, 2005, p. 68). Jesus sees the crowd and is moved with 'compassion' for whatever (potentially) that he sees will happen to the individuals. As students, we ought to have perceptive eyes, see through the smiles hiding the pain, glee covering the brokenness, and hard work that masks loneliness.

In 1 John 3:18 we read, "My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth." (New King James Version) Christlike compassion is more than just an emotional response, it is more than pitying someone who is in trouble. Compassion is much more than that. Compassion moves us to the very depth of our being. It hurts us on the inside. The feeling is so deep that we cannot hold it in, we MUST DO SOMETHING, we MUST MOVE TO ACTION. We cannot have compassion without action.

The greatest example of compassion is Jesus so we MUST MEASURE our compassion against that of Jesus. The closer we draw to the heart of our Father as students, the more we will reflect His heart to those around us. Yes, commit today to be compassionate to others. Compassion in action will impact our campuses and woo young people back to God.

Review:

There is so much that separates us as a people, all borne out of sin. Our race becomes a hindrance to us, covetousness acts as a wall that separates us - creating classes that hold no significant meaning to our progress. Yet, the Lord in His Word keeps charging us: *"I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father. I have written to you, fathers Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one"* [1 John 2:12-14].





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The charge to youth in the subsequent verse cannot be overemphasized, and Ellen White lays bare the plan of God: "The Lord has appointed the youth to be his helping hands" [*Messages to Young People*, p. 7:2]. She further reveals: "Youth are the most effective evangelists of other youth. Preachers, or layman advanced in years, cannot have one half the influence upon the young that the youth, devoted to God, can have upon their associates" [RH, April 15, 1915].

Youth have a huge role to play in finding other youth for God, and the best means is through compassion. Public Institutions of Higher Learning is where youth, in their crisp years, are concentrated.

Ellen White says...

"Every human being is the object of loving interest to Him who gave His life that He might bring men back to God. Souls guilty and helpless, liable to be destroyed by the arts and snares of Satan, are cared for as a shepherd care for the sheep of his flock." (*Ministry of Healing*, p. 163, 1)

Today, the very first thing we can do is to pray and ask the Lord to help us be more alert to the pain and needs of others. I know we are busy studying and pursuing careers but let us remember that we are placed here on this campus to also be a center of influence for God. Ask God to help you be moved to compassion when you see our family and friends not walking with the Lord...this is something we can pray about constantly, the spiritual welfare of our family members, friends, and fellow students and colleagues.

So, ask yourself:

Who can I show compassion to?

How can I be part of Jesus' plan and help to move others toward God?

How can I show compassion to even one person who might be feeling lost today?

WHAT CAN WE DO?

The desire to look good or to maintain appearances usually pushes us to hide the reality of our problems, but love sees through them. Christ's compassion helps us restore others' dignity. Since our God embodies compassion, there is an expected need on our hearts, that they should put on compassion as a garment, and thus, become stewards of compassion.

Mental disorders (e.g. anxiety, depression, etc.) were regarded to be the result of sin during Christ's time, they are still frowned upon today. Many attend public institutions of higher learning under a lot of strain which may result in stress and lead some to turn to substance abuse and worldly pleasures. Let us be more friendly toward others. Jesus showed us how to treat others when He ate with sinners so that he could reach out to them.

For more mental health resources go to <https://youthaliveportal.org> or visit them on:

[@youthfullyalive](https://www.instagram.com/youthfullyalive)

<https://www.facebook.com/MyChoiceFullyAlive>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UNnGbiE2tII>



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Christ positions us wherever we find ourselves in our instance on a public campus to be like *shepherds like Him*. Many within our scope of influence are like sheep without a shepherd waiting on you to find, rescue guide, and restore them. Working as a church team on campus, young people can find ways to reach out to fellow students, staff, and faculty and guide them on the right path. Let us remember, "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people...The poor are to be relieved, the sick cared for, the sorrowing and the bereaved comforted, the ignorant instructed, the inexperienced counselled" (MH, p. 143). What better way, than the compassion of Christ?

You would think, compassion is a rare find as a virtue, as it is scarce to discover among us as people - but Jesus came and set it loose. He demonstrated it in His entire life, with LOVE that could not help itself except to embrace the other. Christ entered into a covenant with Himself against Himself in order to haul us from the bottomless pit we had allowed the devil to throw us into. Even the full stealth of our rebellion did not allow Him to renege from that fearsome agreement. Who are we to recoil from this "compassion" when Christ has given all to find us. Let us go find men and women for Christ as young people. The world is on a downward spiral to its demise, yet young people are found in hordes still in wrong places, oblivious to the dangers that lie ahead, let alone the dead end, that awaits all those who will be ultimately lost eternally. We do not have time to play around. This is the time for each one to reach one with the Good News of Salvation.

CONCLUSION:

What did Jesus do when He looked at the crowd?

He had compassion. And because He had compassion, Jesus was able to see beyond the physical needs of the people. He took note of our wear and tear, our emotional, spiritual, occupational, environmental, and otherwise needs. He saw our condition and He went into action. He trained his little motley band of disciples to move past their own insecurities and lead others to Himself, for Jesus calls the unqualified and in the process of their working for Him, He qualifies them. Jesus believed in **BROKEN PEOPLE** being redeemed to reach and help other **BROKEN PEOPLE**. He is calling us as young people today. Who will go?

Our strategic theme is: "I Will Go." This was also the answer the Prophet Isaiah gave when God asked him:

"Who should I send? Who will go for us?"

As He first prepare Isaiah before calling him, so has the Lord prepare us today. He does not lead us to the institutions we find ourselves at accidentally or coincidentally. He is very intentional.

What is your response today?

How can you be a part of Jesus' plan to help draw others towards God?

What can you do to show kindness, to even one person, the way that Jesus did?

Because Christ has touched you and redeemed you, you too should now go and touch another with His compassion? Will you go today?

