

**L. T. I. 2018**

(Lay Training Institute)

**A Culture of Discipleship:**

*Create, Maintain & Promote*

## **Authentic Christianity**

Sabbath, October 27, 2018



**Allan Martin, Speaker**

Pastor, Younger Generation Church  
Arlington SDA Church, Arlington TX

This year LTI will be held via technology. Four churches - Buffalo Suburban, Westvale, Fulton, and Greater Albany - will host the event live, and anyone wishing to join in via live stream can connect by clicking on the links at [www.nyconf.org](http://www.nyconf.org).

### **Morning Worship Service (11:15 am):**

Allan Martin, Westvale SDA Church

### **Afternoon Seminar Topics (all seminars begin at 2:00 pm):**

Doctrine: Holy Spirit and the Disciple

Pastor Roy Weeden, Greater Albany SDA Church

Reaching Millennials

Allan Martin, Westvale SDA Church

Dynamic Preaching

Pastors Miguel Crespo & John Livergood, Fulton SDA Church

Spirit of Prophecy and the Disciple (Is it Still Relevant?)

Pastor Luis Mancebo, Buffalo Suburban SDA Church

***Live stream links are found at [www.nyconf.org](http://www.nyconf.org)***





## Luke 15

*New International Reader's Version (NIRV)*

<sup>1</sup>The tax collectors and “sinners” were all gathering around to hear Jesus. <sup>2</sup>But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law were whispering among themselves. They said, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

### The Story of the Lost Sheep

<sup>3</sup>Then Jesus told them a story. <sup>4</sup>He said, “Suppose one of you has 100 sheep and loses one of them. Won’t he leave the 99 in the open country? Won’t he go and look for the one lost sheep until he finds it? <sup>5</sup>When he finds it, he will joyfully put it on his shoulders <sup>6</sup>and go home. Then he will call his friends and neighbors together. He will say, ‘Be joyful with me. I have found my lost sheep.’ <sup>7</sup>“I tell you, it will be the same in heaven. There will be great joy when one sinner turns away from sin. Yes, there will be more joy than for 99 godly people who do not need to turn away from their sins.

### The Story of the Lost Coin

<sup>8</sup>“Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. She will light a lamp and sweep the house. She will search carefully until she finds the coin. <sup>9</sup>And when she finds it, she will call her friends and neighbors together. She will say, ‘Be joyful with me. I have found my lost coin.’ <sup>10</sup>“I tell you, it is the same in heaven. There is joy in heaven over one sinner who turns away from sin.”

### The Story of the Lost Son

<sup>11</sup>Jesus continued, “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger son spoke to his father. He said, ‘Father, give me my share of the family property.’ So the father divided his property between his two sons.

<sup>13</sup>“Not long after that, the younger son packed up all he had. Then he left for a country far away. There he wasted his money on wild living. <sup>14</sup>He spent everything he had.

“Then the whole country ran low on food. So the son didn’t have what he needed. <sup>15</sup>He went to work for someone who lived in that country, who sent him to the fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup>The son wanted to fill his stomach with the food the pigs were eating. But no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup>“Then he began to think clearly again. He said, ‘How many of my father’s hired workers have more than enough food! But here I am dying from hunger! <sup>18</sup>I will get up and go back to my father. I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven. And I have sinned against you. <sup>19</sup>I am no longer fit to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired workers.”’ <sup>20</sup>So he got up and went to his father. “While the son was still a long way off, his father saw him. He was filled with tender love for his son. He ran to him. He threw his arms around him and kissed him.

<sup>21</sup>“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer fit to be called your son.’

<sup>22</sup>“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.

<sup>23</sup>Bring the fattest calf and kill it. Let’s have a big dinner and celebrate. <sup>24</sup>This son of mine was dead. And now he is alive again. He was lost. And now he is found.’

“So they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup>“The older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>So he called one of the servants. He asked him what was going on.

<sup>27</sup>““Your brother has come home,’ the servant replied. ‘Your father has killed the fattest calf. He has done this because your brother is back safe and sound.’

<sup>28</sup>“The older brother became angry. He refused to go in. So his father went out and begged him.

<sup>29</sup>“But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve worked like a slave for you. I have always obeyed your orders. You never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But this son of yours wasted your money with some prostitutes. Now he comes home. And for him you kill the fattest calf!’

<sup>31</sup>““My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me. Everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup>But we had to celebrate and be glad. This brother of yours was dead. And now he is alive again. He was lost. And now he is found.”



## **Growing Young Adventists: Local Churches Next Generations Love**

The first job of leaders is to \_\_\_\_\_ .

1 in \_\_\_\_\_ youth group seniors drift from God and the church after graduation.

18-19 year olds make up \_\_\_\_\_ of the population, but only \_\_\_\_\_ of the church.

No major Christian tradition is \_\_\_\_\_ in the U.S. today.

Religious \_\_\_\_\_ are on the rise from 16% to 23%.

**Growing Young:** Churches that aren't shrinking and aging, but are growing in involving and retaining \_\_\_\_\_ , which brings overall \_\_\_\_\_ to the whole church.

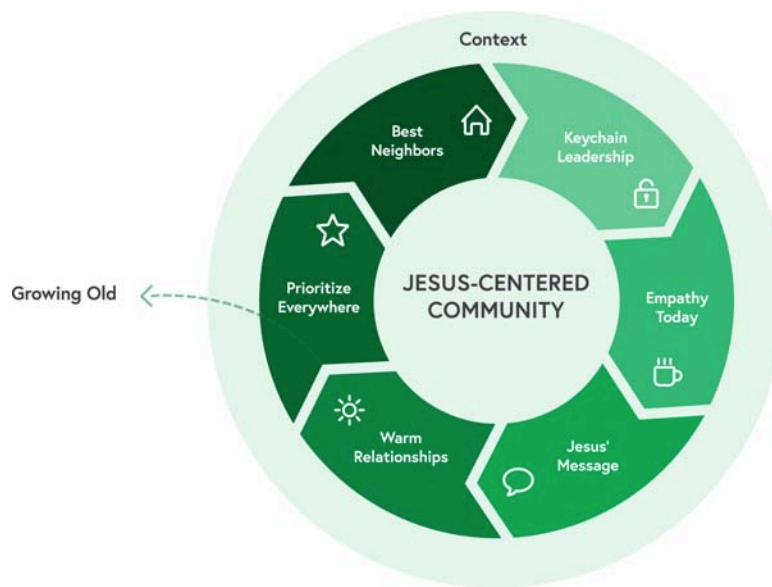
### **10 Qualities Your Church Doesn't Need to Grow Young:**

- |    |     |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 6.  |
| 2. | 7.  |
| 3. | 8.  |
| 4. | 9.  |
| 5. | 10. |

### **6 Core Commitments found in Growing Young Churches:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

# #GROWING YOUNG ADVENTISTS



## #GrowingYoungAdventists

Growing Young Adventists is a learning journey encouraging our church to love next generations well. We want to \_\_\_\_\_, support, and \_\_\_\_\_ congregations who desire the vitality of our young people and the great relationships they bring.

## What will be your next steps, and how can we help?

Presenter:

**A Allan Martin, PhD**, is the teaching pastor of Younger Generation Church [ygchurch.com], the vibrant young adult ministry of the Arlington Seventh-day Adventist Church in Texas [USA]. Dr. Martin continues as adjunct faculty for the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, specializing in discipleship and young adult ministry. He and his wife, Deirdre, tour nationally, speaking about relationships as well as equipping new generations in Christian lifestyle and leadership. Along with daughter Alexa, they reside in the DFW Metroplex.

Online Resources:

- GrowingYoungAdventists.com
- facebook.com/GrowingYoungAdventists
- Growing Young book available at: <https://www.adventsource.org/as30/store-productDetails.aspx?id=38777>
- churchesgrowingyoung.com



# INTIMACY COMMUNITY GRACE

Younger Generation Church [YG] is the vibrant young adult ministry  
of the Arlington Seventh-day Adventist Church.



CHURCH

@ygchurch

[www.facebook.com/ygchurch](https://www.facebook.com/ygchurch)

[ygchurch.com](http://ygchurch.com)



**OUR MISSION** is to deepen our devotion to Jesus Christ by:  
 Pursuing **INTIMACY** with GOD...  
 Experiencing **COMMUNITY** with each other...  
 Inspiring those around us with the Hope of **GRACE**...



## INTIMACY

We are wholeheartedly pursuing a 24/7 experience with the living GOD. Our worship is for His fame.



## COMMUNITY

We express best who GOD is by doing life together well. Our relationships express His love.



## GRACE

We are compelled to share the hope we have with others. Our compassionate witness reveals His Good News as real.

## OUR VISION

In this new decade of Younger Generation Church, we aspire to overflow Jesus Christ beyond our four walls — blessing our community, transforming our world.

## LIVE WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Saturdays at 10:15am [Central]  
 4409 Pleasantview Drive  
 Arlington, TX 76017-1427 USA

## ABOUT US

YG began just after the turn of the century as a high-energy, contemporary worship service highlighting multimedia, upbeat music, and timely, creative messages — all focused on reaching young adults. Today, YG transcends age and program boundaries, making authentic efforts to foster the great commandment and great commission in new generations.

# Growing a Younger Generation Church | Part 1

By Samantha Angeles Peralta

You may have heard it said, “The church is not a museum for saints, but a hospital for sinners.” Dr. Allan Martin, teaching pastor of Younger Generation (YG) Church, would extend the word picture beyond the cliché.

“Beyond a hospital for sinners, we see YG Church as a teaching hospital for younger generations,” said Martin. “It’s a place where young adults are expressing their excitement to deepen the devotion of those around them to Jesus. They’re not doing it by themselves; we have inter-generational relationships of people working together. We really see this as a living laboratory of leadership.”

## Beginnings

YG Church, the young adult ministry of the Arlington Seventh-day Adventist Church in Texas, began in 2004 as a third church service under the leadership of then-senior pastor Mike Tucker. His desire, according to Martin, was for young adults to direct, produce, and participate in worship that would be meaningful for them.

“This was revolutionary at the time,” said Martin. “YG Church was an anomaly across the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex and probably across the nation. It was a contemporary worship service with dynamic, relevant preaching and contemporary worship music for young people.”

In 2010, YG Church invited Martin to transition from his teaching position at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary to pastor the YG community. Martin, who has a rich ministry background, including planting and pastoring a church in Celebration, Florida, recognized God’s leading and moved to Texas to lead YG Church.

“When I came in, one of the things we wanted to do was integrate this great worship service with the entire church, not just be a church within a church,” he said. “We moved from being a really cool and flashy youth and young adult service to a more robust discipleship and mission-minded ministry embedded in the heart of Arlington Seventh-day Adventist Church.”

## YG Today

Now, more than seven years later, YG Church’s weekly service averages 300–400 attendees and up to 600 online viewers each week. Under Martin’s leadership, YG Church has developed into a vibrant ministry that “transcends age and program boundaries, making authentic efforts to foster the Great Commission in new generations,” according to its mission description sheet.

“It’s not unheard of in our church culture to have a 13-year-old running the sound board,” said Martin. “That 13-year-old is being mentored by a young adult, who is being supervised by our media director. There are even kids younger than that, seven- or eight-years-old, behind cameras training to do broadcasts.”



## #EveryMemberAMentor

This mentorship is intrinsic to the YG community, and has been an important part of integrating YG Church into the larger Arlington Adventist Church family. Martin has intentionally nurtured inter-generational mentorship through his #EveryMemberAMentor initiative.

“We believe that every church member can benefit a member who is younger than them by pouring a little bit of God’s grace, God’s goodness, and their experience of Jesus into that person,” he said. “If you’re a high school student, there are always junior high students who think you’re the coolest thing.” Or, you could be a 70-year-old couple that can pour into those younger 50-year-olds. No matter what age you are, there’s always a generation coming behind that you can mentor.”

Along with reaching next generations with the gospel, YG church’s mission is to “deepen our devotion to Jesus Christ by pursuing intimacy with God, experiencing community with each other, and inspiring those around us with the hope of grace. These three values—intimacy, community, and grace—are embodied by the ministries of YG Church.”

Look for the second part of this series in the FLAME’s fall issue!

# Growing a Younger Generation Church | Part 2

## Pursuing Intimacy With God

"Pursuing intimacy with God through our worship experience is the most prominent and heavily-engaging element of our mission," says Allan Martin, Pastor for Younger Generation Church (YG) in Arlington. "We pursue this with everything we've got. On Friday nights, as we're preparing for our worship service at Arlington Seventh-day Adventist Church, we're brimming with groups of young adults doing everything from getting cameras ready to preparing prompts to artists up on stage getting the band ready. We're using YG Church as an opportunity for young adults to be heavily involved in every aspect of what we're doing." YG Church is not limited to a worship service, however. Experiencing community with one another is an important element of YG that happens all week, and is integral to reaching the hearts of younger generations.

## Experiencing Community

"Millennials are a lonely generation," says Martin. "They have very few relationships of depth, but a billion friends on social media. So, we believe at YG Church that, in order for us to grow big, we have to grow small." On any given Saturday, around 1,200 people experience at least one of the three services offered at the Arlington Church. In order to ensure that YG members have an opportunity to experience community, each member is encouraged to join a LIFEgroup. These groups range from interest-based gatherings, such as basketball teams, to theological discussion groups. However, each group studies the Bible together, prays together, and seeks to hold one another accountable. "That's where growth happens, where relationships form, and where accountability happens," says Martin. "The first-century church flourished because people were doing life together. We aspire to do the same."

## Inspiring Hope

The third aspect of YG Church's mission is "inspiring those around us with the hope of grace."

"We know from research that most young adults won't give a second look to your church if you're not doing something meaningful in your local community to make a difference," says Martin. "So, we do everything from helping out at the local food bank to being involved recently with hurricane and disaster relief efforts. This is more than just evangelistic, though it can include evangelism. It's about making a positive difference in our world for the sake of Jesus."

YG Church has made this value such a part of their corporate identity that they encourage their members to carry a heart of service wherever they go.

"We have a saying at the church: I Am YG. No matter where our members are, they're being compelled to be involved in their community and be an extension of our church, even if they're college students studying far away and are not able to be here every single weekend," adds Martin.

## Start With Listening

To pastors or leaders in churches where ministry to younger generations is practically nonexistent, Martin makes this challenge: "If a church decides they want to reach out to young adults, all they have to do is begin listening to the young adults they already have. As adult members create opportunities to spend time with young adults, even if it's just over meals, watching a TV show together, or attending a ball game—as the Holy Spirit gives your members a heart for the young person, inevitably, God will come up. Faith will come up. Questions about life will come up. Remember what's most important to the conversation. Start by listening."

### Psalm 139:10

- 10 Even there Your hand will <sup>a</sup>lead me,  
And Your right hand will lay hold of  
me.  
11 If I say, "Surely the <sup>a</sup>'darkness will  
<sup>b</sup>overwhelm me,  
And the light around me will be night  
12 Even the <sup>a</sup>'darkness is not dark 'to You  
And the night is as bright as the day  
'Darkness and light are alike to You."  
13 For You <sup>a</sup>'formed my 'inward parts;  
You <sup>b</sup>'wove me in my mother's womb  
14 I will give thanks to You, for 'I am  
fearfully and wonderfully made:  
'Wonderful are Your works,  
And my soul knows it very well.  
15 My <sup>a</sup>'frame was not hidden from You  
When I was made in secret,  
And skillfully wrought in the <sup>b</sup>'depth  
of the earth;  
16 Your <sup>a</sup>'eyes have seen my unformed  
substance;  
And in <sup>b</sup>'Your book were all written  
The <sup>c</sup>'days that were ordained for me  
When as yet there was not one of  
them.  
17 How precious also are Your <sup>a</sup>'thoughts  
to me, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!  
18 If I should count them, they would  
<sup>a</sup>'outnumber the sand.  
When <sup>b</sup>'I awake, I am still with You

by referring to its two extremes (merism), vv. 8-9, spatial reality, the whole creation.

139:10 *lead me*... *lay hold of me*. Though the occurs in 73:23-24 to indicate God's solicitude denotes God's inescapable supervision, not unlike of v. 5.

139:11-12 Just as the whole creation offers no (vv. 8-9), neither does even the darkness.

139:13-16 You Yourself put me together in the ordained span of my life before I was born.

139:13 *inward parts*. Lit. "kidneys"—in Hebrew innermost center of emotions and of moral sense which God tests and examines when He "tries" (note on 7:9).

139:14 *fearfully*... *wonderfully*... *Wonderful*, as the One who formed me (see vv. 15-16), but I to comprehend this creature You have fashioned