



CARIBBEAN BRETHREN ASSEMBLIES CONFERENCE 2017
Cascadia Hotel, # 67, Ariapita Road, St. Ann's, Port of Spain, Trinidad.

Workshop Title: 'Reaching Youth'

Facilitator: Joel Lopez

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1. Characteristics of 'Reaching'

- a. There must be a Destination point or target object or audience`
- b. There is application of some effort
- c. There is utilization of some means or route
- d. The Present participle tells there is an ongoing or continuous process

2. Defining 'Youth'

While the term youth may vary across different cultures, it generally refers to persons between the ages 15 to 29 years of age.

3. The Importance of Reaching Youth

World population – 7.5 billion

Youth population – 1.8 billion (25%)

Unsaved youth population – 1.1 billion (60% of youths)

4. Scriptural Reference

1 Cor 9 vs 20-23

²⁰And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law;

²¹ To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law.



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²² To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men that I might by all means save some.

Explanation:

The use of the word 'ALL MEN', tells us that 'Youth' is included in the people the Apostle Paul was trying to reach. Reaching youth is therefore not a new theme to us today since it stemmed even from the days of scripture.

- a. 'I am made ALL THINGS' – tells us about the flexibility of the Apostle Paul in his thinking, ways, actions
- b. 'That I might by ALL MEANS' – tells us about the flexibility of the Apostle Paul in his measures and methods.
- c. Notice that such flexibility DID NOT imply any compromise on the 'message' which is the word of God.

5. How can we reach youth both in our assemblies and communities?

Points to consider:

- I. Understand the needs of young people – many youths battle hurt, worthlessness, low self-esteem, the need for; love, trust and attention. Preparing oneself to encounter these issues is key to reaching many youths.
- II. Connect / Plug in to the young people's world – youths today connect with each other using today's media and technology. If we are to reach them, we too must connect using the media and technology that they share. If we are unable to, consider using the available youths. Youths often attract other youths.
- III. Seek them – No longer can we wait for the youths to come in to us. We rather need to go, find them and bring them. By looking at the areas where youths gather in numbers; e.g. entertainment, sports, schools, we can identify the harvest fields.



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- IV. Nurture and encourage them – Youths today are engulfed with loads of information both good and bad. They also have questions and problems to which they seek answers and are either afraid or too shy to ask. Many youths can be reached if they are guided with the answers from the word of God. The Apostle Paul – Timothy relationship (2 Tim 1) is a good example.
- V. Be exemplary – As believers our walk with Christ should be a good example if we are reach youths for Christ. We must also exhibit Christ-like qualities whereby we are: approachable, trustworthy, loving, caring, humble and patient.
- VI. Pray for/and with them – prayer has been and will always be a powerful method in reaching youth through the work of the Holy Spirit. Remember it is not by might nor by power but by my Spirit saith the Lord (Zech 4 vs 6). Paul planted, Apollos watered but the Lord gave the increase (1 Cor 3 vs 6).

6. Questions for discussion

- I. What percentage of your assembly is currently youth (Age17-29)?
- II. What are the challenges we face today in reaching our youths?
- III. Are the current approaches in our local assemblies effective in reaching youths? If yes, kindly provide details.
- IV. What can we as believers, both individually and collectively do to reach more youths?