

## **A look of expectation and faith to the future...**

We always talk about the future fearfully because we ignore what tomorrow brings. But at this moment we are aware of our challenges. They concern mainly Youth growing loss of interest for traditional religion.

To face this reality we've to be honest with ourselves and evaluate as quickly as possible what is wrong and start acting right.

Our greatest need is to stimulate youth to a renewed relation with their Saviour, Jesus Christ. That's why we have a visiting and intercession plan to our youth.

The visiting plan is very simple and is part of common sense. The main idea is that regional leaders, and afterwards local leaders (from each church), visit their youth and encourage them to establish a stronger spiritual devotional experience. The youngster is invited to take a portion of his/hers morning schedule to study the Word of God, and in the evening to share his/her experience (main ideas) with his/her family.

After a 3 month period a new challenge is presented: to pray for those he/she wishes to meet Christ. They can be non-believer friends or spiritual seekers. The main challenge is that he/she repeats to others the call that we made him/her.

At other level, we pretend to develop, with some groups, a bigger emphasis in testimony activities. Particularly with Adventurers (6-12 years old), Pathfinders (12-16 years old), engaging these youngsters in sharing their faith activities.

We believe that, if these youngsters (in this specific age) have the opportunity, during their national or regional activities – camp meetings or gatherings -, to share with others their own faith experience this will awake, in a positive point of view, the habit to do it more often.

However this won't be easy, because we need to change implemented mentalities, mainly from leaders. So our next step will be to continue training our leaders, has it has been done these past years.

We are aware that all these challenges will only be achieved by the power of God's spirit! May the Lord strengthen the arms of those who accepted his call to work for his youth.

Pray for us!

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Portuguese Union of Churches website: <http://www.adventistas.org.pt/>

Portuguese Adventist Youth Department website: <http://www.juventudeadventista.pt/index.asp>