



AYM Carolina

Highlight Magazine

Conquerors | Volume 1, 2025



AYM Carolina | Highlight Magazine

CONTENTS

2 | About AYM Carolina

6 | The Editorial

8 | AYM Carolina - How it all Began

9 | Retreat Highlights - Conquerors

15 | Team Updates

AYM Carolina

Our Purpose, Our Mission

AYM Carolina is an Adventist youth ministry based in North Carolina. It is a movement led by young people for young people who desire spiritual **revival, transformation,** and a **deeper relationship** with Christ.



It is our desire for youth to **grow in** and **experience** the love of Christ and to **share** His love to hearts in need of healing. We do this through our regular bi-annual retreats and Mission Rallies throughout the Carolinas.



AYM CAROLINA MISSIONS

 Hendersonville SDA Church

December 6

2025

HERE AM I



REGISTER NOW!

Free Registration



SCAN ME

Learn more at AYMcarolina.com

EVENT SPEAKERS



Elijah Rodgers



Pr. Bryce Bowman

Adventist Youth on a Mission

Revival, Consecration, and Service

ABOUT AYM CAROLINA

AYM Carolina is an Adventist youth ministry based in North Carolina. It is a movement led by young people for people who desire spiritual revival, transformation, and a deeper relationship with Christ. It is our desire for youth to grow in and experience the love of Christ and to share His love with others. We do this through our regular bi-annual retreats and Mission Rallies throughout the Carolinas.

These retreats and mission rallies are a place of practical experience and outreach to encourage youth in service for Christ in fulfillment of their purpose and in preparation for eternity.

ABOUT OUR MISSION RALLIES

These are local mission projects organized by AYM Carolina youth for everyone to be involved in. The purpose of the outreach rallies is to reach hearts throughout the Carolinas with Christ's love through comprehensive outreach. This will be an action-packed day filled with Inspiring Messages, Service, and a Special Outreach Music Concert.

ABOUT UPCOMING MISSION RALLY THEME

The theme "Here Am I" is a surrender to the will of God in your life. It is a surrender allowing God to use you according to His Divine plan. You lay self aside to be enabled to serve Christ unreservedly and live a life of consecrated, unselfish service. You become an instrument in the hand of the Master to be used according to His perfect will.

LEARN MORE ABOUT AYM CAROLINA, OUR UPCOMING MISSION RALLY, AND OUR BI-ANNUAL RETREATS, AT AYMCAROLINA.COM

2025 WINTER MUSIC CONCERT

God With Us

Excerpts will be read from Desire of Ages during the concert.



SATURDAY
December 6th
@ 7:00 pm



AYMcarolina.com

Hendersonville SDA Church
2301 Asheville Hwy,
Hendersonville, NC 28791

Because of sin, humanity came under eternal condemnation and was separated from God with no light or hope. But, God didn't leave us alone. Infinite love, mercy, and truth was manifested to the world in Christ Incarnate. Righteousness came down from heaven to grant us righteousness we didn't deserve. Christ came and dwelt with humanity to transform our sinful hearts into His sacred dwelling. One day soon, Christ will come again in all His glory to take us home to forever dwell with Him in eternal peace, repeating the resounding joys of salvation and eternal redemption throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity.

CONQUERERS



The Editorial

The Ultimate Victory

By Elijah M. Rodgers

Humanity is in a great controversy. According to Revelation chapter 12, there is a battle between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of darkness. A battle between right verses wrong, truth verses lies. Ultimately, it is a battle for your soul. Forces of evil are seeking to overcome your soul and keep you trapped in the snares of darkness and sin.

According to Ephesians 6:12, "...we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." This is a spiritual battle that has eternal consequences for everlasting life or eternal death.

When sin came into our world through the violation of God's moral law, humanity's spiritual nature became corrupted and marred by sin. Because of the moral law, the desires of sin were forbidden. According to 1 John 3:4, "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." The law

defines sin. Paul says in Romans 7:7, "Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet."

Therefore "...sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence [forbidden lust]. For without the law sin was dead." (Romans 7:8). Sin molded into Paul's life all manner of forbidden lust. Desires that were forbidden because of God's moral law. Without the moral Law, sin would not be sin, therefore Paul says that "...without the law sin was dead."

Continuing in Romans 7:9 Paul says, "For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died." He was alive without the law in the since of lawlessness. (Read 1 Corinthians 9:21) Then the commandment came,

and he saw himself as he was, a sinner under the condemnation of eternal death. He says, "...the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death." (Romans 7:10). God's moral law is for the benefit of the entire universe. It is a commandment ordained to life. But when sin is present, the law ordained to life becomes a law of condemnation and death because "...the wages of sin is death". (Romans 6:23). "For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me." (Romans 7:11). Sin, which deceived him, through the penalty of the law slew him.

In Romans 7:13 Paul asks the question, "Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become

**"For the wages of sin is death;
but the gift of God is eternal life
through Jesus Christ our Lord."**

- Romans 6:23

exceeding sinful.” The law was not sin and the law was still a law ordained unto life. But the penalty of the Law showed the reality of what sin really was — death. Therefore, through the law, the nature of sin is clearly revealed. The law only forbade the things that would lead to death. It was for our highest good. “Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.” (Romans 7:12)

Disobedience and rebellion deformed us into the mold of sin and we became its captives. We became incapable of fulfilling the requirements of God’s moral law. Romans 7:14 says, ‘For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.’ Transgression took all that was heretofore good from the human soul. In our flesh “dwelleth no good thing.” (Romans 7:18). When a sinner sees God’s moral law they see their wretched condition, but humanity has no power to conform to it precepts. In our wretchedness, there is no strength to withstand the hold of sin on our lives.

The sinful flesh wars against righteousness. “...The flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.” (Galatians 5:17). This war of the sinful flesh against righteousness holds us in the captivity of sin. “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.” (Romans 7:18). In our human power we cannot break free from the chains of this captivity. Seeing the reality of his condition Paul exclaims, “O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?” (Romans 7:14).

This is where the power of is Christ is remarkably displayed in the gospel, “For what the law could not do, in that

"Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

- Romans 8:37

it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” (Romans 8:3,4). All the moral law could do is show the sinner their sinful condition. The law had no power to change that condition because of the captivity of sin. Humanity needed Divine power to overcome the captivity of sin on the soul. In Christ we receive power “...both to will and to do of his good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:13).

Jesus came to this earth with a mission to “...save his people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:21). Our Creator came to deliver the people who He had created yet rebelled against Him. He came to break the power of sin from the souls of humanity.

When there was no hope, Christ’s love heard your cry. He sacrificed everything, gave His life, shed His blood, and overcame the world to

give you the victory. Jesus gives us the promise, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” (John 8:34,36). This freedom is guaranteed in Christ. This freedom and deliverance cannot be found in any other source. Jesus is our only hope for deliverance from the captivity of sin.

Jesus defeated the sinful flesh and broke its power. To the despondent trapped in the cords of sin, Jesus gives a message of victory, “...be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” In Christ, His victory can be your victory. 1 John 5:4 says, “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.” Through faith in the atoning blood of Christ you will receive omnipotent power to fight the fight of faith and overcome the world. Clothed with the armor of God you stand. In Christ, you will pull down the strongholds of sin and become “more than conquerors through him that loved us.” (Romans 8:37).



Elijah Rodgers is a 20-year old from North Carolina. He enjoys beekeeping, saw milling, farming, spending time in the forest studying different trees, learning the many wonders of human anatomy and physiology, serving others, and spreading the everlasting gospel. His favorite Bible verses are Joshua 1:9 and 2 Corinthians 12:9 which gives him the promise that God is with us when we do what he has commanded and that God’s strength is made perfect in human weakness when we are fully surrendered to Him.



AYM Carolina | How it all Began

By Olivia Zummach

If you had told me a few years ago that I would lead an AYM chapter in North Carolina, I probably would've laughed.

It all started when I went to AYM Ohio in 2022. I had no idea what to expect, but the experience was so powerful and inspiring. Throughout that weekend, a few of my friends said to me, "You should start an AYM chapter in North Carolina!"

I remember thinking, "Me? No way. I'm not qualified for something like that." I brushed it off for a while, but the idea just wouldn't go away. My mom kept encouraging me to pray about it, and I kept coming up with reasons why I wasn't the right person. Finally, after about three months of saying no, I made a deal with God. In order to have a retreat next summer we'd have to start planning in two months. I told Him, "Okay, Lord—if this is really what You want, then I'll do it if You bring me a team of five people within two months."

To be honest, I didn't expect that to happen. But God had other plans. Over those two months, we asked several people to join, and most said no. But on the last day of the second month, we found our fifth team member—the seventh person we had asked for that particular position! It was like God was saying, "See? I told you I'd provide."

With that, AYM North Carolina was born.

We hosted our very first retreat in June 2023. Our theme was "Dare to Stand Alone," focusing on the life and faith of Daniel. It was small—about 45 people in attendance—but it was beautiful. There was such a sense of peace and

purpose, and I knew God was doing something special. Since then, we've had five retreats, and each one has been unique. The team has changed and grown, and we've met so many amazing people along the way. Watching God move through this ministry has been incredible.

AYM Carolina has truly been one of the biggest blessings in my life. It's taught me that God doesn't call the qualified—He qualifies the called. Every step of the way, He's reminded me that it's not about our strength or ability, but about His. When we say yes, even when we feel unprepared, God shows up in ways we could never imagine.



Olivia Zummach is a 20-year-old writer from Asheboro, North Carolina. After recently stepping away from AYM to pursue college, she is preparing for a future in ministry. When not studying or writing, Olivia enjoys spending time in nature, baking, music, photography, and hiking. Above all, she loves Jesus and desires to live a life that reflects His love.

CONQUERERS



There is a battle for your soul. Forces of evil are seeking to overcome your soul and keep you trapped in the snares of sin. In your wretchedness there is no strength to withstand. Your only hope is Jesus Christ. Christ has overcome the world. Through faith in His atoning blood you will receive omnipotent power to fight the fight of faith. Clothed with the armor of God you stand. In Christ you pull down the strongholds of sin and become more than conquerors.

Conquerors | A Weekend of Growth and Inspiration

By Kaitlynn Wongjanarat

Last September we spent one unforgettable weekend growing in faith, friendship, and purpose. With the theme “Conquerors” we spent time digging into the Bible, asking challenging questions, and growing together.

The message? How we can approach life and overcome In Jesus Christ.

The place? A campground and meeting area in the beautiful North Carolina countryside.

The purpose? To grow in spreading the gospel, spend time with other like-minded youth, and most of all deepen our relationship with Jesus.

A Powerful Message

Experiencing God through the earnest sermons preached by youth our age was super inspiring, but it didn’t stop there. We got a chance to spend time in devotion, ask questions during question and answer time, learn practical Christianity through structured conversation during breakout sessions, and spend time together in individual conversations.

Friends and Discussion

Enjoying spending time together in nature, in the word, and through activities and games is always definitely a highlight for everyone during the

retreat. Some of the favorites of this retreat were volleyball, and a fun contest to see which team could get a frozen T-shirt melted and put on one of their team members first! Making friends, having conversations around the campfire, and spending time together in worship was uplifting and fun!

Time to Share!

The best way to keep a fire going, is to spread it, and we were very privileged to get to spend time participating in activities to reach out to and help to better the community. On Friday, we spent time singing, and playing

“Outreach on Sabbath was DEFINITELY my favorite part! That and Friday night meeting plus hanging out with friends”



“Awesome, Awesome speakers...
and amazing fellowship”



Kaitlynn is an 19-year-old from Southern North Carolina. She enjoys hiking, camping, singing, horseback riding, gardening, working outdoors, and playing her guitar, and piano. She loves to engage in anything outdoors in God's first book. She wants to be a medical missionary one day, and her favorite Bible verses are Romans 8:28-39 Which reminds her that God is there for us, even when we can't see him, and that we can trust in him.

instruments at a local nursing home, along with getting to help an elderly individual with his yard.

Sabbath afternoon, we were on a mission to pass out literature into the surrounding community. Going door to door, we prayed with people, gave them literature, and spent time in conversation. Recent political events opened lots of doors to have conversations regarding world events and how God is involved in every little moment of each of our lives as well as the big events happening all around us. Afterwards, we all regrouped and spent some time sharing how God had worked!

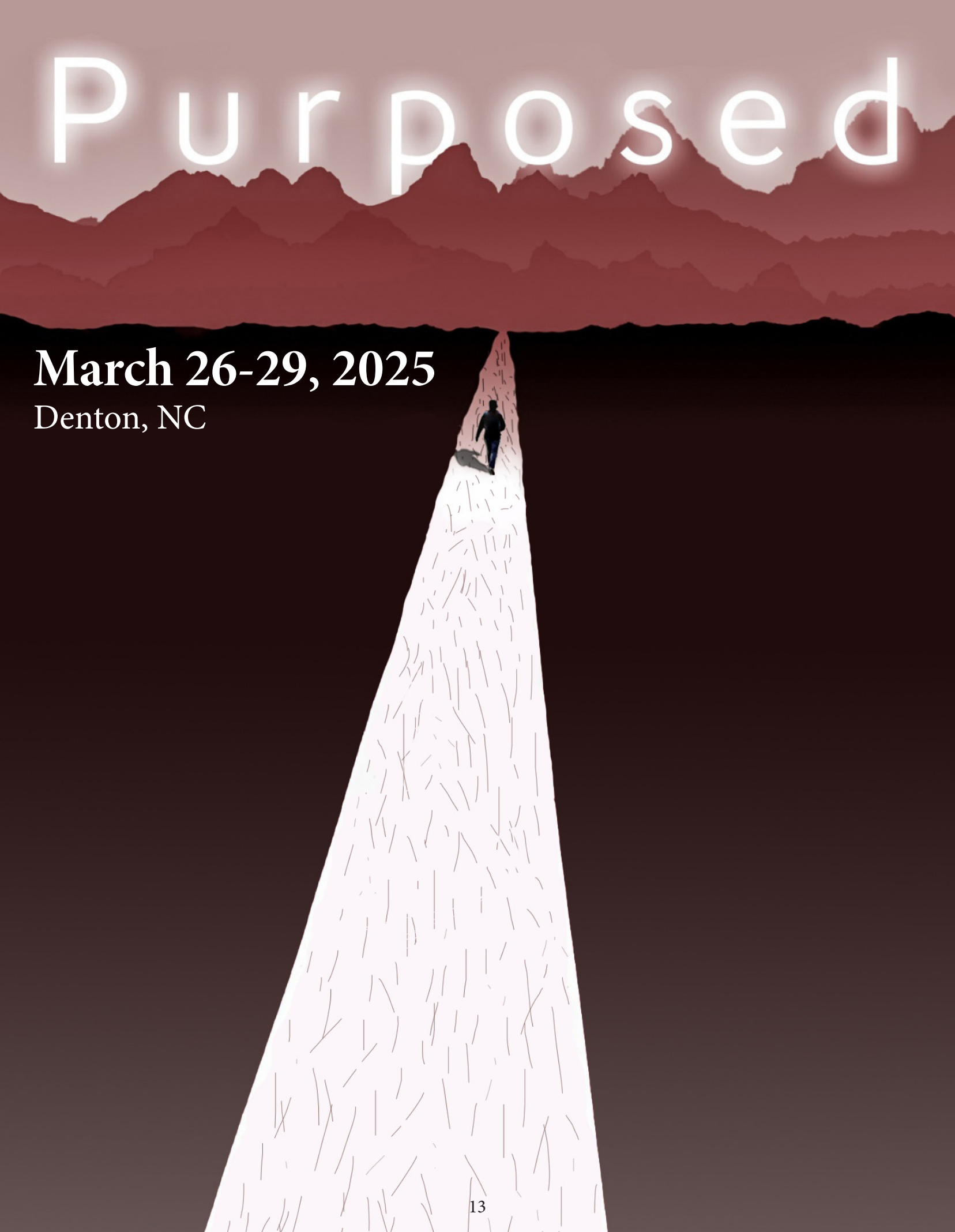
Don't Miss the Next Retreat!
If you want to experience an uplifting weekend like this, don't miss out on the next retreat March 26-29 !

Conquerors Retreat in Pictures





Purposed

A stylized illustration featuring a dark, silhouetted mountain range at the top. Below the mountains, a bright, glowing path of light leads from the bottom center towards the horizon. A small, dark silhouette of a person is walking away from the viewer on this path. The background is a deep red or maroon color.

March 26-29, 2025
Denton, NC

AYM Carolina 2026 Spring Retreat

In the midst of a godless society, you must stand purposed in your heart to be loyal to Christ though the heavens fall. When the world around you is bowing, you must stand with integrity to follow truth. Though the cause of Christ is reproached, when your life is threatened, and the only thing before you is a fiery furnace, you must stand steadfast with a determination to hold fast to righteousness no matter the consequences. In the power of God you stand to fulfill His high calling in your life showing forth to the world the excellence of Christ.

Why did Joseph rise to power? What was it that held Daniel to such integrity to stay uncompromised in the midst of a compromising nation? What was it that gave Abigail the drive to make peace in a time of conflict? It was purpose that was settled deep down in their heart, inspired by God. A determination to do right no matter the circumstances. And just like them, you also have access to the same source of power.

STAND

Loyal to Christ, Purposed in Heart, Grounded in Your Mission

Registration Opening

December 28, 2025

AYMcarolina.com

AYM Carolina Team



Elijah Rodgers
President



Nehemiah Rodgers
General Vice President



Kaitlynn Wongjanarat
Secretary/Programming



Malcolm Smith
VP of Registration



Christian Clark
VP of Evangelism



Theron Allen
Evangelism Assistant

AYM Team Through the Years

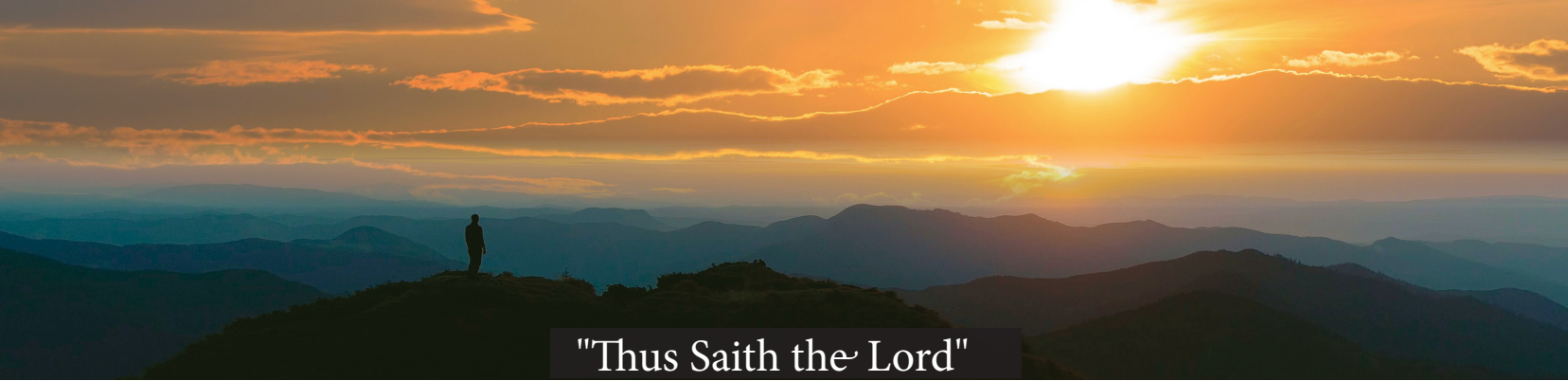


*Not all members present



*Not all members present





"Thus Saith the Lord"

The Victory

By Ellen White

The tempter can never compel us to do evil. He cannot control minds unless they are yielded to his control. The will must consent, faith must let go its hold upon Christ, before Satan can exercise his power upon us. But every sinful desire we cherish affords him a foothold. Every point in which we fail of meeting the divine standard is an open door by which he can enter to tempt and destroy us. And every failure or defeat on our part gives occasion for him to reproach Christ.

When Satan quoted the promise, "He shall give His angels charge over Thee," he omitted the words, "to keep Thee in all Thy ways;" that is, in all the ways of God's choosing. Jesus refused to go outside the path of obedience. While manifesting perfect trust in His Father, He would not place Himself, unbidden, in a position that would necessitate the interposition of His Father to save Him from death. He would not force Providence to come to His rescue, and thus fail of giving man an example of trust and submission.

Jesus declared to Satan, "It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God." These words were spoken by Moses to the children of Israel when they thirsted in the desert, and demanded that Moses should give them water, exclaiming, "Is the Lord among us, or not?" Exodus 17:7. God had wrought marvelously for them; yet in trouble they doubted Him, and demanded evidence that He was with them. In their unbelief they sought to put Him to the test. And

Satan was urging Christ to do the same thing. God had already testified that Jesus was His Son; and now to ask for proof that He was the Son of God would be putting God's word to the test,—tempting Him. And the same would be true of asking for that which God had not promised. It would manifest distrust, and be really proving, or tempting, Him. We should not present our petitions to God to prove whether He will fulfill His word, but because He will fulfill it; not to prove that He loves us, but because He loves us. "Without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." Hebrews 11:6.

But faith is in no sense allied to presumption. Only he who has true faith is secure against presumption. For presumption is Satan's counterfeit of faith. Faith claims God's promises, and brings forth fruit in obedience. Presumption also claims the promises, but uses them as Satan did, to excuse transgression. Faith would have led our first parents to trust the love of God, and to obey His commands. Presumption led them to transgress His law, believing that His great love would save them from the consequence of their sin. It is not faith that claims the favor of Heaven without complying with the conditions on which mercy is to be granted. Genuine faith has its foundation in the promises and provisions of the Scriptures.

Often when Satan has failed of exciting distrust, he succeeds in leading us to presumption. If he can cause us to place ourselves unnecessarily in the way of temptation, he knows that the victory is his. God will preserve all who walk in the

path of obedience; but to depart from it is to venture on Satan's ground. There we are sure to fall. The Saviour has bidden us, "Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation." Mark 14:38. Meditation and prayer would keep us from rushing unbidden into the way of danger, and thus we should be saved from many a defeat.

Yet we should not lose courage when assailed by temptation. Often when placed in a trying situation we doubt that the Spirit of God has been leading us. But it was the Spirit's leading that brought Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan. When God brings us into trial, He has a purpose to accomplish for our good. Jesus did not presume on God's promises by going unbidden into temptation, neither did He give up to despondency when temptation came upon Him. Nor should we. "God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." He says, "Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the Most High: and call upon Me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify Me." 1 Corinthians 10:13; Psalm 50:14, 15.

Jesus was victor in the second temptation, and now Satan manifests himself in his true character. But he does not appear as a hideous monster, with cloven feet and bat's wings. He is a mighty angel, though fallen. He avows himself the leader of rebellion and the god of this world.

Placing Jesus upon a high mountain, Satan caused the kingdoms of the world, in all their glory, to pass in panoramic view before Him. The sunlight lay on templed cities, marble palaces, fertile

fields, and fruit-laden vineyards. The traces of evil were hidden. The eyes of Jesus, so lately greeted by gloom and desolation, now gazed upon a scene of unsurpassed loveliness and prosperity. Then the tempter's voice was heard: "All this power will I give Thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If Thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be Thine."

Christ's mission could be fulfilled only through suffering. Before Him was a life of sorrow, hardship, and conflict, and an ignominious death. He must bear the sins of the whole world. He must endure separation from His Father's love. Now the tempter offered to yield up the power he had usurped. Christ might deliver Himself from the dreadful future by acknowledging the supremacy of Satan. But to do this was to yield the victory in the great controversy. It was in seeking to exalt himself above the Son of God that Satan had sinned in heaven. Should he prevail now, it would be the triumph of rebellion.

When Satan declared to Christ, The kingdom and glory of the world are delivered unto me, and to whomsoever I will I give it, he stated what was true only in part, and he declared it to serve his own purpose of deception. Satan's dominion was that wrested from Adam, but Adam was the vicegerent of the Creator. His was not an independent rule. The earth is God's, and He has committed all things to His Son. Adam was to reign subject to Christ. When Adam betrayed his sovereignty into Satan's hands, Christ still remained the rightful King. Thus the Lord had said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "The Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will." Daniel 4:17. Satan can exercise his usurped authority only as God permits.

When the tempter offered to Christ the kingdom and glory of the world, he was proposing that Christ should yield up the real kingship of the world, and hold dominion subject to Satan. This was the same dominion upon which the hopes of the Jews were set. They desired the

kingdom of this world. If Christ had consented to offer them such a kingdom, they would gladly have received Him. But the curse of sin, with all its woe, rested upon it. Christ declared to the tempter, "Get thee behind Me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve."

By the one who had revolted in heaven the kingdoms of this world were offered Christ, to buy His homage to the principles of evil; but He would not be bought; He had come to establish a kingdom of righteousness, and He would not abandon His purpose. With the same temptation Satan approaches men, and here he has better success than with Christ. To men he offers the kingdom of this world on condition that they will acknowledge his supremacy. He requires that they sacrifice integrity, disregard conscience, indulge selfishness. Christ bids them seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; but Satan walks by their side and says: Whatever may be true in regard to life eternal, in order to make a success in this world you must serve me. I hold your welfare in my hands. I can give you riches, pleasures, honor, and happiness. Harken to my counsel. Do not allow yourselves to be carried away with whimsical notions of honesty or self-sacrifice. I will prepare the way before you. Thus multitudes are deceived. They consent to live for the service of self, and Satan is satisfied. While he allures them with the hope of worldly dominion, he gains dominion over the soul. But he offers that which is not his to bestow, and which is soon to be wrested from him. In return he beguiles them of their title to the inheritance of the sons of God.

Satan had questioned whether Jesus was the Son of God. In his summary dismissal he had proof that he could not gainsay. Divinity flashed through suffering humanity. Satan had no power to resist the command. Writhing with humiliation and rage, he was forced to withdraw from the presence of the world's Redeemer. Christ's victory was as complete as had been the failure of Adam.

So we may resist temptation, and force Satan to depart from us. Jesus gained the victory through submission and faith in God, and by the apostle He says to us, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you." James 4:7, 8. We cannot save ourselves from the tempter's power; he has conquered humanity, and when we try to stand in our own strength, we shall become a prey to his devices; but "the name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe." Proverbs 18:10. Satan trembles and flees before the weakest soul who finds refuge in that mighty name.

After the foe had departed, Jesus fell exhausted to the earth, with the pallor of death upon His face. The angels of heaven had watched the conflict, beholding their loved Commander as He passed through inexpressible suffering to make a way of escape for us. He had endured the test, greater than we shall ever be called to endure. The angels now ministered to the Son of God as He lay like one dying. He was strengthened with food, comforted with the message of His Father's love and the assurance that all heaven triumphed in His victory. Warming to life again, His great heart goes out in sympathy for man, and He goes forth to complete the work He has begun; to rest not until the foe is vanquished, and our fallen race redeemed.

Never can the cost of our redemption be realized until the redeemed shall stand with the Redeemer before the throne of God. Then as the glories of the eternal home burst upon our enraptured senses we shall remember that Jesus left all this for us, that He not only became an exile from the heavenly courts, but for us took the risk of failure and eternal loss. Then we shall cast our crowns at His feet, and raise the song, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing." Revelation 5:12.

- Desire of Ages page, 125-131

A scenic view of a river flowing over dark, mossy rocks. The water is dark and rippled, with white foam visible where it flows over the rocks. The rocks are dark and have some green moss growing on them. The background is a continuation of the rocky riverbank.

Visit us at

AYMcarolina.com