



AYM Carolina

Highlight Magazine



Purposed | Volume 1, 2026



AYM Carolina | Highlight Magazine

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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.





Purposed Generation

By Elijah M. Rodgers

In our world corrupted by sin, the current of worldliness is very strong. Everyone is affected by its impact and influence. It presents itself in subtle temptations, evil influences, unholy associations, popular opinion, and sometimes it reveals itself through force.

This current flows down as a rushing river that is impossible for anyone to resist in their own power. It is like kayaking on a river against the current. The moment you stop paddling and pushing forward, the current will immediately cause you to drift downstream. In order to move forward upstream, you must push forward against the current with determination, purpose, and endurance.

Spiritually, we can only resist and move forward against the overwhelming current of the world through the power of Christ. Jesus gives us a purpose that enables us to advance against the current of the world and the strength to endure.

Understanding your God-given mission and purpose in life is essential. It creates your identity and drives everything you do in life. You are therefore enabled to move forward in life with confidence and certainty because your life has a reason and a purpose for living.

You are described as "...a chosen generation,

a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light." (1 Peter 2:9). Peculiar means "purchased." You were chosen by God and purchased by His redeeming blood to show forth in your life the excellence of Christ and the power of His transforming grace that changed you from being a child of darkness into a son and daughter of God.

In Christ, we receive a new identity. Your identity is who you are and how you identify yourself. We all have an identity that is either founded in Christ or in the sinful world. Understanding your identity is very important because it identifies where your loyalty stands. Is your identity founded in Christ, or is it founded in the evil passions of the sinful heart? Is your loyalty given to Christ or the world?

Our identity naturally is founded in the sinful flesh. "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." (Psalms 51:5). Therefore, our natural identity must be recreated. In Christ, we must be born into a new identity that is founded in His life.

The circumcision of our heart is a sign of the covenant we make with God when we yield our lives to him. This is a covenant of a new creation, the creation of a new identity. It is a covenant that God is your Father, and you are His sons and daughters. Your identity that was once a child of darkness is now recreated into being a child of God. Your identity

becomes founded in Christ. Your life is surrendered. Your life belongs to Him, and you are not your own. As a child of God, you are a chosen generation called to live a life of righteousness and holiness in Christ. Your new life and purpose in Christ creates this new identity. In this new identity, we receive an invitation to something higher, a holy calling, new principles and standards in life. This is a calling that is given by Jesus Christ Himself.

Christ "...gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." (Titus 2:14). Christ has redeemed us with His blood and has chosen us out of this world to be a peculiar people. In this text, the word peculiar means, according to the Strong's Greek dictionary, "being beyond usual." In the eyes of the world, the Christian is to be seen as beyond usual. As a chosen generation, we are called to live lives that are in contrast to the world.

This really goes back to Genesis 3:15 when God said that there will be a distinction between the people of God and worldliness. God was going to have a people who would have enmity against sin. Since God's people are to have enmity against worldliness and sin, there will be a difference between God's people and the people of the world.

The principles of the gospel effect this difference. The grace of God transforms the life. (Read Titus 3:3-7). Because of Christ's grace, we are justified and renewed by the Holy Spirit. This renewing by the Holy Spirit transforms the life. In this process of

renewing we are taught principles that are totally different from our old life. The grace of Christ teaches us to deny “ungodliness and worldly lusts” and “live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world”. (Titus 2:11-15). The life that was in times past “foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy” and hateful becomes one that is kind, loving, understanding, filled with the knowledge of God.

Christ fulfills all of the good pleasure of His grace in your life, which work you receive by faith and is accomplished by His infinite power. (Read 2 Thessalonians 1:11). Because of Christ’s grace, you are a new creation “...renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him”. Colossians 3:10 You are recreated “in righteousness and true holiness”. (Ephesians 4:22-24). Every aspect of your life changes. Your life will then “bear the image of the heavenly”. (1 Corinthians 15:48,49). You no longer work the works of the world. Because of Christ’s righteousness, you have “...cast off the works of darkness” and have “put on the armour of light.” (Romans 13:12).

As you dwell with Christ and behold God, you “...are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.” (2 Corinthians 3:18). As you follow the footsteps of Christ, you will walk as He walks. (1 John 2:6). Christ’s character will be made manifest in your life. Holiness and godliness will become the essence of your life, because Christ is your life.

Your identity in Christ enables you to stand with purpose in the midst of a godless society. When you are faced with evil, your identity in God enables you to reject evil in the power of Christ. You reject it because your life is not your own, because you are a son and daughter of God, because you are called with a righteous and holy calling. You stand with integrity because your identity is founded in Christ.

Integrity is a steadfast principle for righteousness. Integrity is standing for right, though the heavens fall. It is when one, who is under the control of God, determines and purposes in their heart to do what is right, no matter the

consequences. We learn lessons of integrity from the life of Job, Joseph, in the life of Daniel, and his three friends, individuals who, even in the face of utter loss and death, held fast their integrity.

Job lost everything he had, his family, his possessions, his health, yet he said in faith, “...till I die I will not remove mine integrity from me. My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go: my heart shall not reproach me so long as I live.” “...the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.” (Job 1:21; 27:5,6). And God’s record of Job was that there was “...none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil.” (Job 2:3).

In the face of great temptation, Joseph determined in his heart that he would not sin against God even when it meant losing the authority he had and being a prisoner.

Joseph was able to stand because he knew his identity. He was God’s and God was his Father. From a very young age, he had been circumcised which was a sign of the covenant that God had made with Abraham. As God’s son, he was called to righteousness and integrity. Understanding this, he said, “How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?” (Genesis 39:9).

When the defiled meat of the kingdom of Babylon was set before Daniel and his three friends, “Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s meat, nor with the wine which he drank.” (Daniel 1:8). In the face of a death decree, Daniel maintained his faithfulness and prayed to God even

though, to all human appearance, it meant certain death at the hands of lions. In the face of a fiery death, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to worship the golden image of Babylon. They told the king in Daniel 3:16-18, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.” Daniel and his three friends had a purpose worth dying for. They were enabled to stand with purpose and courage in the power of God because they understood their God given identity and calling.

Like the men and women of times past, you must also purpose in your heart. 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.

Jesus will prove Himself faithful to you. In the power of God, you will fulfill His high calling in your life showing forth to the world the excellence of Christ. He will enable you to live a life worthy of your high calling in Christ to be true, steadfast, and loyal to God and a blessing to society. In Christ, you will live a life of purpose, faith, and courage. Through Him, you will be victorious.



Elijah Rodgers is a 21-year old from North Carolina. He enjoys beekeeping, saw milling, farming, spending time in nature, serving others, and spreading the everlasting gospel. His favorite Bible verses are Joshua 1:9 and 2 Corinthians 12:9 which gives him the assurance 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.

Upcoming Fall 2026 Retreat!



ENCOUNTER

SEPTEMBER 10 - 13

Denton, North Carolina

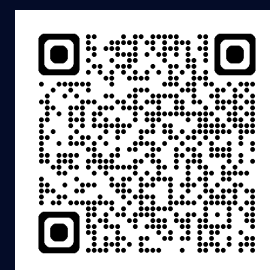
Has God complimented your life, or completed it? Has he been your steering wheel, or just your spare tire? You've wrestled with him, but have you surrendered? You've prayed, but have you listened? At this retreat, we will learn how God isn't a distant concept, but instead, a friend who wants you to experience real connection and transformation.

Encountering God

Drawn by the love of Christ, our hearts are filled with a deep desire to know Him and to encounter God personally. Dwelling in Christ, you become acquainted with Him and know Him as a personal friend. You hear His voice and follow His will. You lay down your heart, your deepest desires, hopes, and fears in His hands, knowing that you are known and loved by God. With His abiding love, Christ will manifest Himself to you. You will daily walk with Christ and sit at His feet, believing in Him, learning of Him, resting in Him, and trusting in Him. His presence will abide with you. Each day you will come nearer still to His heart of infinite love. In the light of Christ, you will awake in His perfect likeness.

Spiritual Revival, Transformation, and a Deeper Relationship with Christ

Register at
AYMcarolina.com



Scan Here!



A Lesson from the Lily

By Ellen White

In perfecting a Christian character, it is essential to persevere in right-doing. I would impress upon our youth the importance of perseverance and energy in the work of character-building. From the earliest years it is necessary to weave into the character principles of stern integrity, that the youth may reach the highest standard of manhood and womanhood. They should ever keep the fact before their eyes that they have been bought with a price, and should glorify God in their bodies and spirits, which are his. The youth should seriously consider what shall be their purpose and life work, and lay the foundation in such a way that their habits shall be free from all taint of corruption. If they would stand in a position where they shall influence others, they must be self-reliant. The lily on the lake strikes its roots down deep beneath the surface of rubbish and slime, and through its porous stem draws those properties that will aid its development, and bring to light its spotless blossom to repose in purity on the bosom of the lake. It refuses all that would tarnish and mar its spotless beauty.

We may learn a lesson from the lily, and although surrounded with influences that would tend to corrupt the morals, and bring ruin upon the soul, we may refuse to be corrupted, and place ourselves where evil association shall not corrupt our hearts. Individually the youth should

seek for association with those who are toiling upward with unfaltering steps. They should shun the society of those who are absorbing every evil influence, who are inactive and without earnest desire for attainment of a high standard of character, who cannot be relied upon as persons who will be true to principle. Let the youth be found in association with those who fear and love God; for these noble, firm characters are represented by the lily that opens its pure blossom on the bosom of the lake. They refuse to be molded by the influences that would demoralize, and gather to themselves only that which will aid the development of a pure and noble character. They are seeking to be conformed to the divine model.

If you will follow that which is good, you will cultivate moral qualities that will make you a blessing to others through all your life; for you will incite in them a desire to become noble and Christlike. It is the work of the youth to make advancement day by day. Peter says, "Add to your faith virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; and to knowledge, temperance; and to temperance, patience; and to patience, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." All these successive steps are not to be kept before the mind's eye, and counted as you start; but fixing the eye upon Jesus, with an eye single to the glory of God, you will make advancement.

You cannot reach the full measure of the stature of Christ in a day, and you would sink in despair could you behold all the difficulties that must be met and overcome. You have Satan to contend with, and he will seek by every possible device to attract your mind from Christ. But we must meet all obstacles placed in our way, and overcome them one at a time. If we overcome the first difficulty, we shall be stronger to meet the next, and at every effort will become better able to make advancement. By looking to Jesus, we may be overcomers. It is by fastening our eyes on the difficulties and shrinking from earnest battle for the right, that we become weak and faithless.

By taking one step after another, the highest ascent may be climbed, and the summit of the mount may be reached at last. Do not become overwhelmed with the great amount of work you must do in your lifetime, for you are not required to do it all at once. Let every power of your being go to each day's work, improve each precious opportunity, appreciate the helps that God gives you, and make advancement up the ladder of progress step by step. Remember that you are to live but one day at a time, that God has given you one day, and heavenly records will show how you have valued its privileges and opportunities. May you so improve every day given you of God, that at last you may hear the Master say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

- Youth Instructor, January 5, 1893

Purposed



You have been given a mission and purpose by God Himself. Understanding your God-given mission and purpose in life is very essential. It creates your identity and drives everything you do in life. You are therefore enabled to move forward in life with confidence and certainty because your life has a reason and a purpose for living. God will enable you to live a life worthy of our high calling in Christ to live a life of purpose, faith, and courage.

Purposed | Spring Retreat Highlights

By Kaitlynn Wongjanarat

Asking challenging questions, studying, friendship, and understanding God's purpose for each of our lives were a central part of this retreat's focus. Purpose is what decides our direction, and at this retreat, we spent time really digging into what that means for each of us personally.

Powerful Messages

Understanding God's purpose for us through the messages given by youth our age was inspiring, to say the least, but it only started there. We spent time in devotional discussions around the camp fire, asked relevant questions during question and answer

time, and learned how to apply it all through structured conversation during breakout sessions. Many of us spent time in conversation with one another, further delving into God's purpose for us in our own individual lives.

Friendship and Encouragement

Spending time together in nature, in God's Word, and through activities and games is always one of the highlights of the retreat. Some of the most notable experiences this spring included talking around the campfire, watching a late-summer

thunderstorm roll in during one of the evening worship services and linger through the games, and singing together in the choir.

Time to Share!

The best way to keep a fire going is to spread it, and we were privileged to have the opportunity to share that fire with others through acts of service and community outreach. Throughout the weekend, we participated in activities that allowed us to encourage, support, and bless those around us. On Friday, we spent time singing and playing instruments

"There is a gravity to this world. A constant pull towards comfort, conformity, silence and distraction... This is why purpose matters so deeply. Because purpose gives us the determination to do right, though the heavens fall."

- Naomi Zita



“In understanding his purpose, Joseph chose to honor and glorify God in everything he did”
- Andrew Horvath

at a local nursing home, bringing joy and connection to the residents. We also had the opportunity to serve by helping clean up a retired farm, working together to make a positive impact in our community.

Preparing outreach materials for Sabbath afternoon is always a hustle, and everyone gets to help get things ready to pass out. When Sabbath afternoon arrived, we passed out literature throughout the surrounding community. Using carefully planned maps to ensure we didn't miss anyone, we went door to door, hoping to spread the light to its inhabitants.

Don't Miss Out!

The next retreat is coming September 10-13 and you don't want to miss out!



Kaitlynn is a 20-year-old from Southern North Carolina. She enjoys hiking, camping, singing, horseback riding, gardening, working outdoors, 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.



Purposed Retreat in Pictures





HERE AM I

2025 Winter Mission Rally Highlights

By Elijah Rodgers

The Lord really blessed the first AYM Carolina mission rally that was held December 6th at the Hendersonville Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The theme of this mission rally was “Here Am I”. The mission rally started with a message in the morning on the words “Here Am I” being a surrender to the will of God in the life. Biblical examples of surrender were given in the lives of Moses, Isaiah, and Mary. The divine service message was given by Pastor Bryce Bowman on living a life of consecrated service for Christ.

Sabbath afternoon many people joined in outreach to the Hendersonville community including students from Fletcher Academy. Over 600 Desire of Ages books were distributed along with invitations to the evening Music Concert that was held. It was a very special time especially since it was in

the Christmas season and people were very open to receiving these books on Christ as our Messiah.

The conclusion of the mission rally was

“Anybody that can hear God’s voice can answer the call. It doesn’t matter how old or young you are. God is calling you and the worse thing you can do when God calls is make excuses because excuses are Satan’s tools to get you to wait.”

- Pastor Bryce Bowman

the evening concert, with the theme, “God with Us”. Through music, it told the compelling story of how infinite love, mercy, and truth was manifested to the world in Christ Incarnate. Looking forward, we saw how He will come again one day soon 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.

The mission rally was a very encouraging experience. At AYM Carolina it is our vision to see a fire and passion for Christ ignited in the

hearts of the youth throughout the Carolinas that constrains them to reach out to the dying world around them. We hope to reach many communities throughout the Carolinas with the

“Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.”

- Isaiah 6:8

Word of life in Christ through these mission rallies. We hope that you one day will experience what the Lord has in store for you at an AYM Carolina mission rally. Keep these efforts in your prayers. Also, if you feel led, consider donating to AYM Carolina at our website to support future projects like these.





IGNITED

2026 Summer Mission Rally Highlights

By Elijah Rodgers

The 2026 Summer Mission Rally was held at the Concord Seventh-day Adventist Church. Our theme for this event was “Ignited,” looking at how, in the darkest hour of this earth’s history, God’s light will shine upon this world in the most powerful illumination it has ever seen. Specifically, we looked at how this light will be reflected to this world by Christ’s followers who will arise and reflect it to the world, allowing the light, life, and character of Christ to shine forth through their lives. We saw that Christ brings light to the darkness of the soul and how we are empowered to reflect the light of Christ in our lives by the power of the Holy Spirit.

It was a day that was filled with revival and action. The Holy Spirit really worked on our behalf. In two

hours, over 500 Great Controversy books were distributed to homes in the Charlotte metro area. Many testimonies were received of special encounters with people in the

the work that Christ wants to do in our lives, taking the marred, broken vessels of our lives and recreating them into earthen vessels of light for Christ.

“Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.”

- Isaiah 60:1,2

community who received the books.

Some who participated in outreach had not done door-to-door work previously and did not know what to expect. After they went out, they came back encouraged to continue to reach out to their communities with Christ’s light.

After the outreach, we were presented with a concert by the Rodgers family and Zummach family on the theme “Marred No More” which illustrated

This mission rally was a special experience of consecration, revival, encouragement, and mission. A fire has definitely been ignited in the Carolinas, and other churches have reached out, interested in having mission rallies hosted at their churches. Please keep this work in your prayers. Pray for hearts to be revived, transformed, and ignited to burn for Christ.



2026 Summer Mission Rally Pictures

AYM Carolina Team



Elijah Rodgers
President



Nehemiah Rodgers
General Vice President



Kaitlynn Wongjanarat
Secretary/Programming



Malcolm Smith
VP of Registration



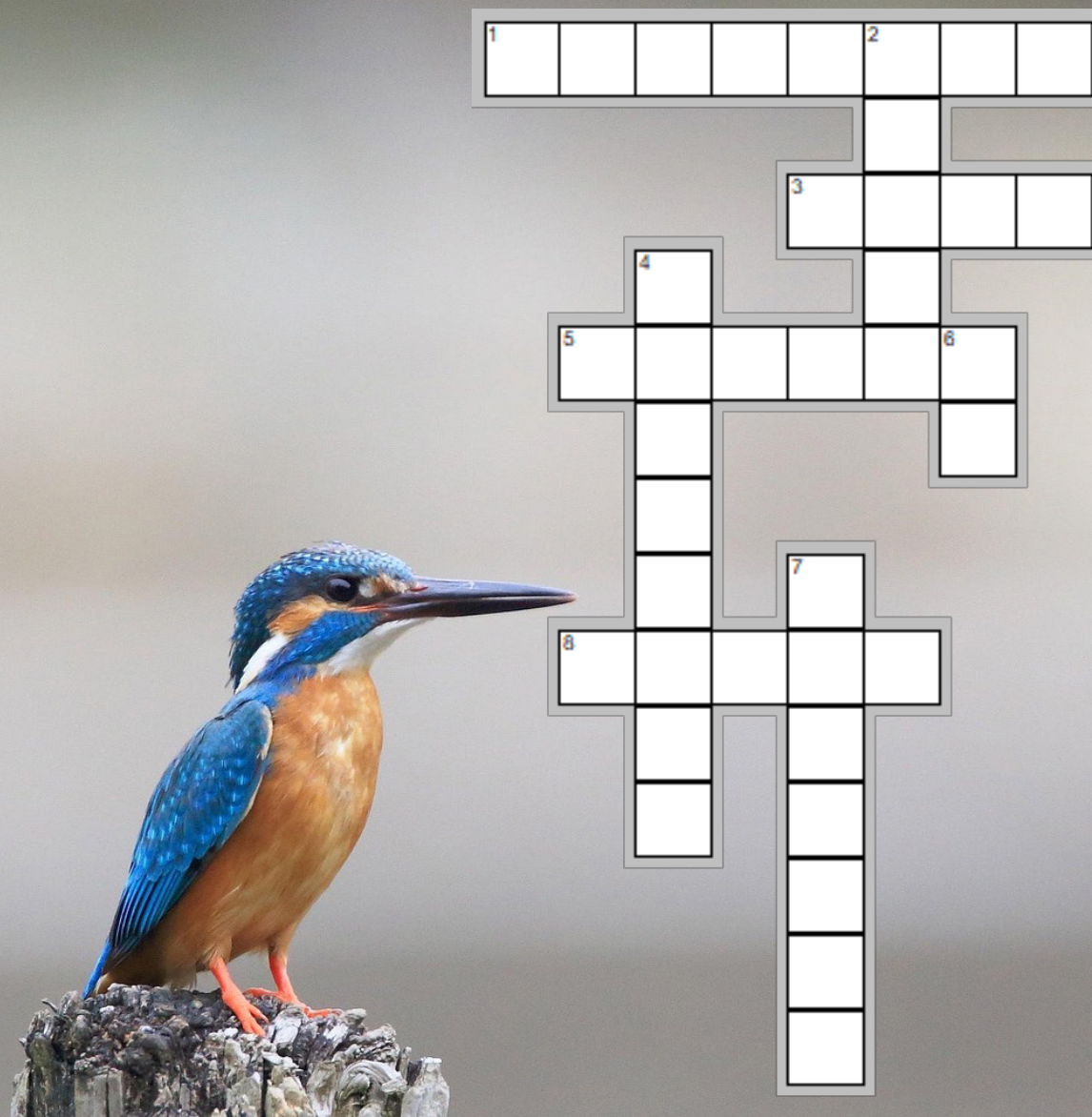
Christian Clark
VP of Evangelism



Theron Allen
Evangelism Assistant

AYM Team Through the Years





Across

1. Daniel 1:8 "But Daniel _____ in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself."
3. We may learn a lesson from the _____, and although surrounded with influences that would tend to corrupt the morals, and bring ruin upon the soul, we may refuse to be corrupted, and place ourselves where evil association shall not corrupt our hearts.
5. Titus 2:14 "Who gave himself for us, that he might _____ us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."
8. Romans 13:12 "The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of _____."

Down

2. Isaiah 60:1, 2 "Arise, _____; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. 2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee."
4. 1 Peter 2:9 "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a _____ people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:"
6. Isaiah 6:8 "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send _____."
7. 2 Corinthians 3:18 "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are _____ into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

Upcoming Mission Rally!



UNDIVIDED

August 29th, 2026

Fayetteville Seventh-Day Adventist Church

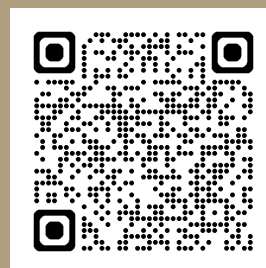
“But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with **all thy heart and with all thy soul.**”

- Deuteronomy 4:29

In our world, there is a controversy between the calling of Christ and the allurements of the world. Your loyalty cannot be divided. A choice must be made. God is calling for undivided commitment to Him. God is calling for a total surrender and consecration of the entire life. In Christ, you will overcome the world to live and stand for Christ alone.

Revival, Encouragement, and Mission

Learn More at
AYMcarolina.com



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