



Sanctified

SHARK TANK
INITIATIVE

Sanctified SHARK TANK INITIATIVE

“Engaging youth and young adults in helping the church to love and shape our world is critical to a local church's ability to grow across generations.” These thoughts from Sandra Roberts, president of Southeastern California Conference, were the crux of implementing action steps for engaging the younger generations as part of the conference's strategic initiative. “We are an aging church in North America and it is our desire as a conference to reverse that trend,” she said.

In 2017 funds were combined from the conference as well as with a grant from the Pacific Union for a total of \$500,000 to accomplish this very goal, and the Sanctified Shark Tank Initiative (SSTI) was born. The funding was an opportunity to encourage churches in creating long-term cultural shifts that are aimed at retaining and engaging youth and young adults in a meaningful way that motivates engagement within the churches.

The Sanctified Shark Tank Initiative was a “spin off” of ABC's reality show Shark Tank, where entrepreneurs get the chance to present their ideas to a panel of investors in the hopes of obtaining funding for their projects. For SSTI, churches were given the opportunity to present proposals to engage young people with the local church.

Initially, the Sanctified Shark Tank Initiative and the *Growing Young* project, based on the heavily researched book by the Fuller Youth Institute on engaging and retaining young people in church, were stand-alone projects but as both got underway, conference officials saw an opportunity to accomplish two goals within one combined project, and thus, the *Growing Young*, which eventually turned into the *Growing Together* project was introduced into the SSTI.



In an effort to show young people that they are a meaningful and vital part of every level of church life, the Colton church hired a youth coordinator to support and nurture them. The church provided the youth coordinator, Henry Garci (back, far right), with the resources necessary to meet the needs of young people.



San Diego Clairemont's CARE Group Project Friday night program draws over 40 young people, including an average of six non-Adventists.

In order to foster the desired long-term cultural shift, conference leadership embraced the six strategies outlined in the book *Growing Young: How To Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church*, and incorporated the six core commitments into SSTI. This allowed churches to think purposefully and intentionally about their culture and how to create lasting change.

The book, *Growing Young*, outlines six essential strategies critical to retaining and engaging teenagers through young adults in the 15 to 35 age range, and fostering positive intergenerational worship and collaboration.

So beyond simply funding stand-alone projects, the overarching goal of the SSTI became a way to encourage churches to become intentional in creating long-term and fundamental cultural changes that incorporate youth and young adults into the very fiber of church, its leadership, and the church's program implementation.

The most desired outcome of SSTI was to have thriving churches where people of all ages are intentionally working collaboratively as one body, both together within the church as well as in community outreach and service.

The outlined six essential strategies*, from the research of the



team that wrote the *Growing Young* book, critical to retaining and engaging teenagers and young adults are:

Unlock Keychain

Leadership: Instead of centralizing authority, empower others—especially young people.

Empathize with Today's Young

People: Instead of judging or criticizing, step into the shoes of this generation.

Take Jesus' Message

Seriously: Instead of asserting formulaic gospel claims, welcome young people into a Jesus-centered way of life.

Fuel a Warm Community: Instead of focusing on cool worship or programs, aim for warm peer and intergenerational friendships.

Prioritize Young People (and Families)

Everywhere: Instead of giving lip service to how much young people matter, look for creative ways to tangibly support, resource, and involve them in all facets of your congregation.

Be the Best Neighbors: Instead of condemning the world outside your walls, enable young people to neighbor well locally and globally.

*Taken directly from the official *Growing Young* website:
<https://fulleryouthinstitute.org/growingyoung>.

For SSTI, churches were asked to commit to any, or all, of the six strategies and implement them into their internal and outreach Sanctified Shark Tank project. For churches, part of the process included taking the

(Project 1) The Mission Road church hosted a family-focused event geared for the Japanese speaking members of the congregation as well as Japanese speaking non-Adventist community members. The church invited special speakers who presented topics on raising a family abroad (in the U.S.) and on Christian living. (Project 2) The Mission Road church remodeled the youth and children's Sabbath School rooms in order to create a comfortable space for youth and kids to not only worship and learn, but also feel loved.

time to discover strengths and weaknesses in each of the core commitments at their church and think purposefully as they moved forward in creative and next-generation engagement.

Prior to the roll out of SSTI the conference hosted a pastors meeting with Jake Mulder, director of strategic initiatives *Growing Young* and co-author, at the OC Grace church in Garden Grove in May 2017, to encourage pastors to learn and share ideas on how to empower youth and young adults. Since then other conferences have also invited Mulder and his team to support their *Growing Young* initiatives.

For SSTI, the application process included several components, including a proposal writing training, vetting, and verifying the proposal by a conference committee to determine if it qualified, the level of funding it would receive, and notification and distribution of funds.

Pastors were given a copy of the *Growing Young* book, and attended a how-to proposal writing workshop. Afterwards, they were asked to submit a formal project proposal on behalf of their churches, which included the amount of funding requested and answered the following questions:

- **Project summary:** A description of the project, what they wanted to do, and why.
- **Growing Young commitment(s):** A list of the *Growing Young* commitments they were incorporating into the project.
- **Project objectives:** A vision of the desired outcome(s) that was hoped for through the project.
- **Cost:** A basic budget of the cost to make the project become a reality.
- **Timeline:** A projected timeline for the implementation and completion of the project.
- **Proposed results:** A list of several expected results that would make it possible to evaluate the success of the project.

After the project proposals from the churches were turned in, funding amount and approval was determined by several



The Loma Linda University church's Brown Bag Project made 200 sack lunches for the homeless every Sabbath. This project fostered intergenerational interaction and collaboration by bringing everyone together to prepare the lunches.

factors, including but not limited to:

- **Finances:** Amount requested.
- **Viability:** How relevant and doable is the project?
- **Effectiveness:** Will the implementation of this project be effective in the church?
- **Enthusiasm by young people:** Youth and young adults on the proposal review panel were encouraged to ask, "Is this project something I can get excited about?"
- **Practical:** How grounded and practical is the project?

At the conclusion of the project, the project leaders were asked to submit reports that answered the following:

- **Growing Young Commitment/Focus**
- **Summary**
- **Goals**
- **Accomplishments**
- **Challenges**
- **Critical Elements**
- **Cost**

One of the primary stipulations in use of Sanctified Shark Tank funding was that it could not be predominately used on capital improvement projects. Additionally, churches were required to also partially fund them.

The proposals were reviewed by two groups. Initially a youth and young adult panel reviewed and rated the



The More Than A Song project at Azure Hills church was designed to make worship more than just music or a weekly gathering. The purpose of the project was to draw young people to Jesus and each other through interactive Friday night worship, small groups, and community service.

proposals on the basis how the projects excited them and how successful they determined they would be for their peers. Then a second group of conference administrators met to review the input from the youth and young adult panel and based the distribution of the Sanctified Shark Tank funds on the recommendation and their own evaluation.

Southeastern California Conference (SECC) currently has a total of 178 congregations, of which 47 submitted proposals, of these 42 churches received funding. Some churches that received funding decided to return the money and consequently did not follow through on their proposal. A total of 35 churches shared outcome reports in writing, and some in video as well. Attached to this summary are the written reports and video links, that show the diversity of projects our churches worked on.

ANALYSIS

Common Threads

The common expectation and goal for all projects was that they would be intentional in creating a fundamental and long-term cultural shift in how the churches incorporate youth and young adults. This was the basic expectation.

However, how each project addressed this basic expectation varied from church to church. As SECC is comprised of a very diverse group of churches in ethnicity, culture, language, and other ways it was clear to conference leadership that one approach for all churches would not be successful. Instead individual plans needed to be developed to address the diversity present in SECC's churches. Though each proposal was unique, there were a few common threads

that they all shared in their execution, challenges, and critical components. Here is a list of a few common threads:

- All reports focused on one or more of the six essential strategies from the *Growing Young* book.
- Each church faced some challenge or resistance in trying to implement their proposal. Most seemed to be able to overcome these obstacles.
- The churches where proposals were implemented shared that youth and young adults appreciated the new focus and even that some of those that had left returned to church.

In reviewing the SSTI, it became clear to us that the project was successful. Here are some of the ways in which we, as conference administrators have seen this:

All churches in our conference, whether they participated in the SSTI or not, were exposed to the *Growing Young* book and consequently the six strategies which offer opportunities for thoughtful reflection on how to fundamentally change the church culture in ways that engage people of all ages at every level of leadership and how church is done.

- **Intergenerational collaboration:** By working together on the SSTI, leaders, youth and young adults, and lay members put into practice the very principles that their project was designed to accomplish. Churches started shifting their focus and a warm community emerged where people of all ages worked together. This change, which was realized early on, created a transformation from simply having a *Growing Young* Initiative to the conference focusing on a *Growing Together* Initiative.



The Ontario church's Hilltop Project was geared towards unchurched young adults from 25-39 in the Ontario area. Church members opened up their homes on Friday evenings in order to provide a safe place to build trust and eventually invite them to Sabbath morning worship.

- **Awareness:** By working together to implement the SSTI project, church members realized the need to create fundamental cultural changes, not just stand-alone programs.
- **Meaningful outcomes:** Because of the funding, churches were able to accomplish projects and achieve outcomes they would not have been able to otherwise.
- **Community outreach:** Members of churches wrestled with how to engage with youth and young adult and inevitably this resulted in more unchurched people being exposed to the gospel-in-action by churches becoming more relevant in their communities.
- **Additional:** Some churches that did not participate in the SSTI chose nevertheless to implement Growing Together strategies on their own.

Challenges

While the Sanctified Shark Tank Initiative was successful in raising awareness and starting meaningful conversations about changing church culture, it was not without its challenges. But we embrace the challenges in a spirit of learning and opportunities for growth moving forward.

- **Lack of participation:** Some churches

were not able to participate because they simply were not ready; some had large renovation projects happening at the same time, or other considerations that made it difficult to invest time and resources.

- **Short time:** Because of the timing of the project, advertising and promotion for the project to churches was limited to three months.
- **Timing:** As conference administration was uncertain about the ability to acquire the needed funds for this project, once the funding did turn up the time frame to train,

promote, and advertise the SSTI was too short. This short period, also impacted the churches as they did not receive timely information or training in order to plan and prepare adequately for successful projects.

- **Lack of communication:** Information was shared with pastors and as such some of the information did not reach youth leaders and ministry coordinators. In several cases the information seemed to have stayed with senior pastors, who



The Yorba Linda church's tennis club project offered free tennis classes for the community as a way to build meaningful relationships with the community in order to point them to Jesus, as well as engaging young people in the church.

were the primary points of contact between the conference and lay people, and did not get relayed to the rest of the team.

- **New people:** Some of the individuals who drafted the Sanctified Shark Tank proposal with their local church moved out of the area or were no longer involved in the project for other reasons. This left gaps that slowed down the project significantly or, even, worse brought the entire project to a stop.
- **Lack of follow up response from churches:** While most participating churches submitted reports, several did not submit a report, or submitted incomplete ones, or other documentation that did not address the required question.
- **Editorial reconciliation:** Because of these and other challenges, some of the individual church reports in this document may have inconsistencies or lack key information. Our conference administration team worked as best as they could with the information they had. From conception, to the proposal, to the implementation, and finally the reporting of the projects significant time passed, in which valuable information was lost. The compilation of the SSTI reports and the editorial process also created challenges and were part of our learning experience.

To view some of the
Sanctified Shark Tank Initiative
video reports go here:
<https://bit.ly/SSTIVideos>

Conclusion

As conference administrators, when we reflect on the Sanctified Shark Tank Initiative, we are happy how it impacted our churches. There were churches that did not participate in the SSTI but decided to engage with the principles of Growing Together. We have witnessed cultural changes in our congregations. Church members of all generations have come together to engage in ministry and service to each other and the local community. This catalyst has moved many churches to be more intentional in engaging young people. We strongly recommend that churches as well as other conferences review what was accomplished and learn from both our failures and our successes. It is our desire that throughout the North American Division we see a change from an aging Church to one that over the years will have grown young and together.



Sandra Roberts
President



Jonathan Park
Executive Secretary



Verlon Strauss
Treasurer

Southeastern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®

11330 Pierce Street | Riverside, CA 92505

(951) 509-2200 | info@seccsda.org

SSTI CHURCH SUMMARY REPORTS



ANAHEIM SPANISH C H U R C H

PROJECT NAME: Sports Camp and Fall Music Festival

SANCTIFIED SHARK TANK FUNDS: \$5,000

PROJECT COORDINATOR: Liz Roman

Growing Young Commitment/Focus

Fuel a Warm Community: We wanted to be good neighbors and friends.

Unlock Keychain Leadership: We had youth take the lead in organizing soccer and volleyball events for young children.

Summary

- 1) We offered a free, two-week sports camp to show the community that we enjoy the same things they do.
- 2) We hosted a community music festival for all ages that included free food.

Goals

- Build better relationships with our neighbors.
- Enhance sport skills and develop good sportsmanship.
- Foster communication skills and self-esteem.
- Serve as a community center as well as a place of worship.
- Have something of interest for all ages.

Accomplishments

- Taught sports skills for new people and improved skills for those already familiar with the sport.
- Promoted Vacation Bible School and other upcoming church activities.
- Attracted passers-by with free food and music at music festival.

Challenges

During volleyball camp we promoted VBS, and during VBS we promoted soccer camp, but lost momentum because we waited one week after VBS due to a mid-week holiday. We had a good number of neighborhood kids sign up, but few showed up.

Critical Elements

One key component of the project that was imperative for it to be a success was early and frequent promotion.

Cost

\$3,000 for sports camp and \$3,000 for the Fall Music Festival

- Sports camp costs: snacks, water bottles, balls, scrimmage jerseys, nets, cones, ladders, a few field lights, name tags, and other small items.
- Music festival costs: cutlery and dinnerware, booth set up with signage, food, beverages, raffle prizes, and two outdoor speakers.
- Existing resources used
 - a) VBS stage was used for the music festival.
 - b) Field lights that were used for the sports camp were used for the festival.
 - c) Several members donated food for the festival.
 - d) A church member is a high school coach and he borrowed sports equipment from his school to keep costs down.



ARLINGTON C H U R C H

PROJECT NAME: C.A.R.E after-school program for Chemawa Middle School

SANCTIFIED SHARK TANK FUNDS: \$6,000

PROJECT COORDINATOR: Dierdre Solomon

Growing Young Commitment/Focus

Be the Best Neighbors and Unlock Keychain Leadership

Summary

This project is an after-school program created to reach out to the kids at the Chemawa Middle School, which is next door, and connect them with our church.

Goals

The goal of this project was to reach out to the kids from the public school next door, connect them with our church members, and support them through the many challenges they face.

Challenges

The project shifted because we met with the principal and he shared that he didn't want us to have an after-school program because the school already had an after-school program until 6:30 p.m. Another challenge we had was that the leaders selected had personal and family crises or they were too busy with other responsibilities to lead out in another program. However, as the associate pastor, I am planning on going to the school this coming fall for a pizza and prayer lunch once or

twice a week. Eric Penick, associate youth director [at the time], has agreed to help assist me in this endeavor. Even though we haven't officially launched this project, we are more aware of the school next door. We have been praying for the kids there. I have preached about the necessity of ministering to them. And I have a lot of church members very supportive of starting this project this year.

Critical Elements

The key to this project being successful is the support of the principal and vice-principal at the school. If they are supportive of us going in to be present with the kids then it will work. If not we will have to do something after 6:30 p.m. on our own campus.

Cost

We received \$6,000, and have used \$900 of that on speakers and decor for our youth room in the hopes that when this project is up and running we will have more youth to fill our room, who will benefit from the space we have already redecorated. Pizza and resources for this ministry would cost \$50 per week, which would total \$4,000 for one year. Plus the social events we plan for the kids we would easily reach the \$6,000 given by the conference.



AZURE HILLS C H U R C H

PROJECT NAME: More Than A Song

SHARK TANK FUNDS: \$25,000

PROJECT COORDINATOR: Nick Snell

Growing Young Commitment/Focus

Unlock Keychain Leadership, Fuel a Warm Community, and Be the Best Neighbors

Summary

The More Than A Song project exists to draw young people to Jesus and one another and move them to live more integrated lives where they realize that worship is not just a song service or showing up for a program on Sabbath morning. All of our existence should be lived for God because He is worthy of every breath we breathe because of the love He has shown us. We emphasize this by creating a welcoming space with decorations, food, and meaningful programming that invites the participants deeper into a relationship with God, with one another, and service to the community. We are intentional in collaborating with many youth groups in the area to inspire them to dream big.

Goals

- Draw youth to Christ and one another in a way that they will want to respond to Him.
- Foster spiritual maturity through small groups.
- Engage them in service to the community.
- Help youth develop their talents to serve one another through the worship nights held three times per year.
- Renovate the backyard space of the church.

Accomplishments

We have had three More Than A Song worship nights where youth and youth pastors ministered to one another sharing songs, testimonies, and preaching in settings that youth have enjoyed and want to return to. We collaborated with other churches and had 130 youth attend the first event, and 230 youth attended the most recent event. We had three service events following these worship nights helping a church prepare for the U.S. Dream Academy program, giving assistance to thrift stores in Loma Linda

and Riverside as well as community gardens, and the Helping Hands Pantry. We distributed blessing bags with necessities and additional items to the homeless and shared lunch with them. We successfully held four small groups and learned how to do them better. Youth are leading these events.

Challenges

The small groups were hard to get started after the first two worship nights. We realized that many come for a big show and are not looking for anything more than that. We continue to strive to find better practices to invite students to connect deeper and it seems to be paying off. Also, the renovation that the money is primarily needed for is taking a long time due to difficulties with those we are working with. We are getting much closer and expect to have phase one done by the winter of 2019. The scope of the project is increasing because the church is getting behind it. I believe this was a catalyst for that greater vision.

Critical Elements

There are four critical parts to this project and it wouldn't be complete without any of them. The worship service is what all the kids love to come to. The small groups provide the opportunity for students to grow in leadership and relationship. The community service opportunities expand their hearts for those outside of the church. The renovation will make the worship nights much higher quality and easier and will be meaningful to our youth group.

Cost

The total cost of the project is unknown as it has continued to expand but the amphitheater, which is phase one of the renovation is expected to be \$50,000 and the further renovations far exceed that. We have spent significant funds on upgrading and renting sound equipment, food for hundreds of hungry teens, and decorations.



COLTON C H U R C H

PROJECT NAME: Hiring a Young Adult/Youth Coordinator

SHARK TANK FUNDS: \$2,000

PROJECT COORDINATOR: John Choi

Growing Young Commitment/Focus

Unlock Keychain Leadership: We sought to empower and highlight young people by showing them that we take them seriously and that they have a meaningful place at church. We want to send the message that bringing them into the church community is a priority for us. We rallied around the youth coordinator and young people so they knew they are a vital part of every level of our church life.

Summary

We hired a young adult/youth coordinator.

Goals

To hire a young adult/youth coordinator as soon as possible and provide him or her with the resources necessary to meet the needs of our young people.

Accomplishments

We work closely with the young adult/youth coordinator to give him support and resources to connect with young people and bring them back to the church.

Challenges

- 1) The first challenge was to find the right person for this position; someone who met all the qualifications on our list.
- 2) The second challenge was to make contact and create a connection with the young people who are scattered and not currently attending church.

Critical Elements

We needed someone who consistently devotes his time solely to the young people. Without this person and the commitment to funding, nothing would happen because our church is small and members are maxed out in terms of what they can do.

Cost

Cost of the project thus far is \$2,400. The annual cost will be \$9,600.



CORONA CHURCH

PROJECT NAME: A media center operated by young adults and youth

SANCTIFIED SHARK TANK FUNDS: \$2,000

PROJECT COORDINATOR: Gilberto Del Vecchio

Growing Young Commitment/Focus

Urgency to change, Unlock Keychain Leadership, Empathize with Today's Young People, and Prioritize Young People (and Families) Everywhere

Summary

Creation of a media center for audio and video recording and content creation, integrating technology in worship services such as livestreaming, software, cameras, iPads, and computer. Technology integration in church related services and ministries through a youth operated media center for audio and video content creation to raise awareness of different ministries and services to our community. Empower, integrate, and train youth and young adults to take ownership of content and media ministries.

Goals

Integration of youth and young adults into the operation of a media center; increase participation of all age groups, awareness of church and community needs, and train and empower youth. And finally, to create an environment where youth feel welcome and part of church leadership and its programming.

Accomplishments

- The visual department is operated entirely by young adults where three new people joined last year; our livestream team is run by junior high youth.
- Our church service is livestreamed every Sabbath and we are excited that people from our community and other parts of the world have access to our services and programs.
- A new young adult Sabbath School class was created that meets once a month and provides breakfast, with an average attendance of 15-20 young adults.
- Equipment purchase: live-stream camera, iPad, computer, and software (ProPresenter and Studio 5).
- Installation of routers throughout the facility and the addition of a guest network to limit access to primary internet service that is now dedicated for livestreaming.
- Creation of a dedicated media center.

- We are currently in the process of upgrading the computer and installing software.
- A new young adult Sabbath School class was created with an average attendance of 15-20 young adults. The church leadership wanted to see this happen and now this class is 100% operated by young adults. Many leaders have taken on the responsibility of making sure that our church will continue to have quality praise music and most importantly, the involvement of youth and young adults.

Challenges

- Our budget was not enough to complete this project. Our church leadership is supportive and continues to aid as much as possible in implementation.
- More training and education is needed as we dream of starting other projects such as podcasts, church services, and media for our local and extended communities.
- Our church has lost our praise team coordinator, but after much prayer and believing and modeling the challenges posed by the Growing Young book, our young adults were invited to take charge and lead praise and worship.

Critical Elements

I believe that the Sanctified Shark Tank Initiative was crucial to the development of this project. Consequently, it was brought to light the fact that our churches need to do more to reach youth and young adults. Once this small project was launched, we received incredible support from our church, pastoral staff and board. We appreciate the support provided by SSTI and pledge to continue to foster an environment where youth and young adults feel safe and encouraged to take ownership and embrace service to our local and extended communities.

Cost

Computer (\$2,500); camera and accessories (\$1,000); software: ProPresenter and Studio 5 (\$1,400), iPad (\$500); routers, cables, installation, desk, etc. (\$1,000). A total of about \$6,400 was spent on this project.



CRESTLINE C H U R C H

PROJECT NAME: Worship service and outreach platform for Loma Linda University (LLU) students to explore leadership skills and missionary dreams

SANCTIFIED SHARK TANK FUNDS: \$2,000

PROJECT COORDINATOR: Church

Growing Young Commitment/Focus

- Unlock Keychain Leadership.
- Challenging people to discover the joys of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Providing involvement opportunities to enrich this relationship through study, prayer, fellowship, praise, worship, and community service.

Summary

Our church is committed to supporting students by providing resources and opportunities to preach and share their missionary dreams, and to plan and execute programs and events.

Due to lack of funding, we had to modify our plans. Loma Linda University (LLU) students planned two outreach events and executed one in December 2018 and one will be completed by September 2019.

- 1) Christmas Program: For three weeks in a row, LLU students and church members went door-to-door caroling in the community inviting them to our Christmas musical program. All program musicians and participants were from the university. We had almost 50 people in attendance.
- 2) Students planned the LLU Welcome Back Bash to be completed in September 2019. There will be 5,000 students participating.

Goals

- Christmas Program: to connect with our community and to provide an opportunity for them to be exposed to our members and the Adventist message.
- This was our first time participating in the Welcome Back Bash. The main goals were to introduce our church to new students

and those that are coming back to Loma Linda University; to raise awareness that there is a safe place where they can exercise their leadership skills or learn how to be leaders in our church, and to gain experience in planning and running different outreach projects.

Accomplishments

- With our Christmas program, students and church members were able to reconnect with our community and expose visitors to our messages with written materials.
- In the plan to participate in the Welcome Back Bash, LLU students are planning to share their experiences and invite others to join our churches.

Challenges

With those funds, we were able to provide three students a supportive environment where they were able to plan and bring to reality their dreams.

Critical Elements

Without this funding, we wouldn't be able to foster students' calling to outreach. In a small church like ours sometimes it is hard to secure funds that reaches into our community and enables our mission to empower LLU students to become experienced leaders in the community.

Cost

Christmas program and outreach: \$786.77
Welcome back bash project: \$1,071.88



CROSSWALK CHURCH

PROJECT NAME: The Young Collective

SANCTIFIED SHARK TANK FUNDS: \$20,000

PROJECT COORDINATOR: Isai Moran

Growing Young Commitment/Focus

All of them.

Summary

The Young Collective was a project to unite all youth groups under one recognizable brand. The goal was for high schoolers to know they are a part of a greater community and to fearlessly share the gospel with their non-church attending friends. The drive of the collective would be a lifestyle clothing line, four conferences, and a strong social media presence.

Goals

- We hope that young people know they are a part of a greater community of believers.
- We want to inspire young people to fearlessly share the claims of the gospel with their non-church attending friends.

Accomplishments

The Young Collective sponsored an all-student led worship night on May 19, 2018. Even though the Young Collective never officially launched, it sponsored t-shirts for the event and organized and mobilized five churches to donate and participate in feeding all 600 high school students in attendance. The Young Collective partnered with Crosswalk church to cover tech and production needs for a captivating and inspiring experience. It also provided full video service. The program was streamed through the Crosswalk church's Facebook page and received over 2,000 views. Most of the work done in the Young Collective was focused on creating the infrastructure for ministry to happen. The most important achievement is that we learned what would actually be needed for churches in SECC to create an intentional collaborative experience for students. In conversations with high schoolers, conference officials, and local youth pastors we were able to learn some helpful things regarding collaborative youth ministry, including:

- This type of collaborative ministry is what many of our high school students are hungry and ready for.
- This type of collaboration and intentionality is impossible without a designated leader who can organize, mobilize, and inspire youth pastors to create a meaningful collaborative experience for students. This person would have to work a minimum of 15 hours a week to fulfill the responsibilities of the Young Collective director.
- For this type of collaborative ministry to function, it needs to be fully integrated with the SECC Youth department and not be directed by local youth pastors. Until it is directed by the SECC Youth department, these collaborations will always be exclusive.
- The three drivers of the collective brand are extremely effective for building momentum and brand expansion. The three drivers are a lifestyle clothing brand, youth conferences, and a strong social media presence.

Challenges

One of the main challenges is that local youth pastors do not have the capacity in their schedule to lead the Young Collective. Most were more than willing to be a part of it but shared how full their schedule was and how difficult it would be to be a lead mobilizer. The biggest challenge was building the proper infrastructure for this type of ministry to function within the conference. This process was very difficult and time consuming. We created a committee made up of youth pastors and conference representatives to assess the current structure and to build what would be needed. The first challenge was finding a time to meet. It was difficult to get people to respond to emails and text messages. Although most people were willing and quick to respond, some key committee members did not show much interest, which made the process difficult and long. This also might have occurred from my inability to effectively convey the importance of this restructuring. After meeting several times and



CROSSWALK C H U R C H

having honest conversations, we came to the conclusion that this is a much bigger and longer conversation that would require a lot more pastoral and conference involvement. Because this process was so taxing and time consuming, I decided to abandon the project. At that point, I realized that without the proper infrastructure the Young Collective would never work to its full potential. Then we transitioned to a slightly different model that focused on the drivers of the Young Collective and would

be based at Crosswalk church. The updated proposal is called Crosswalk Lifestyle Brand.

Cost

So far we have spent \$1,337.80 on the Renaissance sponsorship. The rest of the funds are being withheld upon approval of the updated proposal.



EMMANUEL SPANISH C H U R C H

(AT THE TIME DISTRICTED WITH CORONA MAIN SPANISH CHURCH)

PROJECT NAME: Grace Project

SANCTIFIED SHARK TANK FUNDS: \$30,000

PROJECT COORDINATOR: Church

Growing Young Commitment/Focus

Unlock Keychain Leadership

Project Summary

We had five weeks of prayer and youth evangelism programs organized by young people that resulted in approximately 30 youth baptisms. We remodeled the Corona Main church's youth room and church, the room where we carried out many of the activities that help young people connect with God. During this period, the young people were involved in many community service activities and members of their respective churches were able to see the vast majority of the youth involved in church activities and leadership.

Goals

The main goal was to change the culture of the church in how they perceive young people so that they feel responsible and became active participants of their spiritual progress, involve young people in church leadership, and motivate them to rescue many young people in this process. We also focused on the community with the objective of being better neighbors.

Accomplishments

- We created relationships between adults and young people in the church.
- Reached 30 young people through baptism.

- We saw how the culture changed and how the church's perspective changed towards young people.
- The church understood that young people are the present and future of the church.
- Witnessed young people working for the church and for the community.
- The community knows that there is a church willing to serve them.

Challenges

Our two churches, Emmanuel Spanish and Corona Main, are very conservative so there was a lot of resistance in allowing young people to actively participate in the churches, as well as fear and opposition to changes.

Critical Elements

The critical part was at the beginning, that plans would be accepted by both churches. In the future we will try to involve the adult leaders much more so that they can better support young people's initiatives.

Cost

The total cost was \$60,000. We challenged by our church to match the same amount received by the conference, which was \$30,000.

Video Report

<https://vimeo.com/294238009>





ESCONDIDO C H U R C H

PROJECT NAME: Summer Internship and The Dugout

SANCTIFIED SHARK TANK FUNDS: \$10,000

PROJECT COORDINATOR: Mario Perez

Growing Young Commitment/Focus

Unlock Keychain Leadership and Take Jesus' Message Seriously

Summary

We implemented two Growing Young strategic initiatives, the summer intern initiative and an intergenerational ministry called The Dugout.

For the summer internship, we selected up to 10 youth who applied for the program and took them on a weeklong intensive ministry training retreat, where they engaged in planning events for the summer.

Using baseball concepts, The Dugout program was a strategic plan to foster engagement between youth and adult members. The adult is called a manager, and the teen is a team player. The event kicked off with a banquet where managers and team players got acquainted.

Goals

- To encourage and train young people to become leaders in the church.
- To encourage intergenerational engagement between youth and adults.

Accomplishments

Interns became a formal part of the church staff during the duration of the program, including attending church board and finance committee meetings. They also preached three mini sermons within a group sermon. Young people also oversaw youth activities and ministries including youth vespers, youth church, and a summer mission experience.

For The Dugout, managers and team players stay in touch regularly, via a weekly text messages, or a small card or gift given to them by the manager. Managers were also encouraged to attend sport events or academic showcases that the student player participated in.

Critical Elements

These initiatives would not be successful without willing volunteers, youth, and adults alike.



Video Report

<https://vimeo.com/377456331>



JUNIPER AVENUE C H U R C H

PROJECT NAME: Mentoring Center

SANCTIFIED SHARK TANK FUNDS: \$1,000

PROJECT COORDINATOR: Delroy Brooks

Growing Young Commitment/Focus

Be the Best Neighbors

Summary

We have three schools within a mile of the church. Our desire was to create a space for students to be mentored, encouraged, and empowered.

Goals

To increase test scores for young people in the area.

Accomplishments

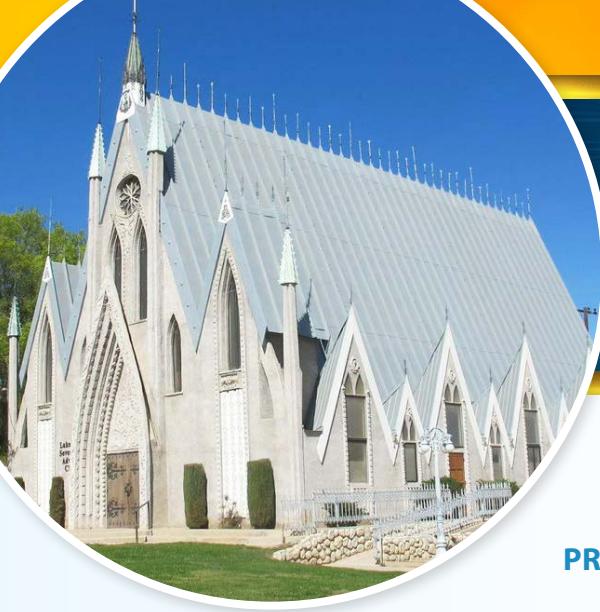
We created a partnership with a tutoring program.

Challenges

The tutoring program focused on adults, not children. We did not have qualified teachers in our church.

Critical Elements

The project can't work without a core belief to help the children in the community. We would also need buy in from the community.



LAKE PERRIS C H U R C H

PROJECT NAME: Epiphany Devotionals

SANCTIFIED SHARK TANK FUNDS: \$8,000

PROJECT COORDINATORS: Wade Forde and Brian Bernard

Growing Young Commitment/Focus

The core commitment is to Take Jesus' Message Seriously but we covered all core values from the book.

Summary

We were able to create an online presence to share the Sabbath School lesson easily and conveniently for people to watch on YouTube. Through technology we were able to share the core values of empathy and best neighbors. The videos led viewers to be better prepared for Sabbath School class, and have warm relationships and keychain leadership. We created a production enterprise that uploaded Sabbath School lesson videos to YouTube every day. We then texted the link to about 50 people. Overall, we were able to learn and develop an online presence for our Sabbath School lesson.

Goals

Our original goal was to create a YouTube channel for the Sabbath School lesson, and then text the video to everyone that subscribed. The long-term goal is to videotape pastors that are interested and help them create and upload videos on their YouTube accounts.

Accomplishments

- Our YouTube channel has 45 subscribers, 337 daily videos. We currently have close to 7,000 views and a 27% increase in viewership this month.
- We were able to tape Mark Lastimso for two 10-minute videos, as well as the Asian/Pacific convocation at the Loma Linda Filipino church on August 18, 2018.
- We rank 19th and 26th on the YouTube search for "Sabbath School." The Sabbath School lessons that outranked our channel are for older adults.

- Our greatest achievement was the progress and improvement of the quality of the videos especially in our editing ability.

Challenges

- Posting daily videos took more time and energy than anticipated. When I first wrote the proposal, I thought that I could jump in front of the camera and start talking and thought we would get more videos online but it turned out it was not that easy.
- Coordination of time with others to record, train, and to replicate the process.
- We did not get 100 subscribers to generate revenue, so we did not receive any income from this ministry yet.
- The inaccuracy of our viewership count makes it hard to assess the number of views precisely. Every day people would receive our texted YouTube link, share our link with friends and family, and none of it counted towards our daily viewership. We cannot guesstimate the accurate number of videos viewed, but these videos will remain on YouTube for people to continue to listen and learn.

Critical Elements

Internet, YouTube, video cameras, and staff.

Cost

Total cost was \$11,300. The Growing Together initiative generously funded \$8,000 of the project.



LOMA LINDA FILIPINO C H U R C H

PROJECT NAME: Love Well and Empower The Next Generation

SANCTIFIED SHARK TANK FUNDS: \$25,000

PROJECT COORDINATOR: Dan Belonio Jr.

Growing Young Commitment/Focus

Our commitments were two-part. First, we chose Loving Well, which is a part of our mission statement. Secondly, we chose the Growing Young commitment Be the Best Neighbors. We are community focused.

Summary

Our project includes our two main purposes: Loving God well and empowering our young people and families to serve others, which is an extension of the mission of our church to "Love God, Love Others, and Make Disciples."

Everything we do is in alignment with this mission. For our projects we elected three young people to the church board so they can be a part of the decision-making process. They provide generational perspective. We also wanted to impact our community through sports outreach. These regular events strengthen our own friendships and also build new ones outside of our church community. This is friendship evangelism.

Goals

To introduce a loving and gracious God through fitness and health, to mentor young people in sharing Jesus with others, and to empower young people in leadership positions.

Accomplishments

- Created a strong leadership team comprised of pastors

and ministry leaders, who grew together as they learned Growing Young strategies and principles.

- Established a strong and active sports council, which continues to develop health and fitness projects.
- Increased awareness of the generational culturally different mindsets and perspectives within our church and community.

Challenges

Some of the challenges we encountered included confronting change, setting reasonable expectations, prioritizing needs and setting timelines, developing follow-up protocols, and building accountability.

Critical Elements

This project would not have been possible without the following:

- The initial Growing Young team that devoted time, commitment to learn, and see things through.
- Having an attitude of learning from one another when expectations were not met.
- Persevering despite pushback and obstacles.

Cost

Cost thus far: \$18,000 in stipends, \$2,000 in sports gear, and an unknown amount for GLOW tracts for a total cost of over \$20,000.



Video Report

<https://vimeo.com/294669615>



LOMA LINDA KOREAN C H U R C H

PROJECT NAMES: I. English Ministry "Livewire"
II. Eldasom "Love Our God and Love Our Neighbor"

SANCTIFIED SHARK TANK FUNDS: \$25,000

PROJECT COORDINATOR: Richard Lee

Project I: English Ministry "Livewire"

Growing Young Commitment/Focus

Unlock Keychain Leadership, Fuel a Warm Community, and Be the Best Neighbors

Summary

Our project was created to build keychain leadership between our adults and youth to utilize the talents of these two groups for the community around us. Livewire music lab provides an opportunity for adults to train youth to be praise team leaders, who can lead and take charge of worship. At the same time, we opened a music lesson program so that youth in our community can learn different instruments free of charge. This provides a welcoming atmosphere for the community.

Goals

- Equip and train young leaders.
- Create opportunities for adults to work with and build relationships with our youth.
- Create an environment and a place for our community to come and experience a benefit.

Accomplishments

Through the Sanctified Shark Tank Initiative we formed a group of adults who can train and equip youth who, in turn can lead in worship services and provide music lessons for the community.

Challenges

Due to our unique situation of building a new church, we could not start the project until our church building was ready. Because we rented from another church we had problems with scheduling space.

Cost

We have not spent any money yet due to our unique circumstances but will use the funds in the beginning of October 2019 as our English ministry sanctuary is finished.



LOMA LINDA KOREAN CHURCH

Project II: Eldasom Ministry “Love Our God and Love our Neighbor”

Growing Young Commitment/Focus

Unlock Keychain Leadership and Take Jesus’ Message Seriously

Summary

Our project focused on spiritual revival through biblical preaching, raising spiritual leaders through small groups, and inviting young missionaries and conference leaders to share testimonies of God’s work in their lives. A lot of content is available through the church app in Eldasom. This has allowed those that know about the app to be exposed to these materials.

Goals

- To reach young people and adults through Jesus’ message.
- To utilize young people and adults for our church and the community.
- To provide a place for young and old to do ministry together and create easily accessible content for others.

Accomplishments

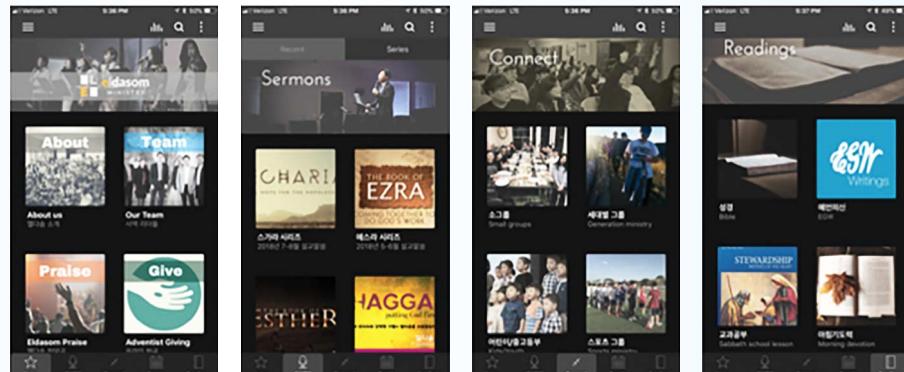
We created a church app (SEE BELOW) that allows for our members and others to see what is happening at Loma Linda Korean church. Additionally, we created content for youth and young adults.

Challenges

Similar challenges occurred for this project as it did in the English ministry’s “Livewire” project because we were moving to our new church building. We were not able to create our own in the old church. We now have plans to adjust and implement the proposal at the new church facility.

Cost

We have spent on average \$100 dollars per month to create and pay for the monthly usage of the app that was created for a year.





LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY C H U R C H

PROJECT NAME: Brown Bag Project

SANCTIFIED SHARK TANK FUNDS: \$25,000

PROJECT COORDINATOR: Church

Growing Young Commitment/Focus

Be the Best Neighbors

Summary

We make 200 sack lunches for the homeless of every Sabbath. The project helps to bring together the young adult ministry with adult church members and more recently, the high school ministry. The sack lunches are delivered to our community partner, Helping Hands Pantry, which has a refrigerated truck and passes them out during the week.

Goals

Provide a consistent and practical service opportunity for young adult ministry at Loma Linda University church. Provide regular and quality meals to the homeless.

Accomplishments

We have striven to keep the ministry running on a consistent weekly basis for almost two years. Even though we don't track the number of lunches precisely, we estimate about 30,900 lunches have been made in total over the project's lifespan.

Challenges

Maintaining consistency in a community that is in flux with high and low seasons of volunteers. We have also been in the middle of a shift in how young adult ministry is done at our church. A change in venue effects our ability to bring people in while competing with the regular church service's time slot. That being said, the project has endured and has a steady group of volunteers along with new participants.

Critical Elements

The project is already lean. I see no component that could be removed and have the project continue. If I were to choose an external critical component, it would be our partner Helping Hands Pantry, should they choose to stop accepting the lunch deliveries or stop operating them that would create a critical issue for us.

Cost

Through donations we have been able to keep costs lower than expected to about \$0.75 per bag or about \$7,500 for the year.



Video Report

<https://vimeo.com/294669484>



MISSION ROAD C H U R C H

PROJECT NAMES: I. Family Ministry

II. Youth and Children's Sabbath School Classroom Remodeling

SANCTIFIED SHARK TANK FUNDS: \$17,000

PROJECT COORDINATORS: Angela Li, Kevin Kakazu, Elwood Siagian, Desmond Tongpo, Pamela Young

Project I: Family Ministry

Growing Young Commitment/Focus

Unlock Keychain Leadership, Empathize with Today's Young People, Take Jesus' Message Seriously, Fuel a Warm Community, Prioritize Young People (and Families) Everywhere, and Be the Best Neighbors

Summary

The focus was placed on the Japanese speaking congregation. We invited a speaker for three consecutive speaking engagements. We requested that the topic be geared towards Japanese speaking church members and non-Adventist Japanese families in the community, with a focus on raising family abroad (in the U.S.), and on Christian living. There were families of all age groups in attendance.

Goals

- Facilitate a closer relationship for church members with God.
- Draw the congregation closer to God.
- Spread the wonders of God to the non-Adventist community.

Accomplishments

- Increased faith-based activities for young families that include the non-Adventist community members.
- Request for a baptismal class from a non-Adventist person.

Challenges

Selecting the right speaker and coordinating availability and schedules.

Critical Elements

Prayer was critical to this project. The planning committee regularly prayed before and after planning meetings, and we held individual and group prayer specifically for the project.

Cost

\$1,196.13 was the total cost and included the speaker honorarium and travel expenses. It also covered the event costs.



MISSION ROAD C H U R C H

Project II Name: Youth and Children's Sabbath School Classroom Remodeling

Growing Young Commitment/Focus

We wanted to provide a space to nurture all core commitments.

Summary

The youth and children's classrooms were empty and lacked decoration and furniture since we moved into the church in 2014. The youth want to have a room designed for them, but don't have the expertise to do much about it. With the Sanctified Shark Tank funding we were able to renovate the classrooms. The young people feel valued and enjoy the new look and furniture in the room.

Goals

To create a space for our young people so that they can feel loved, nurtured, and valued.

Accomplishments

The remodeling project include replacing old windows with tempered glass windows, replacing old carpet with commercial vinyl flooring, and installing new cabinets. We also added two bookshelves for a library in the Primary and Junior room,

and replaced torn sofas with faux leather couches. With the new look, we are meeting the physical needs of each Sabbath School class. The windows are now shatterproof. The young people feel special and loved.

Challenges

There were so many remodeling needs. We ran out of funds to complete the project. Private donations were offered by church members to finish the remodeling.

Critical Elements

- **Funding:** The project would not have started without Shark Tank funds.
- **Parents help:** The parents and Sabbath School teachers volunteered their time for the remodel. Without them, the project might not have happened or would have progressed very slowly.
- **Leadership:** Our senior and youth pastor supported the project. Their leadership was crucial.

Cost

\$17,000



MT. RUBIDOUX C H U R C H

PROJECT NAME: Front Porch (formerly Xcape Café)

SANCTIFIED SHARK TANK FUNDS: \$45,000

PROJECT COORDINATOR: Rebecca Davis

Growing Young Commitment/Focus

Unlock Keychain Leadership, Empathize with Today's Young People, Take Jesus' Message Seriously, Fuel a Warm Community, and Be the Best Neighbors

Summary

The Front Porch project exists primarily to create an authentic community and Fuel a Warm Community. We displayed an overarching intentionality behind this by creating a contemporary space for young adults. It has a lounge ambiance equipped with couches, tables, lighting, and counters to provide a soft and safe homelike atmosphere. We serve pastries, lemonade, coffee, tea, and hot chocolate to create a café feel.

This space is not packed up at the end of the evening, because we want young adults to know that they have a space. In this space, we have a group experience where the first 30 minutes is dedicated to building community. The young people talk, eat, and get to know one another. It's a space where we can have #roomtowrestle (a safe space for tough conversations). We intentionally deal with issues that young people are facing and provide them with a nonjudgmental opportunity, so that they're not ashamed to invite their "unchurched" friends and coworkers, to express their opinions and real life experiences.

Goals:

- Create a safe space for authentic community.
- Come alongside our young adults as they are "doing life" and "adulting."
- Discuss taboo issues as openly as possible.
- Disciple young adults and help them grow in Christ in a practical way.
- Engage them in specific service opportunities.
- Mentor and place them in church-wide leadership positions.

Accomplishments

As of 2019 we had almost two years of consistent monthly Front Porch experiences. We have succeeded in creating a safe space for young adults to get to know one another and discuss life. We took a chance and held this event on a Tuesday night as opposed to packing it into a Friday or Sabbath. We knew this would impact attendance in some ways, however, we wanted the young adults to see us come alongside them in the middle of the week as they are in the thick of life. We have seen over 50 "unchurched" friends and co-workers of our young people attend. They were intrigued by the discussion topics because they were actually going through those during that time.

Social activities for young adults have also been a focus. Birthed out of the Front Porch project additionally were service opportunities through what we call NeighborGood, where we partner with the Big Brothers and Big Sisters program. We are also the face of Miracle Messages for the city of Riverside, a program where "neighbors without homes" go through a process of locating and being reunited with family and loved ones. NeighborGood was so successful that we ended up making it the outreach program for the church and is led out by a young adult.

Over the last two years, we have also placed more young adults in leadership positions in our church. The infrastructure behind our discipleship process is led by a team of young adults. They developed the systems for our discipleship process to run effectively and efficiently. Church-wide social activities are led by a young adult and focus on generational synergy as well as an invest and invite culture.

MT. RUBIDOUX C H U R C H



Challenges

We initially wanted Front Porch to function as a full café but because of staffing, city zoning, and our 501c3 non-profit status it made it difficult to accomplish that within a year. We looked at how we could accomplish something similar without having to go through all the red tape. Also, the overall commitment of the young adults has been a challenge. We are finding they are dedicated and extremely committed for maybe six months and then life hits them and they either stop attending for some time or have to step down from positions. We are trying to strategize how to motivate and inspire commitment in them.

Critical Elements

There are four critical parts to this project:

1. The monthly Front Porch experience is where authentic community and spiritual growth happen.
2. NeighborGood is where young adults learn to Be the Best Neighbors. This allows them to think beyond their own troubles and live out the love of Jesus.
3. Social activities are crucial for morale and the continuity of building a warm community.
4. Lastly, giving young adults space to lead church-wide is critical.

Cost

The total cost of this project has yet to be calculated. We used the \$45,000 within the first year on renovating two rooms, decorations, social events, equipment, and supplies. At this point we are probably over \$60,000. We will continue to put our funds behind this ministry as it is a priority for our church.



Video Report

<https://vimeo.com/294669919>



NEW HOPE SAMOAN C H U R C H

PROJECT NAME: Small Groups

SANCTIFIED SHARK TANK FUNDS: \$2,000

PROJECT COORDINATOR: Church

Growing Young Commitment/Focus

Unlock Keychain Leadership, Take Jesus' Message Seriously, and Fuel a Warm Community

Summary

We have been able to identify the lack of programs in our church to help our young people with their spiritual lives. Our goal is to be committed to the growth of our youth and young adults. Because our team is involved in several areas sometimes our time and efforts are compromised. After our small group worships, we take notice of reactions and recommendations. Our youth and young adults have expressed how much they have enjoyed the new way we worship. They enjoy the lessons that we talk about from the Bible. Our team has ordered the new Discovery Guides through the Voice of Prophecy as our curriculum during our small group meetings. These guides have assisted us tremendously with our studies during our worships.

Goals

- Continue to create a fun and comfortable environment for young people to worship.
- Help young people understand that serving the Lord is exciting, engaging, thought provoking, and rewarding.
- Creating a sense of ownership in our young people.
- Unlock leadership skills and assisting each person in developing those skills for service and personal growth.

Accomplishments

- We have invited the Santa Ana Samoan church's youth and Orangewood Academy students to join us. They have enjoyed

being part of our small group worship.

- Also a few of our adult members have attended our meetings.
- Our attendees enjoy the environment created for worship and also the reinforcement followed after small groups on Friday evenings and our Sunday Funday activities.
- Attendees developed a deeper and richer understanding about the Bible.

Challenges

- Lack of transportation for our youth.
- Because our church rents, sometimes there is no available space to hold our meetings.
- We need a variety of speakers for our small groups besides using the same members.
- Lack of individuals to play instruments while singing songs.
- We planned to start our small groups sooner than May. Unfortunately, because of other church functions that the leadership team is part of, we delayed the launch of our small group worships. Our youth pastor was asked to be the speaker during our small groups, but he moved out of state after our first meeting.

Cost

Our project will cost over \$2,000. We have not used all the funds that were given to our team as our project is still in progress. According to the remaining events our average cost has been about \$200 a month. Our members have also contributed personal funds to assist with the cost.



ONTARIO C H U R C H

PROJECT NAME: Hilltop Unchurched

SANCTIFIED SHARK TANK FUNDS: \$10,000

PROJECT COORDINATOR: Church

Growing Young Commitment/Focus

Empathize with Today's Young People

Summary

With the clear mission statement, "Create a Church for Unchurched," we are targeting young adults from 25 to 39 years-old that live in Ontario and the surrounding areas. We want to give them a sense of community and belonging to a meaningful group. To create this environment, church members opened up their homes on Friday evenings and Sabbath afternoon. When people feel they belong, and trust is developed, then we invited them to Sabbath morning worship.

Goals

To provide a safe environment for unchurched.

Accomplishments

Starting in November 2017, Hilltop led 11 young adults in attendance, as of August 2018, we have grown into a steady group of 45 young adults, with 40% being unchurched.

Challenges

Some key leaders decided to leave Hilltop because the Adventist lifestyle was not heavily emphasized.

Critical Elements

The critical part of our on-going project has to do with the willing and passionate young adult leaders from our group. If they had not stood behind the mission statement "to create a church for unchurched," our attendance would not have grown.

Cost

\$10,000



ORANGE C H U R C H

PROJECT NAME: Various projects

SANCTIFIED SHARK TANK FUNDS: \$3,000

PROJECT COORDINATOR: David Oceguera

Growing Young Commitment/Focus

Unlock Keychain Leadership, Take Jesus' Message Seriously, Prioritize Young People (and Families) Everywhere, and Be the Best Neighbors

Unlock Keychain Leadership

Orange has been intentional about placing young adults in leadership positions where they are gifted to serve. Currently they serve as directors or lead positions in Adventurers and Pathfinders, audio-visual ministries, Vacation Bible School, worship coordinators and leaders, giving Bible studies, and in leading out in worship and preaching. The Orange church has a history of inviting young people to serve in leadership. Our next goal is to continue developing leadership skills and competency in our young adults so they take on more leadership positions.

Take Jesus' Message Seriously

We have been intentional about preaching sermons that focus on the life of Jesus and what it looks like to live like Jesus. Additionally, for our young adult small group we studied verse by verse through the Gospel of Mark. We chose Mark because it centered on the life of Jesus and we applied its teachings to our lives.

Prioritize Young People (and Families) everywhere

We have become more aware of prioritizing young adults and families by inviting them to participate in worship through reading scripture, call to worship, and special music. We created a new space for families to feel comfortable during worship where their children do not have to be silent and where the parents can still watch the service on a large screen and through a large window in a room next to the sanctuary.

Be the Best Neighbors

Be the Best Neighbors we can to the people in the community where we worship.

Summary

As we began our projects it became clear that we needed to foster community among young adults. As such, much of our effort focused on creating environments where they could connect and foster deeper relationships with each other.

Goals

Be the Best Neighbors

Young adults, in partnership with our outreach ministry, led the Christmas toy giveaway. They talked with the families during the event, and these conversations along with a survey gave us information for future outreach efforts. As part of the church's strategy to be best neighbors, we hold monthly homeless feedings on the second Sabbath of every month, we visit a local convalescent home on the fourth Sabbath, and we have a prison ministry that goes into the Orange County Jail on a weekly basis.

Weekly Bible Study/Small Group

We created a weekly small group that 10-12 young adults attend regularly. Our measure of success was: (1) will the young adults attend regularly and (2) will the group maintain longevity. Both metrics were met. Additionally, we had several young adults lead the group.

Outreach

Our initial goal was to build relationships with the students at Chapman University, but we were unable to connect. However, the young adults did lead the Christmas toy giveaway and built relationships with families from the community. We found out more about their needs and are planning more outreach events.



ORANGE C H U R C H

Annual Retreat

We held a winter retreat in Big Bear for young adults to strengthen their relationship with God and each other. Our metric of success was to have 14 young adults attend and participate in intentional experiences throughout the weekend. Twelve young adults attended and by those two metrics the weekend was a successful one.

Accomplishments

We were able to achieve stronger relationships with young adults, and we were able to create a community for them, which was our primary objective.

Cost

\$3,000



PALM SPRINGS C H U R C H

PROJECT NAME: Growing Together Remodel Project

SANCTIFIED SHARK TANK FUNDS: \$2,000

PROJECT COORDINATORS: Michael Leno and Danielle Fore

Growing Young Commitment/Focus

Unlock Keychain Leadership, Take Jesus' Message Seriously, and Fuel a Warm Community

Summary

Our project is to remodel our youth and children's Sabbath School classrooms to make them more inviting and foster an engaging learning environment for our young people to fall in love with Jesus.

Goals

To visually enhance the Sabbath School classrooms, create an environment more conducive to learning about God, foster a sense of community, and equip teachers with tools and resources to make Sabbath School a great experience.

Accomplishments

We have not yet started our project, as we are still in the process of raising money.

Challenges

Raising money has been a challenge, but we are hopeful that when the snowbirds (seasonal residents of the desert who arrive around October and return to their northern home in April) return to the desert, we will raise the remaining funds quickly.

Critical Elements

The financial and physical support of our church members is the critical part in this project. Financial, because we cannot remodel our classrooms without money. Physical, in regards to the teachers who lead our Sabbath School classes. If we do not have volunteers and their commitment to sharing Jesus' message, there's no point in remodeling the classrooms.

Cost

\$50,000



REDLANDS C H U R C H

PROJECT NAME: Video

SANCTIFIED SHARK TANK FUNDS: \$20,000

PROJECT COORDINATOR: Rochelle Webster

Growing Young Commitment/Focus

Take Jesus' Message Seriously

Summary

Creating video-based resources that could be used by any church to reach young adults, specifically those who are dissatisfied by some of the current answers to questions posed by our secular and post-modern world.

Goals

Create a series of short videos that serve as conversation starters, as well as framing some of our current practices in Adventism in a new light. Additionally, this would create small group resources, and a more in-depth teaching video that would allow the viewer to delve deeper.

Accomplishments

This project is still underway.

Challenges

- Solidifying the video content. To do this, we ran some of our content past a 50+ student class at La Sierra University during the Spring of 2018, and used their feedback to make adjustments to the script.
- Finding a video production team to work with and finalizing the format and style of the videos. After speaking to over half a dozen different companies and videographers, we finally decided to divide the project in half. We chose one company for our short videos, and another videographer for the longer interview-style videos.

Critical Elements

This project is still underway, but so far finding a company that can produce high production quality is critical.



RIALTO C H U R C H

PROJECT NAME: Care Packages

SANCTIFIED SHARK TANK FUNDS: \$3,000

PROJECT COORDINATOR: Amanda Valencia

Growing Young Commitment/Focus

Unlocking Key Leadership: We trained young people how to organize and carry out community service projects.

Empathize with Today's Young People: Through the course of our project our members have begun to interact with guests who are not a part of our church.

Be the Best Neighbors: As a church we reached out to students at Eisenhower High School.

Summary

Our project was focused on seeing the community thrive through service and putting together care packages for homeless people as well as foster youth by enlisting the help of students at Eisenhower High School, which is near the church.

Goals

To serve our local community and foster good relationships with them.

Accomplished

We prayed and asked for God's guidance in helping us identify a need we could help meet in our community. We knew that high school students need community service hours to graduate so we reached out to Eisenhower High School and invited

students to help us with our care package project. They were happy we asked and said we were the first church to reach out to them. By helping our youth put together more than 100 care packages, the students were able to earn the community service hours they needed. During our meetings putting together the care packages, we got to know the students by talking with them. We built good and positive relationships. Afterwards, our men's ministry team distributed the packages to people in need.

Challenges

The high school students did not attend our first community service event due to heavy rains. We were very disappointed at first but fortunately, they attended the second event a few weeks later.

Critical Elements

Willing volunteers and the support and involvement of Eisenhower High School students.

Cost

\$400 for the homeless care packages, and \$1,100 for the foster kids care packages, which comes to a total cost of \$1,500.



Video Report

<https://vimeo.com/294669991>



RIVERSIDE KOREAN C H U R C H

PROJECT NAME: The Studio Project

SANCTIFIED SHARK TANK FUNDS: \$20,000

PROJECT COORDINATORS: Isaac Kim and Joshua Bae

Growing Young Commitment/Focus

Our focus is to bring young people to the church with modern technology such as smartphone apps and to educate them with programs and sermons that are recorded and live streamed in church.

Summary

The Studio Project is about engaging young people with new technology. This is a way to connect with them whenever it is convenient for them. This can be done through the use of apps. In order for us to be successful we needed a studio to produce content. Equipment was needed as well.

Goals

Our goal is to reach out to young and unreached people through their mobile devices.

Accomplishments

We created apps for both Android and iOS platforms. We also acquired portable video equipment to record programs and content.

Challenges

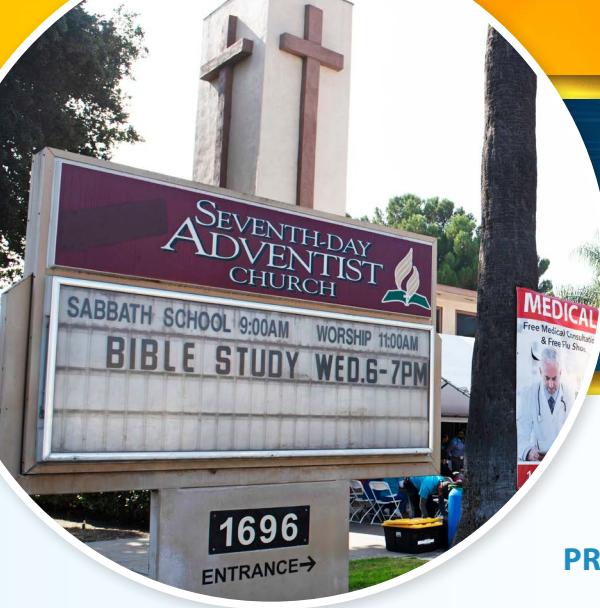
Since we are about to relocate our church to a new location, we were not able to set up the studio. But we anticipate this will happen soon though.

Critical Elements

In this project everything depends on something else. If there is no video camera then there is no video. If there is no video then there is no content for the app. Everything is interdependent.

Cost

So far we have used about \$10,220. After we move into a new church, we will set up a studio with new cameras and equipment. The cost for iDream Academy was \$8,000 and the current studio cost will be an additional \$20,000.



SAN BERNARDINO COMMUNITY C H U R C H

PROJECT NAME: Community Breakthrough Project

SANCTIFIED SHARK TANK FUNDS: \$20,000

PROJECT COORDINATOR: Jerrold Thompson

Growing Young Commitment/Focus

Unlock Keychain Leadership, Fuel a Warm Community, and Be the Best Neighbors

Summary

The city of San Bernardino has been called the intersection point of criminals and undesirables, with some sources indicating it has suffered 62 murders in 2016, a major stop for child sex-trafficking, a 2015 terrorist attack and a 2017 school shooting. Our project was to create a church for community kids and families to feel safe and to have their needs met. This will be done by rallying the church, particularly young adults, so that church becomes relevant.

Project goals

- To have a more robust inner-city ministry program.
- To receive more participation from young adults and get them more integrated into the church.

Accomplishments

- Our first goal of having a more robust inner-city ministry program is still in progress. We anticipated opening the U.S. Dream Academy on our campus by September 2018 but we will not open it until January 2019. This will bring a strong tutoring and mentoring component that will allow for a greater impact on community kids.

- We have been able to integrate young adults through Friday night vespers by getting them involved in children's church, and with a shower program for the homeless. Additionally, some young adults serve on our church board and others participate and lead out during the worship service. We have also baptized a few children and parents. Our church has grown because of the intentionality in assessing ourselves. We will not see total benefits until about 2020, but we have a great start.

Challenges

The challenge is that we had too many silos; different young adult groups did not connect with each other and the church. Another challenge we faced is that the entire church did not buy in to this initiative. There needs to be more cooperation and connectivity between seniors, adults, and young adults for the betterment of the kids, community, and the church.

Critical Elements

The most critical part of the project is young adult participation. The project would still work, but it would be a much more difficult journey.



SAN DIEGO BROADWAY C H U R C H

PROJECT NAME: New Generation Transformation

SANCTIFIED SHARK TANK FUNDS: \$20,000

PROJECT COORDINATOR: Gabriel Sanchez

Growing Young Commitment/Focus

Unlock Keychain Leadership, Empathize With Today's Young People, and Fuel a Warm Community

Summary

The project consists of young adult leaders working together to create a space where other young adults from within and outside the church can feel accepted; with strategies based on two main sections, outreach and in-reach activities. For example, sports and social services such as a food bank, Bible studies, relevant and contemporary services, evangelistic youth meetings, small groups, leadership training, field trips, and camp outs.

Goals

To motivate newcomers and disengaged young adults to give their lives to Christ and become trained leaders who teach others to do same.

Accomplishments

We were able to create a whole new youth and young adult leadership team with seven members, each one of them with different responsibilities to teach other young people about the Bible, and help them develop a strong spiritual lifestyle. It was beautiful to see how many of them got inspired and even changed their lifestyle by the example of these leaders.

Challenges

Creating a new contemporary youth and young adult room that could be used for different activities.

Critical Elements

Getting the support of the church board and the hard work of training young volunteers.

Cost

\$18,000



SAN DIEGO CLAIREMONT C H U R C H

PROJECT NAME: CARE Group – North County Expansion

SANCTIFIED SHARK TANK FUNDS: \$5,000

PROJECT COORDINATOR: David Zecha

Growing Young Commitment/Focus

Unlocking Keychain Leadership has helped our group grow and become more effective. We have people from various walks of life with great potential and talents. We utilized and made sure their God-given talents are discovered. Several young people have keys to the church and are entrusted with various high-level positions in the church.

Taking Jesus' Message Seriously has been a core commitment since 2008. We go deep in studying Christ centered principles.

Summary

Last year we set out on a goal to expand CARE Group to North County San Diego. We have roughly 8-10 young adults traveling 25 miles or more to the CARE Group each Friday night. We wanted to break the cell and start one in North County San Diego to allow more young people to attend without the burden of traveling and coming home late at night.

Goals

Within one year we locate and open up a North County CARE Group.

Accomplishments

Two months ago we closed escrow on a home with similar specs to the central San Diego CARE Group in Escondido. A young adult CARE Group family is renting the home and we have stipulated in the rental agreement that the doors are open every Friday night. We launched the first meeting on Friday, September 7, 2018.

Challenges

Finding the appropriate location and house that could accommodate young adults on a Friday night consistently was a challenge. We purchased a home that was in an easily accessible location, cul-de-sac and no backyard neighbors that would be disturbed by noise. Another challenge is the consistency of the meetings. Our existing CARE Group has met consistently every Friday night at the same location over the past 10 years and has never skipped a Friday night.

Critical Elements

The most important part of the project was to find consistent hosts for the Friday night meetings. Having purchased a house does not guarantee that renters will accommodate a Bible Study every Friday night and other activities during the weekend. Fortunately, the renters are members of CARE Group who wanted to move to Escondido. We are not charging full market rent due to their willingness to accommodate young adults every Friday night. We are having to personally absorb the shortage but this is a ministry we started and we want to continue to do the work the Lord has impressed us to do.

Cost

The cost of hosting each Friday night event is roughly \$80, which primarily goes towards food. We also subsidize camp fees which occur twice a year for new attendees and students. These subsidies range from \$50 per person for summer camp and \$180 per person for winter camp.



SAN DIEGO FIL-AM C H U R C H

PROJECT NAME: R3-Connect Ministries

SANCTIFIED SHARK TANK FUNDS: \$20,000

PROJECT COORDINATOR: Limuel Liwang

Growing Young Commitment/Focus

We believe the six core commitments are essential to Growing Young, so they are all part of our project. Our R3-Connect team has been granted keychain leadership since planning, launching, and implementation. We empathize with our youth and young adults, so that as much as possible that they can be themselves and as we grow together in Christ. An evidence that we take the message of Jesus seriously is our distribution of the One-Year Bible and using it as a basis of conversation in programs. We also aim to create a warm community that will maintain attendance to programs and events in order to prioritize our youth and young adults, a few of our events are only for them. Community service for the homeless in downtown San Diego was put on hold due to health issues by the leaders.

Summary

We sought to create opportunities that would allow youth and young adults to connect with each other, Christ, and the community. We bought One-Year Bibles and started having regular meetings with guest speakers. We had a weekend social and spiritual fellowship with the Glendale Fil-Am church which was a mountaintop experience for our younger generation. On Oct. 28, 2018 we held the first San Diego Fil-Am 5K fun run. We hope that through these activities our young people will grow more closely to God.

Goals

To get to know and grow in Jesus by engaging, strengthening the spiritual lives of, and reconnecting with youth and young adults we reached out to inactive members, to sustain their interest, and keep them in church.

Accomplishments

We were able to reestablish a youth and young adult program and revive their interest. We also created a weekly Bible study

small group for the collegiate/post-collegiate age group. An increase attendance and participation of both teens and young adults in church programs took place. We were able to connect, worship, and make new friendships with another church. R3-Connect is not just a spiritual program that has spiritual blessings but it has also strengthened friendship outside of church activities.

Challenges

One of the biggest challenges we faced was that our target audience was so large (ages 15-39). We overcame this challenge by creating events specific to teens or to the collegiate/post-collegiate age group as well as having events that incorporated our target audience as a whole. Time is also a huge challenge. As we plan the ministry's activities, we also encounter life's reality: school, work, and travel. When planning ministry events, aligning it with the church schedule and activities becomes a challenge. Our goal is to have a strong program, but we also believe that supporting our church is important. So having to adjust our program as needed is important because R3-Connect is the church.

Critical Elements

Teamwork and communication with the R3-Connect ministries team as well as the church officers was critical. It allowed us to be able to schedule our events as part of the church calendar as well as get the support we needed in implementing them.

Cost

\$5,500 is the amount that has been spent from the funds we received on top of the expenses that our church family and small groups spent during our R3connect events such as quarterly R3connect Sabbath and hosting more than 25 youth and young adults from Glendale Fil-Am church. We didn't tabulate the expenses incurred by our church family related to R3connect ministry.



SAN DIEGO FIL-AM C H U R C H

It must be noted that R3connect ministries was launched on Nov. 25, 2017 and we are approaching our second anniversary in a few months. In our midterm conversations we have a sense that our project timeline must be adjusted for a couple of years to maximize the result and sustain the growth we have gradually accomplished. We realized that sometimes it takes

several invitations before youth and young adults, especially those who have not been to church regularly, accept the invitation to attend. Some of our action plans were moved postponed to a later date because of some circumstances beyond our control.



SANTA ANA BROADWAY C H U R C H

PROJECT NAME: Open Mic Night

SANCTIFIED SHARK TANK FUNDS: \$25,000

PROJECT COORDINATOR: Joel Soto

Growing Young Commitment/Focus

- Involve the adults of our church to help us accomplish an Open Mic Night.
- Help us spread the word to the community about our events.
- Stay in touch with all visitors who came to Open Mic Night.
- Invite people to come to our church service the next day, by providing a special meal for all visitors who attended Open Mic Night.

Summary

Open Mic consisted of programs that entailed music, poetry, art, videos, preaching, testimonies, and welcoming Sabbath on Friday evening for young people who already attend church. We also focused on bringing new young people to Christ and created a safe environment where they can express themselves and feel loved, embraced, and accepted.

Goals

Our goal was to network with other churches and eventually invite our community so that we could build friendships with each individual who attended. Through these friendships we can introduce them to our church activities like Bible studies, Sabbath School, and church services.

Accomplishments

Through this project we gained a few new young people who started coming to church. It has not been without difficulty, but God has blessed us throughout this journey. We became closer not only to visitors outside of the community but were also able to get closer to leaders of other churches. As soon as we were given funds to start our project, many of our church leaders were extremely supportive in helping out in anything that was needed. To this day, they have cooperated and participated with us in certain church activities, which is a blessing.

Challenges

The biggest challenge of all, was getting young people from our community to attend our events. Because the area around our church is filled with gang activity, it was difficult to get young people to come but with God's help we gained a couple visitors. The second challenge we faced, was working as a team. Before the Sanctified Shark Tank Initiative, our youth was divided in groups. For the first Open Mic Night, not many of our own youth wanted to help. But when they noticed the hard work of the youth leaders, they were motivated to help. If it wasn't for this project, our youth would not be as close as they are now.

Cost

We spent an estimated \$27,900 on this project.



SANTA ANA SPANISH C H U R C H

PROJECT NAME: Mentorship

SANCTIFIED SHARK TANK FUNDS: \$20,000

PROJECT COORDINATOR: Caleb Jara

Growing Young Commitment/Focus

God called a church member in her 40s to lead in youth ministry, and two elders agreed to support the new youth ministries. So far our program has worked, but there is always room to grow.

Summary

The work with young people and integrating the Growing Together initiative is a work in progress. I will list some of the points we have started that have engaged the whole congregation, particularly our youth.

Accomplishments

There was a "holy place" dedicated for the youth of our church. This worked well. The attendance for the youth Sabbath School class rose substantially.

Challenges

We have a community service program that functions relatively well, but unfortunately our youth are currently not active in this ministry. They do not seem to be interested in this project.

Another challenge that we faced was to find a youth leader form within the group. Sadly, this was not possible. Our main leaders are over 35. The coming year we are working to encourage youth to take on leadership in our church. We have done our best to train our church, including the youth. We, as a church, will continue to grow together.

Critical Elements

Willing and active participation of youth leaders, which did not happen.



THAI C H U R C H

PROJECT NAME: After School Tutoring/Youth and Young Adult Ministry

SANCTIFIED SHARK TANK FUNDS: \$2,000

PROJECT COORDINATOR: Sunny Wilamart

Growing Young Commitment/Focus

Be the Best Neighbors

Summary

We had originally planned a tutoring program which was not implemented since the funds were so little, so we shifted our focus to foreign students from California Preparation College (CPC) in Colton. Most students that we worked with were from China, Korea, and Thailand. We had a party for them and assigned each student to one family to adopt them and to help them meet their need.

Goals

The goal was to give opportunity for our church members to know young people in the community and share Christ with them, in this particular case students from CPC.

Accomplishments

Many students are still coming to church and participate in our Sabbath School program. There is one student from China that has a real interest in learning English and studying the Bible.

Challenges

The hardest part is to find volunteers that can teach English to students. Not many have the time for it. Students also have challenges with their time lack of transportation. This makes it difficult to connect.

Critical Elements

Finding a volunteer youth leader is critical. Since most of the church is older, we are faced with a generational gap. We have looked into hiring a missionary from Korea, who has the ability to lead these students in Sabbath School and others activities. But unfortunately, the employment of our youth leader was terminated.

Cost

Our total cost was over \$8,500, of which \$2,500 was for the youth leader, and \$6,000 was spent for a van to pick up and take students to activities. Additional costs included food and other expenses.



UPLAND INDONESIAN C H U R C H

PROJECT NAME: Renovate the Youth Chapel

SANCTIFIED SHARK TANK FUNDS: \$10,000

PROJECT COORDINATOR: Church

Growing Young Commitment/Focus

Unlock Keychain Leadership, Fuel a Warm Community, and Prioritize Young People [and Families] Everywhere

Summary

Our youth multipurpose chapel project was done in hopes of changing the culture of our church for young people. We are currently in the process of renovating an old custodial home located on our church grounds. Although we have run into many challenges, we equally encountered unexpected blessings. By creating this chapel, we hope to fulfill all our Growing Together commitments.

Goals

Our goal is to create a youth chapel by the end of the first year (August 2018) and to conduct programs within our new youth chapel as listed in our proposal.

Accomplishments

We are currently completing our six-month phase of our project plan. We have completed wall demolition, new floor and window installation, roofing, plumbing, and electricity.

Challenges

Lack of Volunteers and Their Time Commitment

Many of our youth are also involved in other committees, which made it challenging to find time to discuss plans and follow up on the project.

Lack of Experience

Many of our members that are involved with the project first-hand have no experience in home renovations.

Funds

Initially we planned to have all renovation done professionally, but soon realized the costs would far exceed our budget. We were blessed to have a church member willing to do the work free of charge. Funds are still limited, but we have faith God will create a way.

Critical Elements

A critical part of the renovation is funding, but perhaps the greater critical part are the members and volunteers. Without them, we wouldn't be able to build the building and establish the team. Through the team we have been able to bring our plans to life even without the use of the chapel. We believe this chapel will be a tremendous resource and will enhance our efforts to bring the commitments of Growing Together to life.

Cost

\$15,000



VALLEY C H U R C H

PROJECT NAME: Filling Big Shoes and Making Menifee Better

SANCTIFIED SHARK TANK FUNDS: \$2,000

PROJECT COORDINATOR: Larry Becker

Growing Young Commitment/Focus

Unlock Keychain Leadership, and Be the Best Neighbors

Summary

We are unveiling in the third and fourth quarter of 2018 a mentoring program. As we do this we are engaging our church leaders, youth, and young adults. We are part of the Inter-Faith and Community Service Council and each month participate in doing things to serve in our community. This is in its second year as a program.

Goals

- Grow leaders and find new leaders.
- Fulfill the overarching purpose of when a leader gets better everyone around them gets better.
- Become a church that if it were suddenly gone, it would be sorely missed.

Accomplishments

A survey was taken, church elders have been kept apprised and consulted, and we are in pursuit of getting better as a caring and growing congregation.

Challenges

Maintaining momentum and continuing to cast the vision take persistence and constant initiative as leaders.

Critical Elements

The current leadership team has high trust levels and cohesion and without this the projects would not be nearly as easy and effective to try and accomplish.

Cost

We have spent approximately \$250 which includes printing, secretarial, and venue costs.



VICTORIA CHURCH

PROJECT NAME: New lawn and soccer program

SANCTIFIED SHARK TANK FUNDS: \$10,000

PROJECT COORDINATOR: Michael McMillian

Growing Young Commitment/Focus

Unlock Keychain Leadership, Empathize With Today's Young People, Take Jesus' Message Seriously, Fuel a Warm Community, Prioritizing Young People (and Families) Everywhere, and Be the Best Neighbors

Summary

Over the years the church's front lawn had fallen into general disrepair due to drought, gophers, ants, and other issues. We wanted to create a verdant lawn area where kids and youth could play freely and engage in outdoor activities, Vacation Bible School games, and more as our youth had done in the past. Based on listening sessions with our members, we also decided to use the area as a place to do ministry for the homeless.

Goals

Our goal was to replace the worn-out lawn with a new one, including removing old grass, sprinkling new grass seed, and installing a new sprinkler system.

Accomplishments

Our front lawn is now lush and green. Even before the lawn project was complete, we began conducting homeless ministry, including creating care packages and offering them a place to shower.

Challenges

- One of our biggest challenges was getting the irrigation system functional again, due in part to low water pressure from the well. We had to hire a well engineer to diagnose the problem. We discovered the pump needed to be replaced and dropped deeper into the aquifer. These repairs created a significant expense. The irrigation portion of our project took longer than anticipated.
- The homeless ministry incurred serious challenges such as theft and vandalism, that was very discouraging to our members.
- In 2018 a car accident destroyed a large portion of our front fence and damaged a portion of landscaping we had not planned on working on.
- We also discovered a leak in the potable water system under the church entryway. Even though we have continued to move forward as much as possible under the circumstances, these and other challenges happened during the time we were asked to provide results for our SSTI project.

Critical Elements

Funding to cover all the costs associated with the unexpected circumstances.

Cost

Our total cost so far has been \$38,555.47.



VICTORVILLE C H U R C H

PROJECT NAME: Bridging The Gap

SANCTIFIED SHARK TANK FUNDS: \$2,000

PROJECT COORDINATOR: Raewyn Orlich

Growing Young Commitment/Focus

Fuel a Warm Community and Empathize with Today's Young People

Summary

We planned a series of six Sabbath afternoon lunches and workshops in connection with a sermon series, followed by a Family Fun Fest in the Spring of 2018. During the series church attendance was approximately 130 people, with an average of 35 staying for the afternoon workshops. The workshops were interactive, and included visual surveys, round table discussions, multimedia elements, participant feedback, storytelling, and brainstorming.

Goals

After reading the *Growing Young* book we determined that the two core commitments mentioned above were the areas we needed to focus on. Through our workshops we brainstormed ideas we could implement right away to help Empathize With Today's Young People and Fuel a Warm Community.

Accomplishments

Through this project we learned:

- How to mentor intentionally.
- The difference between empathy and sympathy.
- The importance of being EPIC (experiential, participatory, image-driven, and connected) for millennials.
- The value of expressing love outside of church time.
- How shared experiences create similar values.
- Intergenerational understanding through mentorship of younger leaders by older ministry leaders, including incorporating younger deacons.

About 90 people attended Family Fun Fest in April 2018, including several families who had not attended church for quite some time.

Challenges

While the relational interactions and learning that took place were fantastic, the challenge was how to move forward when it's so easy to slip back to old habits.

Critical Elements

We need to stay intentional in mentoring the next generation in our church board, elders, and other areas of ministry, and in encouraging connections outside of the worship service.



YORBA LINDA C H U R C H

PROJECT NAME: Yorba Linda Tennis Club

SANCTIFIED SHARK TANK FUNDS: \$15,000

PROJECT COORDINATOR: Daniel Park

Growing Young Commitment/Focus

Yorba Linda Tennis Club (YTC) has two main benefits that engage all six concepts shared in the book, *Growing Young*. First benefit is that a free tennis class is a safe place for us to engage with young adults. When we invite unchurched friends it puts a lot of pressure on them and often makes them feel out of place and uncomfortable. They might be thinking, "How do I dress?" "What's appropriate?" "What's a haystack?" There are many Adventist phrases that might sound strange to those that are not familiar with our church culture. YTC takes a different approach to reaching out to young people and we can be more intentional about the Growing Young concepts. The second benefit is that five of our coaches are active young adults in church. We are engaging them in a way that is empowering. They are using what they are good at for building relationships. This aspect helps us to be more intentional about applying Growing Young concepts in practical ways. YTC also serves as a platform for the young adults that are in the church as well as those we are serving.

Summary

Tennis evangelism happened organically when Robin Park, senior pastor, was approached by two non-Adventists and a couple that were looking for a church. Park naturally formed relationships outside of church context with them. He never approached these people. Instead, they approached him. We believe that this encounter was not by chance. God planned it and we are simply included in His master plan. It was then that God planted the idea for this project.

Goals

There is a huge need to reach out to disenfranchised young adults leaving church or simply losing interest in religion. Our goal through tennis evangelism is to encourage young adults to have a genuine relationship with Jesus. We want to create a safe space for them to develop a healthy relationship with church members outside of the church context, and to provide a safe space for young adults to have healthy relationships with others and with Jesus. Using fitness to bridge human relationships is something that is very effective in reaching millennials and through fervent prayers we hope to bring them closer to Jesus.

Accomplishments

As we were empowering our young adults to be coaches, interact with their "students" and be a part of an outreach/evangelism project, we noticed that those young adults took more ownership of the church and became more involved. All of them are part of our church leadership in some capacity.

Challenges

- *Lack of opportunities to build relationship with the community*
With our church in the middle of an industrial complex with no residential areas nearby, it was difficult to grab attention of community members with flyers or banners on Saturday mornings. We are also renting our church so we cannot put up banners during the week. On top of that, almost all our members commute from Redlands, Riverside, Temecula, South OC, and West LA so they do not have an opportunity to build connections with the local community.



YORBA LINDA C H U R C H

- *Unexpected results*

Despite our lack of connection with the local community, our tennis classes grew! As a result, we did not have enough coaches to meet the needs of the growing class size. We wanted more individualized lessons where the coaches and students can interact. However, our last session, the Orange County group had up to 25 students (seven children, under the age of seven) with four coaches and the Inland Empire group (Corona, Riverside, and Loma Linda regions) had 14 students with only two coaches.

Cost

- \$3,500 for equipment (tennis ball machine, stringing machine, ball hoppers)
- \$768 court reservations
- \$2,415 for coach fees (honorarium, t-shirt, visor)
- \$150 for banners

\$6,833 Total

If our church members want lessons, we charge them \$120. However, we will waive the fee if they bring a non-Adventist friend. With the lesson fee, SSTI funds, and equipment that we purchased earlier, our church can do this ministry for many more years with minimal financial stress.



Video Report

<https://vimeo.com/294670087>

**SOUTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE
OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS**

Report
PROVIDED
JANUARY 2020