

RESPONSE OF THE GC PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY DEPARTMENT TO THE *I WILL GO* STRATEGIC PLAN

[*I Will Go 2020-25*](#) provides an opportunity for the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) department of the Seventh-day Adventist world church to join with other departments, church institutions and organizations, and with individual church members for Total Member Involvement (TMI) as we work under the leading of the Holy Spirit to advance objectives in mission, spiritual growth and leadership.

After prayerful consultation, the General Conference PARL department has adopted 12 areas of focus for the coming quinquennium. These areas of focus are intended as a direct response to the *I Will Go* [Objectives](#) and [Key Performance Indicators](#) (KPIs) and will be adapted and contextualized within each Division territory. Each of these focus areas is grounded on PARL's mandate to position the church to a standing of visibility, credibility, trust and relevance within the public realm.¹ These focus areas also acknowledge that success can only be approached through Christ's method of ministry, as He "mingled with people as one who desired their good ... showed sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He invited them, "Follow Me."²

In outlining these areas of focus, PARL is mindful that our church's mission and the goals of the *I Will Go* strategic plan will not be accomplished without intentional efforts to reach people of influence within every level of society. As Ellen White's admonition makes clear, "It requires much wisdom to reach ministers and men of influence. But why should they be neglected as they have been by our people? These men are responsible to God just in proportion to the capital of talents entrusted to them. Should there not be a deeper study, and much more humble prayer for wisdom, that we may learn how to reach these classes?"³ "The men in high positions of trust should be educated in the school of Christ. Do not shun these influential men."⁴

Thus, over the next quinquennium, the GC and Division PARL departments will prioritize the following areas of activity.

¹ *General Conference Working Policy*.

² *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 143

³ *Evangelism*, 562.

⁴ *Review and Herald*, Aug 21, 1900.

AREAS OF FOCUS FOR PARL 2020-25	RELEVANT OBJECTIVES AND KPIS FROM THE I WILL GO 2020-25 STRATEGIC PLAN
<p>1. Develop various tools and resources that will equip church pastors and members to make every Seventh-day Adventist Church a center of influence, reference, and resource relevant to its surrounding community.</p>	<p>OBJECTIVE 1 <i>To revive the concept of worldwide mission and sacrifice for mission as a way of life involving not only pastors but every church member, young and old, in the joy of witnessing for Christ and making disciples.</i></p> <hr/> <p>KPI 1.1 <i>Increased number of church members participating in both personal and public evangelistic outreach initiatives with a goal of Total Member Involvement (TMI).</i></p> <hr/> <p>OBJECTIVE 2 <i>To strengthen and diversify Adventist outreach in large cities, across the 10/40 Window, among unreached and under-reached people groups, and to non-Christian religions.</i></p> <hr/> <p>KPI 2.5 <i>GC departments facilitate, initiate, and liaise between interdivisional mission projects, with active support from division and union officers.</i></p> <hr/> <p>OBJECTIVE 6 <i>To increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults.</i></p> <hr/> <p>KPI 6.1 <i>Increased church member involvement in fellowship and service, both in the church and in the local community.</i></p> <hr/> <p>KPI 6.6 <i>Church members exhibit cross-cultural understanding and respect for all people.</i></p> <hr/> <p>OBJECTIVE 8 <i>To strengthen the discipleship role of pastors, teachers, and other frontline workers and provide them with regular growth opportunities.</i></p> <hr/> <p>KPI 8.1 <i>Evidence that most pastors and teachers feel supported by church members and by conference administrators, continue to feel called to ministry, and are engaging in continuing education and development.</i></p>
<p>2. Develop various tools and resources that will equip church members to be intentionally engaged in the work of building bridges with people of influence within their own community.</p>	<p>OBJECTIVE 1 <i>To revive the concept of worldwide mission and sacrifice for mission as a way of life involving not only pastors but every church member, young and old, in the joy of witnessing for Christ and making disciples.</i></p> <hr/> <p>KPI 1.1 <i>Increased number of church members participating in both personal and public evangelistic outreach initiatives with a goal of Total Member Involvement (TMI).</i></p> <hr/> <p>OBJECTIVE 2</p>

	<p><i>To strengthen and diversify Adventist outreach in large cities, across the 10/40 Window, among unreached and under-reached people groups, and to non-Christian religions.</i></p> <p>OBJECTIVE 6 <i>To increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults.</i></p> <p>KPI 6.1 <i>Increased church member involvement in fellowship and service, both in the church and in the local community.</i></p>
<p>3. Develop mission-orientated educational resources specifically for children, youth and young adults that provide a biblical framework locating the ministry of PARL within the core mission of the worldwide church.</p>	<p>OBJECTIVE 1 <i>To revive the concept of worldwide mission and sacrifice for mission as a way of life involving not only pastors but every church member, young and old, in the joy of witnessing for Christ and making disciples.</i></p> <p>OBJECTIVE 5 <i>To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives.</i></p> <p>KPI 6.1 <i>Increased church member involvement in fellowship and service, both in the church and in the local community.</i></p>
<p>4. Advise and assist Global Mission Centers in planning and conducting interchurch and interfaith dialogs within each Division.</p> <p>5. Develop models for interchurch and interfaith engagement for use at various levels of the world church.</p>	<p>OBJECTIVE 2 <i>To strengthen and diversify Adventist outreach in large cities, across the 10/40 Window, among unreached and under-reached people groups, and to non-Christian religions.</i></p> <p>OBJECTIVE 3 <i>To make developing resources for mission to non-Christian religions and belief systems a high priority.</i></p> <p>KPI 3.1 <i>Each division, in cooperation with its organizational units and with the assistance of the Global Mission Centers and GC Public Affairs and Religious Liberty, undertakes interfaith dialogs.</i></p> <p>KPI 6.6 <i>Church members exhibit cross-cultural understanding and respect for all people.</i></p>
<p>6. Creatively support the efforts of Seventh-day Adventist institutions as they work toward “upholding freedom ... through Jesus and restoring in people the image of God.” Freedom, especially religious freedom, has been a core value since our church’s inception and is deeply grounded in Adventist theology, practice, and worldview.</p>	<p>OBJECTIVE 4 <i>To strengthen Seventh-day Adventist institutions in upholding freedom, wholistic health, and hope through Jesus, and restoring in people the image of God.</i></p>

<p>7. Creatively engage the worldwide church membership in corporate prayer initiatives around PARL mission challenges and priorities, thus nurturing a sense of solidarity with our imprisoned and persecuted brothers and sisters in faith.</p>	<p>OBJECTIVE 5 <i>To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives.</i></p> <hr/> <p>KPI 5.6 <i>Increased number of church members and church school students participating in corporate prayer initiatives.</i></p>
<p>8. Create PARL initiatives and opportunities specifically for the involvement of youth and young adults, thus nurturing in them a stronger sense of ownership and belonging within the church.</p>	<p>OBJECTIVE 5 <i>To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives.</i></p> <hr/> <p>OBJECTIVE 6 <i>To increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults.</i></p> <hr/> <p>KPI 6.8 <i>Improved retention rates of young adults, youth, and unbaptized children, based on the collection of specific statistics on those groups.</i></p> <hr/> <p>OBJECTIVE 7 <i>To help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview.</i></p>
<p>9. Develop resources and tools that will encourage church members to “exhibit cross-cultural understanding and respect for all people” and to demonstrate cultural sensitivity in all our interactions within the public space.</p>	<p>OBJECTIVE 2 <i>To strengthen and diversify Adventist outreach in large cities, across the 10/40 Window, among unreached and under-reached people groups, and to non-Christian religions.</i></p> <hr/> <p>KPI 6.6 <i>Church members exhibit cross-cultural understanding and respect for all people.</i></p>
<p>10. Strengthen PARL’s advocacy at each level of the world church on issues related to migration. Develop tools and resources that will assist Adventist churches and schools in supporting migrants as they integrate into local communities.</p>	<p>KPI 2.8 <i>Each GC department has programs in place responding to global trends in immigration.</i></p> <hr/> <p>KPI 6.7 <i>Evidence that local churches and Adventist schools are responding to the opportunities that mass migration offers for ministry, and that immigrants are being integrated into local Adventist communities.</i></p>
<p>11. Prioritize education and capacity building for pastors, teachers, administrators, and institutional leadership in</p>	<p>OBJECTIVE 8 <i>To strengthen the discipleship role of pastors, teachers, and other frontline workers and provide them with regular growth opportunities.</i> <i>Objective 8. KPI 8.1.</i></p>

<p>PARL ministry. This priority recognizes Ellen White’s clear admonition that our mission outreach must not ignore people of influence or decision-makers.⁵ She also affirms our solemn responsibility as a church to reach out to society’s leaders and “educate them “in the school of Christ.”⁶</p>	<p>KPI 8.1 <i>Evidence that most pastors and teachers feel supported by church members and by conference administrators, continue to feel called to ministry, and are engaging in continuing education and development.</i></p>
<p>12. Each Division PARL department will prepare its own plan, shaped by its own regional realities, for responding to the <i>I Will Go</i> strategic document. Each of these plans will reflect the areas of focus highlighted in this document but will be adapted and contextualized for the unique environment, needs, and challenges of each Division. These plans will indicate how each Division PARL department will align its resources with its plan’s objectives over the next quinquennium. These plans will also contain a commitment to regular reporting so that each Division can include this data in its annual reports to the world church under the <i>I Will Go</i> strategic plan.</p>	<p>OBJECTIVE 9 <i>To align world church resources with strategic objectives.</i></p> <hr/> <p>KPI 9.1 <i>Every organization systematically reviews and aligns resources in light of the worldwide mission priorities.</i></p> <hr/> <p>KPI 9.2 <i>All GC departments increase the availability of their time and resources to the 10/40 Window, large urban areas, and unreached people groups, and GC Treasury presents a report on departmental use of time and resources to the 2023 Spring Meeting of the GC Mission Board.</i></p> <hr/> <p>OBJECTIVE 10 <i>To enhance the transparency, accountability, and credibility of denominational organization, operations, and mission initiatives.</i></p> <hr/> <p>KPI 10.4 <i>Divisions annually report progress in achieving the objectives and KPIs of the I Will Go plan: both via an online form, with standardized summative information, and by a presentation at each Annual Council.</i></p> <hr/> <p>KPI 10.5 <i>Quinquennial reports of GC departments, institutions, and agencies to Annual Council focus on their contribution to achieving the objectives and KPIs of the I Will Go plan.</i></p>

⁵ *Evangelism*, p. 562.

⁶ *Review and Herald*, August 21, 1900.