

2ND AHSRA-ASIA CONFERENCE

THEME:

**I WILL GO: IMPACTING
MISSION THROUGH RESEARCH**



Using Research for Mission Strategic Planning

Safary Wa-Mbaleka



**Failing to plan is
Planning to fail.**



Mission: Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and **make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and **teaching** them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Research plays a crucial role in informing strategic planning by providing the data and insights needed to make informed decisions.



Some Amazing Findings: GCMS (2023)

Global Church Member Survey

- 97% believe the true Sabbath is the seventh-day.
- 96% believe Christ is the head of the Church.
- 95% agree that salvation is only through Jesus Christ alone.
- 95% practice at least one personal devotion activity each week (84% daily).



Some Amazing Findings: GCMS (2023)

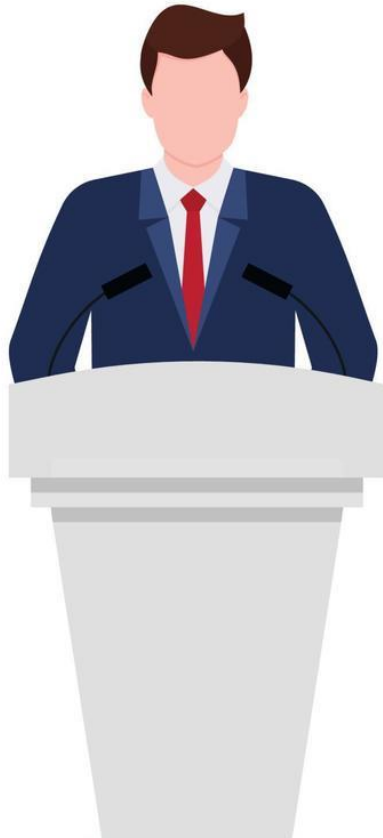
Global Church Member Survey

- 94% believe in the Trinity.
- 94% believe God created the universe.
- 92%: the dead have no consciousness or activity until resurrection
- 90% abstain from harmful substances.
- 87% agreed that they apply the Bible to their daily life.



Some Amazing Findings: **GAPS (2024)**

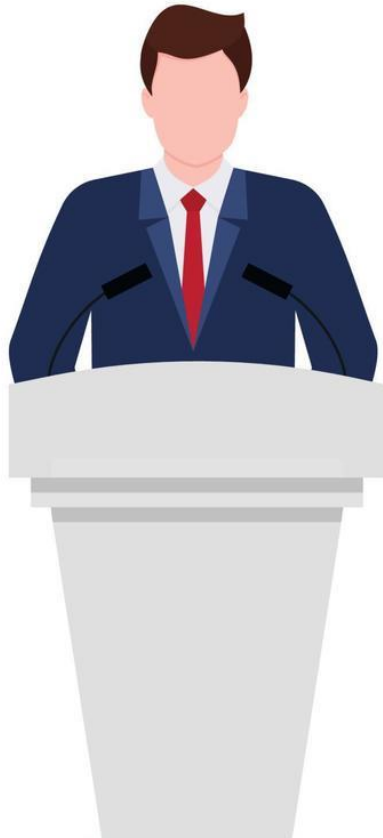
Global Adventist Pastor's Survey



- 96% have received a definite answer to a specific prayer request at some time.
- 94% believe that they serve the mission of the church through their work.
- 94% believe they will be committed Seventh-day Adventist church members for the rest of their lives.

Some Amazing Findings: **GAPS (2024)**

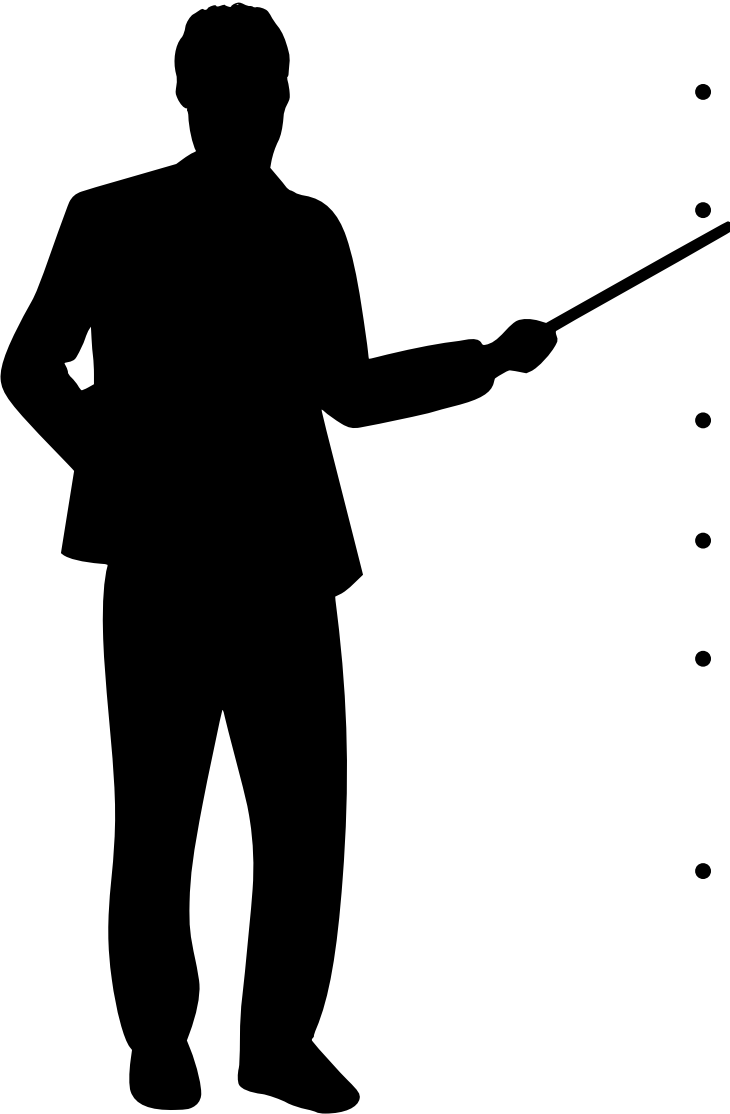
Global Adventist Pastor's Survey



- 93% feel they are in the place that God has called them to be.
- 91% believe that being a pastor seems to fit their gifts and talents.
- 90% believe that teachers in Adventist schools make a significant contribution to the mission of the Church.

Some Amazing Findings: IWS (2025)

Institutional Worker Survey



- 95% (teachers) and 92% (others) identify themselves as Christians.
- 93% (teachers) and 91% (others) believe they serve the mission of the Church.
- 91% (teachers) and 87% (others) usually attend an SDA church.
- 87% (teachers) are members of the SDA church.
- 86% (teachers) and 85% (others) have made a personal commitment to Christ.
- 82% (teachers) and 95% (others) are highly likely to attend an SDA church for the rest of their lives.

GCMS 2023: Examples of Areas of Concern

- 44%: Following the health message ensures my salvation.
- 33%: The soul is a separate part of a person and lives on after death.
- 30% in SSD agreed that Christians may go to witch doctors for healing.
- 9% do not believe that God created the world in a literal week.



GC Strategic Planning

General Conference Spring Meeting 2024 | Day 2



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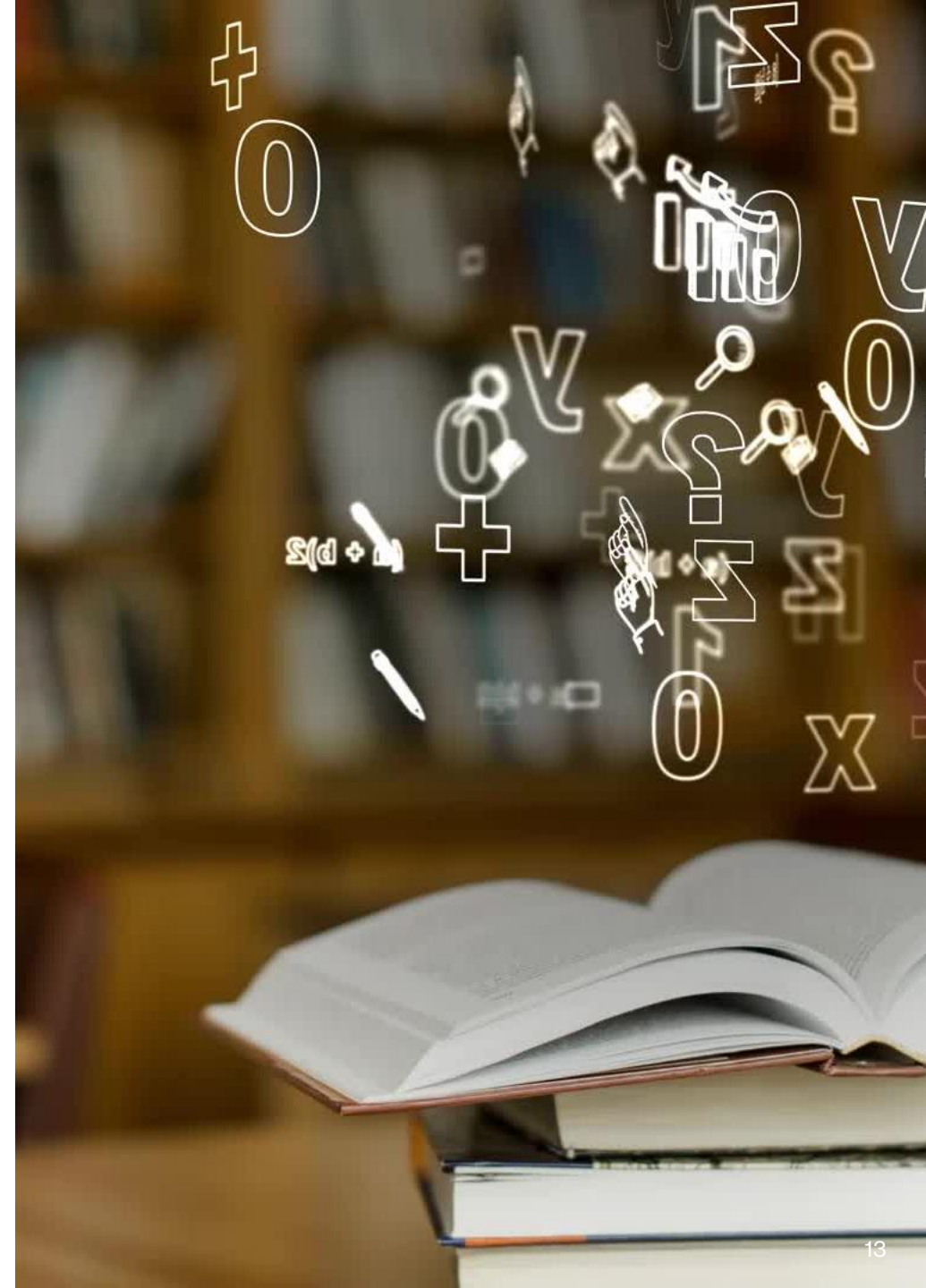
1. ASTR identified areas of concern.
2. Areas of concern were submitted to Strategic Planning Committee.
3. Strategic Planning Committee formed 3 subcommittees.
4. Subcommittees reported to Strategic Planning Committee.
5. Strategic Planning Committee made recommendations to worldwide leaders.
6. Recommendations were made.
7. Vote was made → recommended to the Executive Committee.
8. Implementation of the new programs underway.



1. New Materials for Fundamental Beliefs

1. Various GC departments to conduct regular Zoom conferences on 28 beliefs
2. Video presentation materials for pastors, elders, theologians, and teachers & various church departments
3. EGW Estate to prepare materials on Spirit of Prophecy questions
4. Downloadable PPTs, Word, & other formats of materials for local church pastors, elders, etc.

Ultimate goal: to ensure that every member, including the youth and children, is reached.



2. The Structure



Creation of the Global Content and Media Production Committee



Creation of Bible-based content (print & digital)



Global proclamation of Biblical truth in the context of the 3 Angels' Messages → address pressing doctrinal & theological issues



Book projects on Spirit of Prophecy & doctrinal issues



High quality short video clips (& reels) in multiple languages leading to longer videos



Finances

3. Theological Education Improvement



Strengthen formal theological education, pastoral continuing education, and member religious education.



Provide faculty who are fully committed to the distinctive message and mission of the Church.



Develop an interdisciplinary doctorate & funding of 13 PhD students in the new field
→to train lay members in fundamental beliefs.



Develop improved selection criteria for religion/theology faculty.

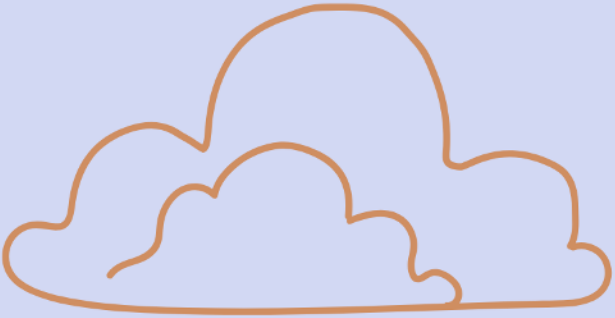
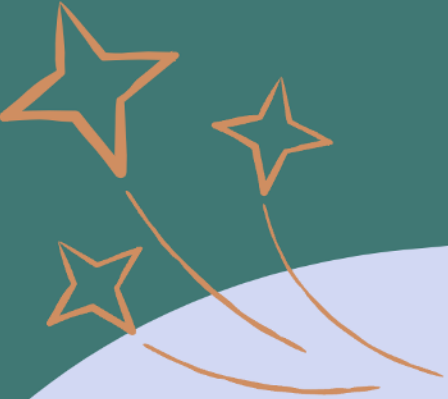


Review theology curriculum/religion courses for Adventist distinctiveness.

STRATEGIC PLANNING CYCLE FOR THE GLOBAL CHURCH

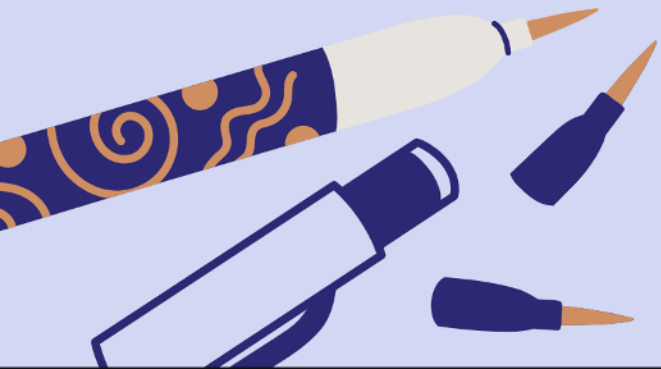
Conceptual Overview of *I Will Go*: Planning & Implementation



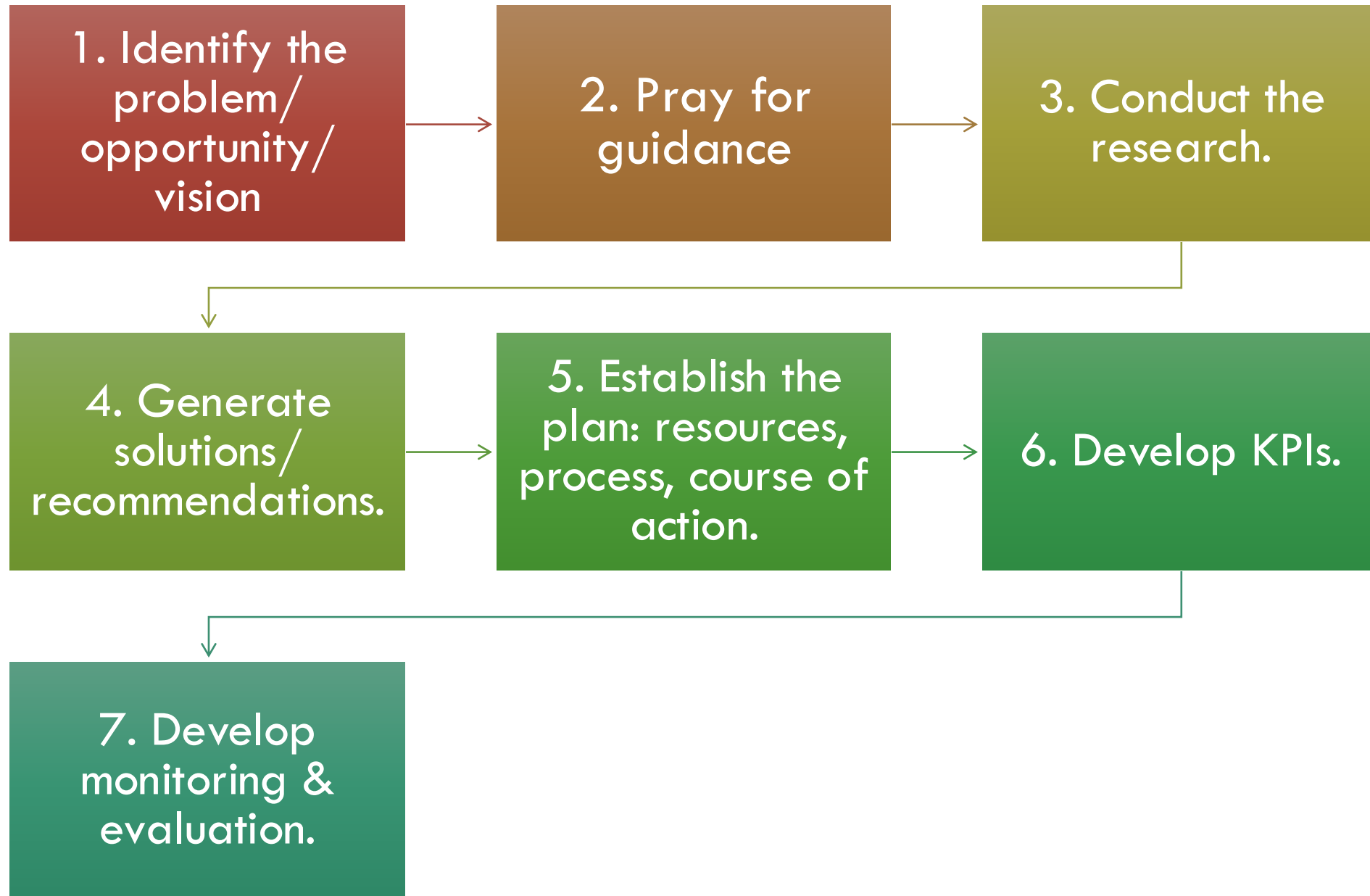


PROVERBS 16:3

Commit to the Lord whatever
you do, and he will establish
your plans.



Practical Application





EGW (SPCCSR 22.4)



Good and evil angels are taking a part in the planning of God in His earthly kingdom. It is God's purpose to carry forward His work in correct lines, in ways that will advance His glory. But Satan is ever trying to counterwork God's purpose. Only by humbling themselves before God can God's servants advance His work. Never are they to depend on their own efforts or on outward display for success.



Final Thoughts

1. Alignment with organization's vision & mission
2. Alignment with *I Will Go*
3. Alignment with God's will
4. Prayerful process
5. Efficiency & effectiveness of the mission
6. Resource allocation
7. Leading people to Christ



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