

Statement on Mission in Secular and Post-Christian Societies Across the Trans-European Division (With Appendix)

Mission is God's movement toward the restoration of a broken world; He invites us into whole-life participation in His compassionate mission. For more than 95 years, TED has been part of a greater story that God Himself is writing. From the very beginning, a self-sacrificial commitment to carrying the Adventist message to the millions across its territory has shaped its identity and purpose. That story unfolded through nearly one thousand missionaries who went overseas from the Division's territory, taking and translating the message far beyond Europe's borders. Over the decades, the Division embraced large mission fields in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, and from 1996 to 2011, stretched across 41 countries and autonomous regions in West Asia, North Africa, and Northern and East-Central Europe. In 2012, the Division entered a new chapter, becoming a solely European field of 22 countries. Throughout every season, the passion for mission has burned like a fire, sending out men and women from Europe to other continents—their God-shaped legacies continue to inspire.

Today, however, we find ourselves in a very different chapter of the story. From missional blaze to flickering embers, the intentional move away from the Christian story in contemporary European societies compels us to reaffirm and honour our eschatological identity by contextualising the distinctive Adventist message of wholeness, hope, and justice within local communities. In response to the God of the Bible, whose redemptive mission is fuelled by a self-sacrificing passion to embrace us—all of us, in all our humanity, we join His story by giving our time and resources. We do this to connect with others in a God-honouring community as the antidote to today's secular, consumer culture. We confidently look to God to author missional breakthroughs in 21st-century Europe.

We boldly and prayerfully step forward, believing that the greatest days in God's redemptive story in Europe are yet to come. As reignited fire illuminates dark spaces, we see light breaking out across the TED. Embracing different modes of service and other generations, ministering in tandem with pastors, we engage all members and develop

new leaders. We engage in Spirit-led, holistic, community-based outreach with the method of Jesus, planting a movement of multiplying churches, utilising church properties for missional effectiveness, and aligning human and financial resources for maximum missional impact. With the crucial importance of narrative and storytelling supporting a culture of mission, our conferences, unions, and division guide new routes into uncharted territories.

Eagerly anticipating Christ's second coming and the restoration of humanity and all creation, may God's mission be set ablaze in unexpected and glorious ways across the TED.

Mission150 Appendix

Church Planting and Disciple-Making

New groups should be built on personal relationships and lifestyle witness. Ellen White highlighted the power of small group ministry:

“The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort has been presented to me by One who cannot err.” (Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 7, p. 21)

Suggestions:

- Equip members on planting small, relationally centred groups
- Equip members to disciple new believers through personal mentoring, Bible study, and friendship evangelism
- Emphasise patience and trust in the Holy Spirit’s work rather than quick results
- Engage with people, participate in their lives and create opportunities to share the gospel authentically
- Emphasise discipleship in every entity and local church
- Connect with the community, in the community, rather than expecting them to come to us, especially to our buildings
- Inclusion of the church members in planning and executing in-reach and out-reach projects
- Create holistic platforms, with the Sabbath being the centrepiece, where the community being served during the week comes together and joins in the worship service
- Empower church planting projects with lay-pioneers
- Lead healing and training for leaders and members to reflect the whole vision of humanity
- Organise prayer meetings at home, where people can gather in smaller circles that will become powerful centres of influence. Their testimony will attract others to join or start similar groups at their home

- Engage in meeting people's needs, then introduce them to the Word of God, and show them our mission, which is to go and make disciples
- Use the tools of *Simple Church* and *At Home Method*, and *Adventist Frontier Missions*

Education and Resources:

Our educational institutions should be intentionally mission focused. Ellen White wrote:

“True education means more than the perusal of certain courses of study. It means more than a preparation for the life that now is. It has to do with the whole being, and with the whole period of existence possible to man.” (Education, p. 13)

Ideas:

- Schools and universities incorporate training for mission work among secular and post-Christian people
- Financial resources prioritised for innovative outreach projects
- Materials contextualised to address secular thinking, using simple, personal, and thoughtful approaches, avoiding jargon
- Develop courses specifically for every level of the church for education in spirituality, theory, and practice
- Develop question-focused and narrative-focused bible study
- Centres of learning and engagement with the communities. Schools to host meetings, seminars, and conferences for the communities where they live
- Continuing education classes and host brainstorming sessions
- Create up-to-date Bible study guides based on the Bible as a “story” concept
- Make Adventist higher education available for all. A second degree is something much-needed nowadays, and if Newbold or other Adventist educational institutions can provide it module-based, over an extended period, that will help produce well-educated church members
- Organise workshops, seminars, and mission conferences focused specifically on reaching secular minds.

Awareness

The Unions and Divisions should inspire and support pastors and members to take personal responsibility for the mission. Ellen White wrote:

“The work of the leaders is to train church members to work and to encourage each one to find their place in service” (Gospel Workers, p. 352).

- Share real testimonies and case studies to make the challenges concrete and urgent
- Inspire improved communication between the local needs and the structural levels
- Engage with the challenges in a particular community and be relevant
- Set a personal example and share inspiring outreach stories
- Social media (led by youth and young adults)
- Mission conferences at a conference level for church members
- Create and develop a structured practical training curriculum that can be delivered by pastors and elders
- Create a group of people who connect well with the community and who have the best understanding of the secular mindset
- Give written and spoken presentations, in co-operation with other denominations
- Feature more of these stories in the mission spotlight media
- Conduct ongoing regular events to equip all to reach post-Christian people
- Pastors are important connections; their expertise and time can be redistributed to refocus the church to mission
- Providing special funding for this mission
- Lead administratively, and inspire, equip, and train every member for active mission service
- Develop programs that support the active involvement of every believer, rather than leaving mission work solely to professional ministers
- Specifically prepare members to witness effectively in secular environments, focusing on building relationships, showing kindness, and using wisdom

General ideas

- Pray for the Holy Spirit
- Expand the use of churches beyond their traditional purpose for worship. To offer more, to have businesses, projects that can help the community. Perhaps the administration could develop solid options and ideas on how to implement things that go beyond two meetings per week for a handful of people
- In addition to the mission of TED, and the work in its territory, motivate and send people to areas where there are few or no Christians
- Centre the church's ministry on personal evangelism, mentorship, and sacrificial service for the salvation of souls, rather than relying primarily on large programs or public events
- Theme: *The House of Bread*. Create centres or communities where people find both physical help and spiritual nourishment, showing the love of Christ through practical actions and sharing the Bread of Life, which is Jesus
- Champion Mission-Informing Worship Services. People give us two hours every week to impact their lives
- Emphasise long-term mission and a guide for measuring progress, ensuring accountability to support the activities of ministry
- Ensuring we have leadership which is in tune with the indigenous population
- Community engagement. Know the community you live in and consult other service providers
- Collaborate in projects which serve the community as Christians
- Starting/setting up specific churches/congregations that have in their written mandate a description of what they stand for, what they're about, what they're trying to do, and why they will be quite different from other churches (because of their focus).
- Create opportunities for storytelling of returning missionaries, due to the huge as power of stories, especially by those who have really experienced them
- Share stories of mission success in Europe
- Use apologetic strategies as an integral part of mission alongside relational evangelism

- Develop a European relationally based hermeneutic.
- Engage each person in developing their spiritual gifts to grow the work and ministry of each individual
- Create opportunities for young people to serve cross-culturally and internationally in front-line mission.

Developed ideas

Business as Mission – “Mobile Vegetarian Restaurant Network” (or health centres).

Concept: Launch a network of mobile vegetarian restaurants or food trucks that promote healthy living, sustainable eating, and facilitate spiritual conversations naturally.

Mission Goal: Integrate faith, health, and service into everyday business.

Example: “Taste & Hope” — a food truck that appears at festivals, university campuses, and city centres, serving wholesome meals with a positive message.

Modern Education for Life

Concept: Offering new forms of education — outdoor classes, emotional intelligence development, social action learning, gardening — responding to young people’s search for meaningful, practical, and nature-connected learning.

Mission Goal: Equip young people not just with knowledge, but with wisdom, resilience, and compassion.

Example: “Wisdom Camps” — summer outdoor programs blending survival skills, emotional growth workshops, Bible reflections, and service projects.

Faith & Action Labs

Concept: Short (e.g., 8-week) programs where young people engage in specific social, environmental, or charity projects while developing their spiritual life.

Mission Goal: Teach that mission is changing the world here and now, not just preaching.

Example: “Adopt a Street” project — a team takes responsibility for a neighbourhood, cleaning it, building relationships, and offering practical help.

Mission on the Move – “Church on a Backpack”

Concept: Adventure-mission trips where small groups (3–5 people) travel to different places offering practical help, community activities, or children’s programs.

Mission Goal: Show that mission is a lifestyle, not an annual event.

Example: “Mission Trek” through Scandinavia or the Baltics, combining service, faith-sharing, and travel.

EcoMission – “Earth is God’s Gift”

Concept: Organizing eco-projects (cleaning parks, planting trees, promoting sustainability) framed as part of Christian stewardship.

Mission Goal: Show that Adventism cares for the whole person and for the environment.

Example: “Eco-Sabbath” — outdoor worship services combined with environmental action.

-April 2025