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## Our Christian Restlessness Impels Us to Share Our Experiences (The Young and the Restless)

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## THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS



Eike Mueller\*

If longevity were the measure of success, surely soap operas would exceed the scale. Painting in astounding boldness, Hollywood's elite challenge each other in plots of deception, schemes of seduction, and every other immoral activity. Self-gratification, pleasure, and materialism are capitalized and portrayed as an ideal to the viewer. Greed, pride, and lust dominate the hearts of today's youth. They are restless—restless for inner peace, restless to find answers to life's questions.

A whole stack of handwritten papyri was delivered to the young pastor Timothy in the Roman Empire's outpost of Ephesus. Even though television and soap operas were unknown to the population in Asia Minor, the basic cultural ideology was not much different from today's, especially in Ephesus. The silversmith Demetrius, who cared more about his business than the

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salvation of acquaintances, reflected the city's materialism and greed. The empire's enormous sensual immorality was legendary; in the worship of Artemis, it was sanctioned as a religious rite.

How was Timothy to respond to these challenges in this young and restless city? How was he to deal with the church body? Paul's advice to his youthful colleague is recorded in his second letter, written from a dank dungeon in Rome: "*Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching*" (2 Tim. 4:2, NKJV).

Preaching the Word means proclaiming Jesus. The good news is

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*\*Eike Mueller is President of Southern Adventist University's Collegiate Adventist Theological Society (CATS). Their column, "The Young and the Restless," will appear in future PDs.—Eds.*

that because of Him, we no longer have to be restless. We can rest in our Saviour's arms. The good news changes our lives, because the cross reveals the real purpose of life to be not greed and money, not power and influence, not lust and pleasure, but true love. Divine love is manifested not only in the life of the Son of God but also through His sacrifice on a hill called "the skull." In this gift of heaven we view a love that can change both our perspective and our priorities.

Preaching the Word means proclaiming Jesus. The Bible is God's message to us, His part of a two-way conversation with humanity. Each page reveals new dimensions of His character. The Bible is God's voice to a morally tone-deaf world.

The charge to Timothy is a call to find rest in the assurance of a self-revealing God (2 Tim. 3:16) and the divine love of His Son (2 Tim 1:10). But here a paradox emerges, for this rest results in restlessness. Not, however, the restlessness of the soap-opera addict, but rather that of the Christian who feels compelled to introduce others to Jesus. Paul reveals the twofold secret of his evangelism in his letter to Timothy: public presentation of the gospel and personal interaction with people. Carried out with patience and sincere love, this ministry will direct the restless souls of this world to the divine rest in Jesus.

The Collegiate Adventist Theological Society (CATS) desires to follow Timothy's example in accepting this charge and implementing it in the life of its members. As youth, we long for this rest in Jesus. But at the same time our Christian restlessness impels us to share our experiences. And we do, through preaching the Word, vesper programs, question-and-answer sessions with SAU teachers and youth from our own ranks. In all our activities we seek, as Timothy did, to convince, rebuke, exhort, teach, and preach the Word.

The church today needs new Timothys—youth who are restless to save a dying world, youth who are a light to the world through their lifestyle, youth founded and rooted in the Bible. If you are such a youth, we call you to join our ranks. If you are a spiritually mature adult, we solicit your prayers and wisdom as we go forth to preach the Word. □

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## **Interested in forming a CATS chapter on your campus?**

**Contact me by E-mail at  
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