JESUS' SECOND COMING

Program Target:
Adventist youth have heard about Jesus' second coming since they were in Cradle Roll. Can they still be excited about it?

Choose a well-written Seventh-day Adventist imaginative story about the end of time (see **"Resources"** below for some ideas). Select a portion that specifically describes the second coming and make copies of that chapter or section of the book.

There are two ways to do this activity, depending on the amount of time you have to prepare:

Option 1: Give a few members of your youth group who are good readers/actors a copy of the story ahead of time and ask them to prepare a dramatic reading, with different people reading the dialogue/thoughts of different characters in the story. Choose a strong reader as the narrator to tie all the parts together. Have them present the reading at the meeting.

Option 2: Read through the chapter before the meeting and note how many different characters are involved in the scene. Bring copies for that many people and, at the meeting, ask several good readers to read through the scene with you reading the narration.

When the reading is finished, move into a discussion. Are the youth able to put themselves in this scene? Would their thoughts and feelings be similar to those of the characters in the story at this point? What feelings do they have about the Second Coming?

Preparation Time:
Both options require you to find and select a reading and make photocopies–about half an hour's preparation if you have a book available. Option 1 will require contacting a few people about a week ahead of time, and checking back with them a day or so beforehand to make sure they are ready. Option 2 only requires as much time as it takes to read through the selection before the meeting.

Bible Text:
"With a loud command and with the shout of the chief angel and a blast of God's trumpet, the Lord will return from heaven. Then those who had faith in Christ before they died will be raised to life. Next, all of us who are still alive will be taken up into the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the sky. From that time on we will all be with the Lord forever. Encourage each other with these words." (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18, CEV).

Song Service:
"Soon and Very Soon"

Vesper or Closing Thought:
Jesus' coming may seem like a distant, far-off hope, but some day it

will be a vivid reality. Challenge young people to live every day as if Jesus were coming tomorrow.

Resources: Some good stories about the Second Coming currently available at the Adventist Book Center include:
Project Sunlight, by June Strong (pp. 152-157)
Midnight Hour, by Celeste perrino Walker and Eric D. Stoffle (pp. 313-320)
The Appearing, by Penny Estes Wheeler (pp. 188-198: *NOTE: I have an old edition of this book; it has been re-released in a new version and the page numbers may be different. Someone who can get hold of a new edition will have to check this before you print this)*