

Link2Uth

February/March 2008

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William Booth couldn't sleep one night, so he got up and went for a walk. His midnight meandering took him to the poor side of London where, in the darkness, he saw the impoverished and hopeless souls who were trying to survive in that portion of the great city. A cold rain was beating down on some of London's forgotten as they slept by the curbside.

When Booth returned home, he told his wife, "I've been to hell." Out of that terrible experience came the dream of starting an organization to help those in need. From that nighttime walk, was born the Salvation Army.

Had Booth not left the security of his comfortable and warm home, he might never have witnessed the needs of the friendless masses.

Our precious savior sacrificed glory, honor, and the comforts of heaven to come to this cold, desolate earth to show us the Father; to bring us hope; to wrap us in warm love. Christ's life is an example for us to follow as we consider our role in reaching those around us.

Sacrifice should be a badge of honor worn by every Christian. It means that we've put nothing between us and our spiritual destiny. It means we've stepped out of our "comfort zones" and followed our hearts to where the need is greatest. When we truly sacrifice ourselves in the cause of God, we'll find that our gain is much more than our imagined lost. It's a matter of priority; what we consider to be most important in our lives. The world sacrifices everything in order to gain riches and glory. The Christian sacrifices riches and glory in order to bring the knowledge of Christ to all who need a savior.

This year, the goal for our youth is that they will more fully understand what true sacrifice is and experience it with a heart filled with God's compassion. With Christ as our example, we turn our attention to the hopeless, the impoverished, and those in need of love.



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Is the official newsletter of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Youth Ministries Department

Editor

Silvia Sicalo
sicalos@gc.adventist.org

Contributing Editors

Baraka Muganda
Hiskia Missah
Jonatán Tejel
Maria Dunchie
Lulleither Walker-Massiah

Contact Information

General Conference of SDA
Youth Ministries Department
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring MD 20904
301-680-6140 phone
301-680-6155 fax
youth@gc.adventist.org
<http://youth.gc.adventist.org>

I love reading statistics, through statistics one can see so much between the figures. And as youth leaders serving a generation that is well vested in information, I find it very important for me to be knowledgeable and to understand what is around me among those I serve as well. Through statistics I develop a ministry to meet those challenges addressed by them.

challenging statistics

The other day I came across a very good article on Christians. The International Bulletin of Missionary Research, Vol. 32, wrote, *"The Global Mission divides Christians by 'bloc.' (More accurately, Christians through the centuries have divided themselves.) 'Roman Catholics' claim 1,130,401,000 and their church is really the 'big kid on the block.' The 422,659,000 'Independents' outnumber 386,644,000 'Protestants' and 252,891,000 'Orthodox' and the rest. As for where they are, 423,675,000 are in Africa; 355,008,000 are in Asia; 556,359,000 are in Europe; 530,187,000 are in Latin America; and, tagging along, 220,374,000 are in Northern America. The compilers know of 39,000 separate denominations and 3,684,000 congregations around the world. Church members around the globe have an income of \$18,170 billion. The nominal Christian percentage around the globe is thirty three and a third percent. It's been in the thirty-threes and thirty-fours since 1800."*

To me this was a mind blowing! It represents challenges to us as a church and as youth leaders. We have so many people to tell the hope of our faith. As we enter into this new year of 2008 I want to challenge each youth director to be aggressive with evangelism. Make evangelism the key word in all your promotions. James Black has a book written on Youth Evangelism, which will be promoted in every church throughout North American Division in 2008 encouraging every youth to participate in the mission of the church through evangelism. I salute him for this urgency he is putting before his youth leaders. I want to see us be known as youth of action, youth who want to tell the world the good news about the second coming of Jesus Christ.

I leave you with these challenging statistics to make you think seriously about evangelism. The Bible is right when it commanded us, *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost."* Matthew 28:19, to underscore this challenge, the Youth Ministries Department says, *"The Advent Message throughout the world in my generation."*

by Baraka G. Muganda
World Youth Director

The show must go on

It was last month, February 21, going home, I heard the announcement on the radio that there would be freezing rain possibly that evening and the following day. My heart stopped for a second, because the next day I was to fly to Ontario, California for the Hispanic Leadership Training. I immediately called Jorge Soria, coordinator for the Hispanic Ministries at Pacific Union Conference, to tell him that I might not make it to California.

I decided in the morning to drive to the airport. Thank God I made it to Baltimore Washington International Airport. When I boarded the plane, I thought my adventure with snow and rain was over for the rest of the weekend. I was in for a big surprise. It was far from over. The event in Ontario was to be held at 7000 feet above sea level. That very same Friday, we had a snow storm and it was so big that we had to use tire chains to make it to the place. Let me say that the Lord is wonderful! Every single leader that was supposed to participate in the event made it without a mishap. God always protects His children.

It was an "intensive" weekend, full of preaching assignments and seminars given by Pastor Armando Miranda, General Conference Vice President, and myself. That weekend I understood why Satan put so many obstacles to all of us, every leader who attended the convention was thirsty for Christ.

My friends do not be discouraged when you face difficulties, we live in a constant fight against evil, but we will overcome anything if we remain connected to Christ.

I enjoyed every minute of this convention. It's my prayer that God provide you with energy and patience to continue with your jobs and ministries. Follow the example of the greatest Leader, Jesus Christ.

by Jonatan Tejel
Associate Youth Director

NORTHEAST INDIA UNION YOUTH CONVENTION
AIZAWL, MIZORAM, INDIA
JANUARY 17 – 20, 2008

The writer's trip this time was a long one, from Washington Dulles Airport to Frankfurt, then to Delhi, Kolkata and finally Aizawl, it took him 36 hours for the flights and the transits. When the writer reached Kolkata, he was fetched by Dr. Lionel Lyngdoh, the Southern Asia Division Youth Director. Dr. Lyngdoh himself arrived at Kolkata after 36 hours travelling by train from Hosur, India, the SUD Headquarters and they travelled together to Aizawl.

Aizawl, the capital of the State of Mizoram, India is a city where the Mizo Conference is located. This is a beautiful and amazing city built on the rocks of the mountains, the way they built those concrete buildings and the houses was so amazing, needing extraordinary engineering skills. When a former GC President visited this city he said that Aizawl should be regarded as one of the Seven Wonders of the World. The Lengpui Airport is surrounded by mountains which easily causes delays and cancellations of flights when fogs cover the runway. State of Mizoram is the only Christian area of India, and the writer needed to get a special permit to enter Aizawl. The people here are called the Mizos and they belong to the Mongoloid race who traced back their origin from Shan State of Myanmar or Burma. At Lengpui airport they were met by Pastor Zimik, Northeast India Union Youth Director and Pastor Sanga, the Executive Secretary as well as the Youth Director of Mizo Conference.



The venue for the Youth Convention was 7th Day Tlang, Aizawl, located on a high hill owned by the Mizo Conference. The Helen Lowry auditorium had room for

1,000 people and they built a huge tent outside the auditorium for the additional of 1,000 people. On Sabbath, January 19, 2,000 people gathered together when the 7th Day Adventists from the neighboring churches joined the 735 delegates to this convention to worship the Lord. One interesting thing which the writer experienced for the first time in his ministries was when he preached he was translated live and simultaneously by 5 (five) translators in 5 different languages without using any translation kits. All the people could hear at the same time all those 5 translations and picked up the one they understood. The theme for this convention was "It's Time." The delegates were reminded and encouraged that it's time to tell the world, to reclaim our youth, to connect with Jesus, to pray, to involve our youth, to serve, to totally commit, to wake up and to say no to temptation. This youth convention was strongly supported by the Northeast India Union Administration under the direct leadership of Dr. Colney, the Union President who attended the whole duration of this convention together with all the Local Conferences/Missions' Presidents.



Our Seventh-day Adventists in the State of Mizoram are very good singers and musicians, they provided many delightful heavenly music throughout the convention. Class presentations were given in plenary sessions as well as the class modules for 5 different languages. Sabbath afternoon program was filled with music, youth activity reports and testimonies from local conferences and missions. More power to Pastor Zimik and Dr. Lyngdoh!

by Hiskia Missah
Associate Youth Director

Travel Plans for March



Baraka Muganda: 1 - 20: Office
21 - 23: Martinique,
Youth Congress
24 - 31: Office

Hiskia Missah: 1 - 30: Office

Jonatán Tejel: 18 - 25: MG Camp, Mexican
Unions
28 to (April) 6: WOP,
Montemorelos, Mexico

1st East-Central Africa Division International Pathfinder Camporee

Venue: Mwanza, Tanzania, East-Africa
Date: August 21-30, 2008
Registration fee: US\$50. Register for tours: Serengeti National Park (one of the wonders of the world with rare animal species), Zanzibar (Historic site), Mount Kilimanjaro...
For more information go to www.ecd.adventist.org or www.hey4youth.net
For registration: contact Rosette Kibuuka at +254-20-6603610, cellphone +254-722216961.
Email: kibuukar@ecd.adventist.org.

Come and enjoy natural settings and pure environment!

Lord of the Towel

March 22 - 29, 2008
Youth Week of Prayer

Every once in a while you meet someone who tell you that it was during a special revival week that they made their commitment to follow Jesus, 100%; and you really feel good. I heard the story of a young man who after battling with an "addiction" that would embarrass most people, found help, his way back to God, and accepted God's grace and forgiveness, all because of a special Youth Week of Prayer (YWOP) and spiritual emphasis. The special week can be the beginning of a new way of life for the young people of your church, their friends, and families.

First thing to remember, on page 4 of the 2008 WOP issue that was mailed out last year, and is still available online www.youth.gc.adventist.org or by mail, we included helpful hints on planning and conducting your Week of Prayer. Here are a few things you must do, now.

PLAN AHEAD. Start your planning, develop your target, and get your team together, make sure your pastor or church elder is a part of that team.

CHOOSE A THEME SONG. Involve your youth choir; if your church does not have a youth choir, this is the perfect time to get one started. On page 47 we have included a suggested accompaniment CD information on two songs that we think would be good theme song choices. Music can make a difference and help to set the tone to any service.

FORM A WEEK OF PRAYER DEVELOPMENT/REVIEW TEAM. Depending on the size of your church this group can be four to eight persons who will go through all

eight days' readings with you. Include on your team only interested and committed young adults, youth ministry leaders (Pathfinder, Sabbath School, etc., your pastor/s), this is important because it gives ownership to the entire group, rather than just you and your assistant. Ask the group to commit to meeting for at least five weeks—at least one week for two lessons, and an extra week to wrap things up. Be sure to identify the goal and direction to want to go, preferably at the first meeting, and choose a young person to speak for each day.

TAKE A SURVEY. Find out who your young people are. Establish a core group among the young people in your church, even if they are not attending the youth meetings. Share your plans and goals for the **Week of Prayer** with them. Start slowly, start small, but, **PLEASE** begin early.

PLAN A COMMUNION SERVICE/AGAPE FEAST. Friday's lesson, Scandalous! is about the footwashing ordinance. A communion service on Friday evening toward the end of the service would be a wonderful idea. There are many ways you can do this to make it memorable for your group, visit <http://www.youth.gc.adventist.org> for more ideas on planning an Agape Feast.

GET A COPY OF THE BOOK CHANGING LIVES by Sarah Coleman Kelnhofer. If you cannot find a copy in your local Adventist Bookstore or Advent Source (<http://www.adventsource.org>), please contact us for a free copy. Send your request to DunchieM@gc.adventist.org. In this book you will learn new and exciting ways to plan a youth prayer conference to make a difference and change lives.

**Youth Accent
Editorial Office**

leader's quote

Pros are people who do jobs well
even when they don't
feel like it!



SOUTH AFRICA

JULY 15 TO 27, 2013

3RD WCYCS