

PHILIPPINE YOUTH CONGRESS TURNS COLLEGE CAMPUS INTO

70,000 SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST VILLAGE

On April 14 – 19, 2008, the North Philippine Union Mission (NPUM), Central Philippine Union Conference (CPUC), and South Philippine Union Conference (SPUC) held their 3RD Philippine-wide Youth Congress. Mountain View College, Valencia, Bukidnon, South Philippines was chosen as its venue. This College is a Seventh-day Adventist institution located on a 2,500-foot plateau in the province of Bukidnon. It covers a huge area of 1,024 hectares, making it the biggest college campus in Southern Asia-Pacific Division territory. The college campus is facing two mountains, Mt. Katalungan and Mt. Kitanglad, providing beautiful scenery that creates an ideal environment for a college setting. Mountain View is surrounded by a big river with more than enough supply of water which is used to operate the school's own hydroelectric plants providing enough electricity for the whole campus as well as for the villages around it.

More than 10,000 regular delegates of young people came from the three Unions. Though it was called "Youth Congress" yet to the SDA members of the South Philippine Union Conference this Congress was considered a Congress for all members of the family, including grandpa, grandma, father, mother, aunts and uncles plus all their pets, dogs, cats and chicken. They flooded the campus with their fully loaded motor bikes,



tricycles, jeepneys, buses and trucks. The number of people coming grew bigger and bigger as the days went by. On Sabbath, April 19, the total number of attendance hit the mark of 70,000. They were like pilgrims to the Holy Land coming to the conclusion of the Congress. It was a beautiful scene of the huge gathering of Seventh-day Adventists, clean people with no smoking, no drinking alcoholic beverages. The air of the campus was filled with lovely Adventist music sung by a variety of local and international Adventists singers. (continue on p. 4)



Link2Uth

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Praying at gas pumps

A few nights ago as I watched the news I was intrigued by what I saw. The United States is currently experiencing higher gas prices in recent months. Each day seems to be carrying bad news to all of us who are driving. Families are hurting. The price of gas has hiked almost every commodity in the market.

The news showed a group of church people (of course they were not Seventh-day Adventists) gathered around a gas pump and holding hands and praying, "Oh, God our pockets are empty..." "We plead with you to do something with the gas prices..." Motorists stopped pumping their gas to watch these sincere people pleading with God because for them no one on earth was listening to them and now they are turning to a higher power.

What blew my mind was seeing bold Christians who believe in the power of prayer and not ashamed of praying before the world in front of gas pumps. As I was watching the news, a question ran through my mind: we, who claim to be prayer warriors, are we bold enough to pray publicly? Then I asked myself, how about our young people? Are they prepared to pray loud and publicly when they are confronted with a problem or even when they are not? Are our youth praying people even in their private moments? Youth Ministry must challenge youth not to be ashamed of praying at all times.

We must teach our youth to pray in faith. How? By showing them how to pray! Every time you pray over a meal in the cafeteria or at your home with your youth or close a meeting in prayer, you have an opportunity to exemplify authentic, faith-filled prayer to your youth. And how does one ensure that you are praying authentic, faith-filled prayers in public? By praying the same kind in private!

The stories of Daniel with his friends should inspire us to pray as they did. These were young people who believed in the power of prayer, they were not ashamed of prayer and they knew what prayer could do in their lives. Let us teach our youth the joy of prayer. Commenting on the boldness of these Hebrew boys, Mrs. Ellen White writes, "The light of heaven had been shining forth from Daniel and his companions, until all their associates understood the faith which ennobled their lives and beautified their characters" (RH Feb 1, 1881).

by **Baraka G. Muganda**
World Youth Director



Teammate 2

Travel Plans for May

Baraka Muganda: 1 - 3: EUD, Youth Convention
7 - 11: Uganda, Youth Congress
13 - 22: Office
23: Minnesota, Youth Day
27 - 31: Office

Hiskia Missah: 1 - 31: Office

Jonatán Tejel: 1 - 6: Pacific Press, World Council of Editors
7 - 18: Austria, Youth leaders/EUD, Pathfinder Camporee
23 - 24: Henry Bergh's birthday
27 - 30: Office



leader's quote

Life is a grindstone. Whether it grinds you down or polishes you up depends on what you are made of.

Bible characters

people like you and I

It is not easy to write an article about a Week of Prayer when the speaker is you (Jonatan Tejel in this case), but I would like to share with you some thoughts that remained in my mind after my long trip to Mexico.

When I was working in Spain, I tried to analyze young people's problems in a local way because I thought that if I listened to their concerns and problems, theirs could not be compared with other people's concerns within our church in other parts of the world. Soon after I started working for the Spanish Union I began to relate to other young people around Europe and I realized that they too had similar problems.

As I traveled to Mexico at the end of March and beginning of April 2008, and especially during the Week of Prayer in Montemorelos, I had the opportunity to speak to young people which gave me a broader view of the issues they face.

It is true that some problems are specific to a country/region, but the more I got to talk to our youth in Mexico, I realized as they pour their hearts opened, that those concerns, problems have no barriers, no languages. If one young man or woman has been ignored, they will hurt the same in Mexico, India, Germany or anywhere. I've also come to realize that many times we don't take the time to listen to young people and get to know their concerns and issues.

God has taught me many important life lessons during this trip. I spent quality time with the leaders, I enjoyed Mexican food –one of my favorite ones! But above all, I met many people that love Christ, and I realized that I was not the special guest during the Week of Prayer. God is the One who came as the special guest in the hearts of those attending this Week of Prayer at Montemorelos University.

by **Jonatan Tejel**
Associate Youth Director

Week of Prayer / March 28 to April 5, 2008 / Montemorelos University

Good Bye Lulleither!



We would like to say a heart felt farewell to Lulleither Massiah. Lull has been part of the "Dream Team" for about five and half years and now she will be sharing her knowledge

and dedication at the Southwestern Conference, Texas. We want to take this opportunity to thank Lulleither and let you know how much we've enjoyed working with you these past few years. We wish you all success in your new endeavor and may God continue to shower blessings upon you.

You will be missed!

Baraka, Jonatan, Hiskia, Maria & Silvia



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!

... 70,000 SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST VILLAGE (from p. 1)



Display Booths were put up here and there where the sale of all kinds of things was carried on, starting from T-Shirts with Adventist Youth Logo and the Theme of the Congress, "Youth, It's Time!" to music CDs and DVDs and Bible programs for children and youth, as well as

South Philippine delicacies. The eldest delegate was a beautiful young lady, Mrs. Adelaide Barlas – 89 years old. When she was interviewed by Pastor Muganda to know the reason why she came to the Youth Congress, she said that she wanted to support the young people especially her grandsons, what a good support to the youth!

The Opening Ceremony was a colorful program attended by all the Officers of the three Unions of the Philippines with two messages delivered by Mr. Jose Ma. R Zubiri, Governor of Bukidnon Province, and the People's Senator of the Philippines, Senator Juan Miguel R Zubiri. The Inspirational Message was given by Hiskia Missah on behalf of Baraka Muganda, the World Youth Director. The Declaration of the Official Opening of the Philippine-wide Youth Congress was given by Jobbie Yabut, SSD Youth



Director. Hundreds of colorful balloons were released into the air as a sign that the Youth Congress has started.

The daily schedule of the Congress was fully loaded with Devotionals, classes and plenary starting from 5:00 A.M. ending 11:00 P.M. People attended all the programs faithfully with no indication of being tired and bored.

On Friday, April 18, the Congress special guests, Pastor Dr. B V Tejano, Philippine Ambassador to New Zealand and 6 other Island Countries of South Pacific with his wife

and Congressman Harlin Abayon with his wife came down from the sky riding in a chopper. Both of them are Seventh-day Adventists who were very instrumental in making the signing of the Philippine Law which gave the Filipino young people the privilege of not taking exam on Sabbath.



Special programs were conducted on the Sabbath, April 19: Four pastors were ordained, 89 young people were baptized, and 93 Master Guides were invested. The GC Youth Department sent its three leaders to attend this gigantic Youth Congress, Pastors Baraka Muganda, Hiskia Missah and Jonatan Tejel. For Pastor Tejel this was his first experience attending the biggest Youth Congress in his ministries. Pastor Muganda in his preaching translated by Pastor Wendell Serrano gave the challenge to the young people who face challenges of the world to "hold on, don't give up, hold on to the Bible, hold on to Jesus Christ, hold on to the Spirit of Prophecy, hold on Jesus is coming soon."



The Youth Department in Southern Asia Pacific Division (SSD) is strong and powerful because of the support from the Division as well as the Union Officers. Elder Alberto Gulfan, Jr, SSD President was there at every program until the end. Thank God for His rich blessings on this Youth Congress! Congratulations to Jobbie Yabut (SSD), and his counterparts, Jerry Patalinghug (SPUC), Jezreel Locop (CPUC) and Arnel Gabin (NPUM) for a successful Youth Congress.

by Hiskia Missah
Associate Youth Director