

Link2Uth

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Obsessed with Christ **Martinique Congress Challenges Youth to Embrace Salvation and Service**

About 700 youth representing Martinique, St. Maarten, and French Guyana convened in Fort de France, Martinique, from March 18 – 22, 2008 for their Youth Congress under the flagship theme “Obsessed with Christ.”

The congress participants were involved in community services during the afternoon hours of the Youth Congress. Youth visited hospitals giving out flowers to the sick. Patients appreciated very much what these young people did to them. A well planned program was in place which included powerful devotions, need oriented seminars and fellowship events.

Louise Nocandy, French Antilles Union Youth Director, said “the main purpose of holding this youth congress is to excite youth and give them opportunity to be involved in church programs and community service.” She went on to say that, “the goal of the Union Youth Ministry Department is to challenge youth to experience and embrace the main focus of youth ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, salvation and service.”

Friday night meeting was one of the highlights of the Congress. The sermon for the evening was on Jesus in the storm. The Congress organizers wanted to make this sermon real before the eyes of the youth by creating a scenario on the shores of the ocean. Boats were prepared and a few selected youth leaders from each conference traveled in the boats from one side to the place where the youth were gathering to hear the sermon. On that particular evening the seas were rough so the picture of Jesus in the storm became real. The sermon made a huge impact in the hearts of the youth and hundreds of local city people who came to see what was taking place. One youth commented, “This sermon has given me strength to never give up in life when I am confronted with storms.”

Hilary Lucea, a youth pastor, noted, “The congress was so enriching and empowering. And to see Church Administrators from every level of the church in this union sends a strong message to our youth that leadership loves and supports its youth.”

During this Youth Congress over 15 pastors and church elders were invested as Adventist Youth Leaders. The Union president Max Rene Laurent commented, “We are encouraging every local church leader to be invested in Youth Ministry so that they can meet the needs of youth in a professional pastoral manner.” Almost all pastors and church elders in addition to church administrators were present during the four days of the youth congress and in Youth Leaders Uniform.

On the closing evening, the Local Conference President and the Union President stood side by side with their youth directors to show their full support to youth ministry. The presidents held the hands of the youth directors while the later held a precious stone in ones hand. The precious stone was representing the challenge of the Youth Ministries Department that every youth is to go out of the congress with determination to be a shining precious stone for Christ- Obsessed with Jesus. This was a moving closing season.

On Sabbath over 7,000 church members came to worship with the Congress delegates.

There are 28,382 church members worshipping in 123 churches in the French-Antilles-Guiana Union Mission. Over 75% of the membership is under 30 years old.

by Baraka G. Muganda
World Youth Director



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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>

retain

Threats To Spiritual Growth

Last year I had a privilege of attending the "Move with the Power II," in the South Pacific Division. This is a quinquennial Leadership Convention for youth leaders. During this event, the Division youth leadership team highlighted three out of seven strategic themes that were voted during the World Youth Advisory in 2006 held in Silver Spring, Maryland, USA. As you entered into the convention Hall (tent), you were hit by well prepared themes broken into three huge pictures: Retain, Reclaim and Rescue. The pictures said so much in my mind. You felt connected with themes at all times.

A few days ago I picked up a brochure prepared on each of the themes and I must sincerely confess that am borrowing heavily from it to share with you important points on threats to Spiritual Growth falling under, "Retain." These threats make it so difficult for our youth to grow. As youth spend time with Jesus on their spiritual journey, they are reminded of the threats that confront them and need to be aware of them.

Consumerism/Materialism: the Bible is right when it says "what does it matter if you gain the whole world but do so at the expense of your soul." Consumerism has become a huge road block to many of us. In this generation which tells us that in order to look cool we got to buy the latest products. As a result we are on the run of buying things all the time to keep up with our friends. We end up worshipping the created things rather than the Creator. We are being reminded that when we lead such a life of style of going after possessions we end up living a life that is focused on self. True Christians live for God. They ask God to control their lives and that the talents they have are to be used in God's glory to accomplish His mission on earth.

Noise: we live in a society that is surrounded by all kinds of noises. Just check out your home

or room or even your office. The places where we spend most of our time are filled with gadgets of all kinds such as computers, mp3, iPods, PDAs, Cell phones, iPhones, Radios, TVs etc. We have no time for God. You remember the text in the Bible which says, "Be still and know that I am God," Psalm 46:10. God reminds us to set aside time for Him. Many of us are addicted to stimulation. Without stimulation we find life very boring. Our youth need to make it a habit to give God time to lead, guide, correct and affirm them.

Hurry: who does not know what this word means. We live in a running world. It looks like we are always rushing to get somewhere. We hate things that move slowly. We want the computer to turn on within seconds, the elevator to come down quick; everything must move fast. The word waiting is not a welcome vocabulary. Satan has achieved to put us in the running gear and kept us busy and unfocused from God.

Comfort: many of our youth are so comfortable. We need to keep them busy doing something for Jesus. Take them somewhere far from their comfort zones. That is why the Youth Ministries Department encourages youth clubs, Pathfinders and Ambassadors to get involved in service projects. Let the youth come face to face with some tough living conditions to see them grow in grace. Spiritual Growth calls for youth to get out of their comfort zones.

Externalism: And finally let us build youth who are internally spiritually mature. Many times we put too much emphasis on the external and produce youth who are shallow inside them. Let the inside reflect the outside.

As a Youth Leader, I leave you with one question, "What would you say are the biggest threats to spiritual growth in your division, union, local conference or local church? Take time to challenge yourself with this question!

by Baraka G. Muganda
World Youth Director

Hikers to the encounter

March 18 - 22, 2008

The North Mexican and Inter-Oceanic Unions joined in an effort to organize the 1st Inter Union Master Guide Camporee. There were three main speakers: Pastor Bernardo Rodriguez, Inter American Division Youth Director; Pastor Elias Juarez, of Las Vegas, Nevada and Pastor Jonatan Tejel, World Pathfinder Director. The town officials, including the Governor, were also present during the opening ceremony. The Governor spoke about his love for Christ and his desire to serve in the community in his welcoming speech.

This Camporee was organized by both Union youth directors: Pastor Jose Luis Bouchot, North Mexican Union, and Pastor Jose Antonio Gil, Inter-Oceanic Mexican Union as well as the Administrators of both Unions.

There were about 6000 registered Master Guides from both Unions. The atmosphere of the Camporee was vibrant. There were several activities organized in which all Master Guides demonstrated their knowledge as well as apprenticeship since there were several seminars available for them.

I especially liked the idea of having a replica of the Sanctuary. This structure was carried to the event by Montemorelos University students. There were some guided tours conducted by the young people. Personally, I was impressed with their knowledge about the Sanctuary and how we should apply it in our Christian life today.

Truly, the Holy Spirit was present during this event. We all enjoyed it under the theme: "Hikers to the Encounter: We are ready Lord." I personally want to express my gratitude to the organizers of this successful event. It is my prayer that we all continue to ascend towards heaven, and that we lead our young people to hike towards Jesus.

by Jonatan Tejel
Associate Youth Director

On April 16 I flew to Villahermosa, a city in the South Mexican Union, where the Adventurer Camporee was being held. There were approximately 4000 Adventurers and support staff.

I was only able to enjoy a few days of the event, but I was able to see activities from memory, to readiness, to dexterity, to coordination, to knowledge of the Bible.

Two things particularly caught my attention: First, almost all the Union administrators were present in the event to support the department and the Adventurers. Second, a large number of pastors were also present, all in their Master Guide uniforms.

It is amazing to see how church leadership work and serve together for our young people, I honestly think this is one of the key reasons youth leadership is successful in Mexico. The administration truly shows that they love their young people, a vital ingredient that is not seen happening in some places.

I cannot end up this short article without saying something about a six year old girl who participated in the drilling contest, I was astonished that she never messed up and her coordination was as good as any older child.

Without a doubt God is blessing the leadership of this Union. My prayers are with all of them.

by Jonatan Tejel
Associate Youth Director

leader's quote

a person who walks in
another's tracks leaves no
footprints

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!

Adventurers to the
Height of Jesus

Martinique Youth Congress



The following are some suggested activities for the Year of Sacrifice, 2nd quarter, 2008



SOUTH AFRICA JULY 15 TO 27, 2013 3RD WCYCS

"Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." Ephesians 5:1-2, NIV

Family Plan

Assign each in your group to be a "Family Plan" member. As such, they are to find a local need and fulfill it with the help of their immediate or extended family. They can gather clothing, toys, food, or educational supplies to give to someone who lives without these necessities. They might choose to open their homes to an orphaned child or become a tutor to someone who longs to learn to read.

Adopt a Need

Ask your group to "Adopt" an entire local family and make sure that each member of that family has what's needed to survive. Respectfully perform an "assessment of need" and then go about fulfilling those needs with personally provided material or time. Invite the adopted family to church.

Travel Plans for April



Baraka Muganda: 1 - 3: Office
4 - 7: Andrews, Spring Mtng
8 - 10: Office
11 - 20: SSD, Yth Congress
21 - 30: Office

Hiskia Missah: 1 - 10: Office
3 - 7: Men's Retreat, CA
11 - 20: SSD, Yth Congress
21 - 30: Office

Jonatán Tejel: 1 - 6: WOP, Montemorelos
7 - 11: Office
11 - 24: SSD, Yth Congress
25 - 30: Office