

## fast forward

The year 2007 is almost over. 2008 is at the door knocking with God's promises. We have nothing to fear for the future unless we forget how the Lord has led us during this exciting year. Think of the successful spring and summer saw huge Pathfinder Camporees and Youth Congresses in various territories. Many young people took their first step in accepting Jesus as their personal friend, and many recommitted their lives to Him during these events.

As we close out this Year of Renewing, think of how God has worked in your life and in the lives of your young people during the past twelve months. You led our youth into the fertile fields of worship-inspired service to God. Our churches and our communities benefitted greatly from each and every effort you put forth. Now in 2008 we will look toward the Year of Sacrifice remembering that 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 loss. 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.

God bless you all for your leadership and team spirit. Always remember, the same God who used us, in spite of our imperfections, to bring youth to the Cross in 2007, He will do it again in 2008.

It's our desire,

*gc youth ministries team*



### Link2Uth

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>

# FINISH LINE

## Teammate 2

I recall very well as an athlete during my high school days, the last lap, as one approached the finish line, was the most difficult moment in the race. One had to ensure that all was well and focused on the finish line. Mentally it was a torture.

As delegates to the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Conference on Youth and Community Service to be held in Taiwan within a few days, we find that stressful element and mental anguish among the delegates. The focus is now on the departure date, passport in place, tickets purchased and visas secured. To some, these three items are placing so much pressure and running some directors crazy. And yet, while doing all these we must maintain mental discipline as we approach the finish line.

Even we, at the World Headquarters, are feeling the heat of the finish line. So many things on and in our way! Accommodation ready for delegates, how about the speakers, then there is the main program...is it ready? How about registration? The list of pressure points can go on and on and at the same time the dream team focuses on the finish line.

As we approach the finish line, some maybe tempted even to ask themselves will I make it. Is it worth the time, money and energy? Yes, it is worth going through all this before we reach the finish line.

Keep up your mental focus to the success of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Conference on Youth and Community Service.

See you on the finish line, Taiwan!

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

## Travel Plans for December



**Baraka Muganda:** 1 - 25: office  
26: TAIWAN

**Hiskia Missah:** 1 - 18: office  
17: TAIWAN

**Jonatán Tejel:** 1 - 18: office  
18: TAIWAN

Over 8,000 young people attended the Youth Camporee at a venue named New Jerusalem to launch one of the most highly ambitious evangelistic initiatives in the South American Division, from November 1 - 4, 2007.



The delegates, under the theme "Passion for Christ," were challenged by the Union Youth Director, Odailson Fonseca, to participate in the *Caleb Project*. Each delegate received a bag full of evangelistic materials. Just imagine all 8,000 delegates holding a bag for witnessing! The Union Youth Director says that it is his personal desire to see every person who calls himself/herself youth to be involved in Evangelism. He challenged all youth to ask the Lord for a mountain to conquer.

## Caleb Project

The venue where this Camporee convened was on a private operated Christian theme park, depicting the Passion Week in the Bible. There are more than 7 large platforms/podiums representing what happened during the last week in the life of Jesus here on earth. Every night and morning we moved to different platforms reflecting what happened on that day in the life of Jesus. By doing this, the Camporee wanted to bring in the minds of youth some lessons to be learned from this week leading to the crucifixion of Jesus.

The Sabbath was the mind blower. I have never seen something like this in my life. Since we met in a semi desert climate like, and whereas the whole theme was built on the Passion Week, **ALL** 8,000 delegates on Sabbath wore Middle Eastern attire. We all looked like the people of Jesus' days. All in sandals and colorful attire: delegates, union administrators, pastors, all. It was a view I will never forget. As we came to the end of this great event over 400 youth leaders were invested as Adventist Youth Leaders.



I pray that God continues to bless the lives of these 8,000 youth as they prepare to conquer mountains.

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



## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS IN TAIWAN

W CYCS community service projects are only 2 weeks away when this article reaches you. 17 service projects have been chosen, the projects vary in their nature, our youth volunteers from around the world will do environmental cleaning and painting, painting the church, teaching basketball, teaching English conversation, conducting Vacation Bible School, doing community News Report, doing musical and cultural performance, holding Health Expo, caring the sick and old folks, doing community and farm services and youth to youth program.

People in Taiwan will witness how the Seventh-day Adventist young people from all over the world share the message of Christ's love through their services. Let's remember them in our prayers that through these deeds of kindness and love, people of Taiwan will be led to know Christ and His righteousness. Indeed, "It's time to love, care and serve."

## ELIJAH PROJECTS - 2007

Wow, time flies so fast! It's already December 2007 now, in a few more days from this point of time the year 2007 will be plunged into the ocean of eternity and will be left behind as a past history, forgotten and. . . it will never come back again. One thing that can bring back the sweet memory of 2007 is the report on the youth activities conducted all around the world by our young people through Elijah Projects.

This is a gentle reminder to all the World Divisions Youth Directors to send in to us the reports of all the Youth Soul-Winning Endeavors for Christ through the Elijah Projects. Subsidies for 2008 will be given based on the reports of 2007 activities. Please submit your report as soon as possible.

**by Hiskia Missah  
Associate Youth Director**



W hat is the meaning of the statement *Keep the Morning Watch*? The Morning Watch is a short daily devotional plan that was first tried in the Central Union (now Mid-America Union) in 1907. It was so successful its very first year that the next year it became part of the world youth curriculum.

These are the words you can find in the first Morning Watch, 1907:

*The essentials of Christian growth are three, expressed in these words of the Bible: first, "Search the Scriptures,"—FOOD; second, "Pray without ceasing,"—BREATH; third, "Go, work to-day in my vineyard,"—EXERCISE. Each of the three is as essential in the spiritual as in the physical life. This "cycle of prayer" has been arranged to aid in the regular, systematic study of the Bible, and if the subjects here outlined are faithfully studied and the first few moments of the day spent in thought and prayer, our young people will make astonishing growth in spiritual life this year. Can you visit with God thirty minutes a day? Can you afford to do less? Go where you will not be disturbed, if possible. Be still and wait for your spirit to come in touch with God. Dismiss the world and its cares from your mind; exclude all selfish desire. When you realize that you are able in the holy presence of God let your soul go out in earnest prayer for the things you need for that day and the blessings you want from Him. Is it a new experience? Be patient. Be regular in keeping the half-hour covenant with God. Soon you will be conscious of holy desires—conscious that His Spirit is feeding your life. Spend a few minutes considering the text—take it with you—cluster the day's little happenings around it—make it the guide board to point you towards the City of God for that day and try to learn the lessons in it for you.*

This is the meaning of the Morning Watch. We must maintain this relationship with God every single day of our life. Every single day we have to start with His presence. If you are doing this now, don't stop. If you are not, please start doing it and you will discover how God is working in your life.

**by Jonatán Tejel  
Associate Youth Director**

## YOUNG ADULT SUMMIT: IGNITION TO FOSTER DISCIPLESHIP

Young Adult Summit: IGNITION, February 14 - 17, 2008, will be held at the Adam's Mark Hotel, 400 North Olive Street, Dallas, TX 75201. Young adults and those invested in ministering to them are invited to the summit featuring George Barna, Matthew Gamble, Eddie Hipolite, Elia King, Ann Roda, & True!Improv. For more information and to register go to <http://ypac.adventistmeetings.com> or call 800-732-7587.

For the first time, the bi-annual North American Division Youth/Young Adult Ministries Leadership Summit will include a comprehensive young adult ministry concentration offering the best practices, dynamic worship, and experiential learning experiences for those passionate about discipling young adults. IGNITION will give intentional focus to significant young adult issues, feature innovations, as well as exhibit effective young adult ministries for the local church and campus. Important issues, such as sexuality, postmodernism, social justice, spiritual formation, and campus ministry will not only be addressed, but practical solutions, relevant models, and successful initiatives will be exhibited, experienced, and exchanged.

Every young adult passionate about discipleship, every local pastor invested/interested in young adult ministry, every ministry professional/leader seeking to spiritually mentor new generations – all are invited to IGNITION.



"It is our hope that every church across our division will send their young adults and leaders to IGNITION,"

shared Elder James Black, director for North American Division Youth/Young Adult Ministries.

Early registration and group discounts are available, go to <http://ypac.adventistmeetings.com> or call AdventSource, 800-732-7587 for more information.

by Allan Martin  
[amartin@GODencounters.org](mailto:amartin@GODencounters.org)

## let go and let god: youth evangelistic series

The Youth Department of the Flatbush Seventh-day Adventist Church, Brooklyn, New York, successfully conducted the Let Go and Let God: Summer Youth Evangelistic Series from August 4-August 18. This series was divided into two segments: the Speak Life Youth Seminars and the Nightly crusade preaching segment.

The Speak Life Youth seminars (July 24-August 16) addressed several social and spiritual issues which our youth face at home, in school and in the community. The seminars were conducted by the youth leaders of the Flatbush Church and youth leaders from both the Northeastern and Greater New York Conferences. Our seminars were a great way to get the community involved. Our gangs and violence seminar entitled "Whose Turf Is It? Was given media coverage and drew many youth and community members.

A youth parade launched the beginning of the nightly crusade meetings (August 4-August 18). Many youth leaders, pathfinders and adventurers from the Northeastern and Greater New York Conferences joined in this event. In addition to launching our youth series, the parade served as a medium to promote health awareness and to march against gangs, drugs and violence in our community. A local news network broadcasted the event.

Crusade speakers were young people. Three from Flatbush Church (Shonelle Lynch (22), Crystal Knowles (25), Unalissa Fresco (17) and one featured speaker, an Oakwood College Theology student, Abdele George (22), who also served as our summer youth assistant pastor.

The crusade team consisted of mostly youth (ages 14-26) with a few adult advisors. Due to budgetary constraints we could not afford bible workers. However, our personal ministry leader and his assistant trained two youth who later became the head bible workers for the crusade.

At the culmination of the two-week series there were nine souls (ages 11-35) won for the Lord and to date there are five more baptismal candidates. We praise God for the outpouring of his Holy Spirit and the blessings our youth have all received as a result of being involved in such a soul-winning event.

We would like to thank our local conference, the North American Division and the General Conference youth department for their financial and spiritual support during the series. Your prayers, kind words of encouragement were deeply appreciated.

by Flatbush SDA Church