

Link2Uth

November 2006

Volume 11 Issue 11

WELCOME OTIMAR! New South American Division Youth Director

Otimar Goncalves, 38, a native of Brazil, is one of the youngest Division Youth Leader ever elected. In 1990 he received his Bachelor's degree in Theology from the Northeast Brazil College and graduated with a Master's Degree in Pastoral Theology from Brazil Adventist University in 2000. Otimar is married to Soraia Braun Gonçalves, together they are the parents of two beautiful children, Bruna (9) and Lucas (7).

In 1991 Elder Goncalves started his ministry as a district pastor in the North Brazil Union. He served as Publishing Director, Personal Ministries Director and Youth Director in different Conferences. From 2002 to 2004 he was the North Brazil Union Youth Ministries Director. In 2004 he was elected President of Maranhao Mission in North Brazil Union.

During the 2005 General Conference Session he was asked to lead as Personal Ministries Director for the South American Division. On October 30, 2006 he was named Youth Director of that Division.

Otimar says "I have always believed in the spiritual power and leadership of our young people around the world. The prophetic movement of the Seventh-day Adventists started with a group of young people studying the Bible, praying and testifying. I firmly believe that our mission as the Seventh-day Adventist Church will end with youth studying the Bible, praying and testifying, according to Joel 2:28-30. Ellen G. White describes it like this: **'When the heavenly intelligences see that men will no longer present the truth in simplicity as did Jesus, the very children will be moved upon by the Spirit of God and will go forth proclaiming the truth for this time'** (*Last Day Events*, pp. 206, 207)".



We welcome Elder Goncalves to the Youth Ministries Department.

Our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to Erton Kohler, former SAD Youth Director, who is now President of that Division. Erton, thank you for everything you have brought and done to Youth Ministries.

May God continue to bless you as you embark on this new challenge.

GC Youth Ministries



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

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Teammate ² Teammate

positive relationship

Recently I accompanied my wife and daughter, Tanya, to one of the shopping malls in the Metropolitan Washington area. As I followed them around the different stores one thing was common with all the mother/daughter pairs...

It did not matter if the young ladies were accompanied by their moms or their grand-mothers, the reaction was still the same, "Mommy, Mommy, come here and see", "Grandma, Grandma, come here and see." In the distance I could hear my daughter "Is it okay? "Do you like it Mom?" While the Moms scurried from the racks to the dressing rooms, the girls all asked the same or similar questions as my daughter. "Mommy, Mommy, How about this," while holding the dress up towards her "Is it okay" "Do you like it?"

I noticed the ladies responded similarly, they either nodded their heads in approval or shook it sideways if they were not sure it was the best choice. But the thing that really stuck with me the most was the young ladies' reaction, they all agreed with their advice. They either took it or left it, no arguments, no questions, and no complaints, just an [unusual] level of trust and confidence in the advice given.

As I considered this reaction, I asked myself a

question. "Have parents and youth workers in our Church developed such relationship that the youth will have this level of confidence and trust in us?" "Do they seek our advice before they make decisions, especially important and life changing ones?"

Well, here's something to think about. What can we learn from the shopping habits of these young ladies and their parents? What can we do to develop a positive relationship with the youth we serve? How can we show them that they can trust our judgments and believe that we have their best interest at heart?

Trust does not happen in a vacuum; you must spend quality time with them. Go with them to places they like to go, hang out with them. See what makes them move. Be a presence in their lives. Like one youth worker said, "Waste time" with them.

Jesus is our good example. Relationships are what mattered to Him, He spent time with His disciples and that formed a healthy bond between him and his disciples. When the youth have confidence in you they will seek your advice. When they can feel that you care, they will trust your judgment. They will trust your advice. They will seek you out.

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leader's quote

A good leader is a guy who can step on your toes without messing up your shine.

- Anonymous (quoted in Leadership 101, by John C. Maxwell)

Pathfinder Certificates Qualify Youth Employment with United Nations Organization



In December 2005 the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Uganda advertised some vacancies. The one I was interested in required a minimum qualification of an A-level. In Uganda this means that you would need a senior secondary six education. But I had stopped school at senior secondary two about 20 years ago!

In 1996 I started some Pathfinder classes and really learned a lot through them—from Friend to Guide. By the year 2000 I had learned enough to help me work as a church elder and as a Youth leader at the district level. I fulfilled my duties in those two posts with vigor.

My job at that time was not paying me enough to take care of my family, so I told God how I wished for a better job to be able to earn enough money to sustain my family; and get to take time off to attend camp meetings, Camporees, and other Youth activities. My family and I prayed a lot about this situation and decided to fully trust the Lord as we had done it many other times.

Feeling God's guidance I applied at the UNDP in December 2005 for the job that was advertised. In February of 2006 someone from the organization called me and gave me the good news about my application being short-listed for the interviews. However, the gentleman emphasized one thing in particular, I HAD TO REPORT FOR THE INTERVIEW WITH MY ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS. [I had not attached them to my application]. I panicked. Where was I going to get the required papers since I hadn't finished my secondary education? This kept ringing in my mind over and over again. Some friends already working with other UN agencies advised me that I should pay someone to get a forged certificate in my name; even one close relative told me that "God assists those who assist themselves". I was told that I had to try to forge papers, and God will start working from there on. But I have tried and trusted God before, and He has delivered me through many times. And I decided to trust Him again this time. When it was time for the interview, I carried what I had with me.

1. My youth ministry certificate, awarded to me by the district council for serving in the youth ministry department as a youth leader from 2000 to 2002.

2. All of my Pathfinder class certificates from Friend to Guide. I even carried my sash adorned with all the honors achieved. At that point my wife was making fun of me but deep down she knew that God would help us through according to His will.

During the interview, they asked me about my educational background, and I told them that I had not completed secondary level. However I mentioned to them about the Seventh-day Adventist Church programs for the youth, and how I had learned a lot through Pathfinder classes.

They were surprised to see that I had learned many things, even more than those who had finished the secondary level.

Two weeks went by and then I got a call from the leader of the panel that interviewed me. He said that I was the best among all the people they interviewed. He also wanted me to start working in the unit he was heading. The interviewing panel was also surprised that I was willing to leave the comfort of the city and work far away from home, where there was war going on. When I was asked why I would go there I told them that community work, especially to the less privileged, was one of the many outreach programs for the Seventh-day Adventist youth.

I am now based in Northern Uganda and I have a job that I really enjoy, they never required me to work on Sabbath, I get annual leave to attend Camp-meetings (wow!) which I have never had an opportunity to do in my previous jobs.

I thank God for giving me the opportunity to be a witness for His cause. Trust God. He will carry you through. May His name be praised for ever!

by Herry Namazima
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Free in Jesus

Brazil. When someone talks about Brazil you may immediately think of Rio, beaches and, of course, soccer. But after my recent trip there, for me Brazil is a lot more than important cities, spectacular monuments or well-known beaches.

From November 2 to 5, I was able to participate in an important youth event in which about 3,000 young people gathered to praise the name of God under the theme "Free in Jesus." All four days were filled with adventurous and challenging activities. Many musical groups blessed us with their talent. Every morning at 6 and every night at 8 young people came together to listen to God's message. I had the opportunity to meet Otimar Goncalves, the new Youth Director for the South American Division. He is a pastor full of energy and eager to serve the Lord, and brings along a vast experience in Youth Ministries. Erton Kohler, former Youth Director squeezed some time in his tight schedule and was able to participate in this event.



I felt that God's presence in every moment of this youth event. May God continue to bless you as you make essential decisions for our young people. Let me leave you with a text which I hope it inspires you when you tired and discouraged, "Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." Be free in Jesus.

Jonatan Tejel
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Under the leadership of Lionel Lyngdoh, SUD Youth Director, the Southern Asia Division



Youth Advisory was conducted from September 27-30, 2006 in beautiful Mussoorie.

Located next to the well-known Himalaya Mountain and a 10-hour journey by land from New Delh, Mussoorie is a very cold, but beautiful place up on the mountain, 6,100 feet above sea level. Together there were a total of 32 Union and Mission youth directors in attendance. The Theme of the Advisory was: "It's Time!" One of the interesting reports shared during this advisory was the results of the Elijah Projects conducted in the SUD territory in 2005. They conducted 682 Elijah Projects Campaigns, involved 2,725 young people and God blessed them with 9,134 new souls to be baptized.

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Registration fee:
US\$150.00
Taipei, Taiwan
Dec 24, 2007 -
Jan 5, 2008



Contact your
local conference

SUD - Youth Advisory

Travel Plans for November

Baraka Muganda:	5 - 14: ECD meetings 15 - 19: SAD Youth Congress 20 - 30: Office
Hiskia Missah:	12 - 22: NSD Visit to Taiwan 23 - 30: Office
Jonatán Tejel:	12 - 22: NSD Visit to Taiwan 23 - 30: Office