

# Link2U<sup>th</sup>

October 2006

Volume 11 Issue 10



Think about the earth as seen from above—we tighten the fields and can distinguish the continents, the outlands and the lowlands. Here it is...the small but unmistakable Italy. We can see the Appennino range and the woods; finally the roofs of Poppi, a Tuscan small town, becomes visible...we have arrived. We land with our imagination to “Casuccia Visani”, the Italian Adventist Youth National Centre.

In this small part of the globe, unknown to most people, we sowed and harvested in just 15 days. While the diplomatic powerhouses are promis-

to facilitate this unity, and they have succeeded. Everywhere at Casuccia we breathed commitment and availability. During the camp we gave a lot, but we received back twice. We will never forget our guests’ faces, stories, folk dances and warmth.

At the end of the camp, the Israeli and Palestinian teens left touched by the depth of the experience lived with us.

As Adventist we hope that God strengthen the echo of all we humbly tried to do with and for those boys and girls that are forgotten victims of the Middle East conflict. We hope the seeds of peace we have sowed, that have already budded, can keep on growing, blooming and bringing fruit in the life of those teens

## ISRAELI and PALESTINI TEENS BONDS TOGETHER

by Marisa Cavaliere

ing to find great solutions to the peace problem in the Middle East, a small and immense miracle is happening in Casuccia. During the AISA (*Adventist Italian Scout Association*) Pathfinder National Camp, from July 18 to 30, we had twenty special guests. Ten Palestinian boys and girls lived together with ten Israeli contemporaries in “a perfect integration”, as their companions said. The Adventist pathfinders have done their best



and of their countries. But we also hope that each of them can remember the image of God that we tried to give as Christians.

The event, which was funded by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, was a dream of the editorial staff of the monthly evangelical magazine, *Confronti* (Comparisons). Thanks, Lord, for this opportunity to serve you!



### Link2Uth

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

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# Teammate <sup>2</sup> Teammate

Once in a while you will hear church members say, “We have a lovely church”, “this is a great church” “We are all friends in this church,” “We know each other in this church,” and so on.

Whenever I hear such sentiments made, I worry a lot. Those church members will say that or feel comfortable as long as no one intrudes their comfort zone. I have also seen when new people come into these circles; one hears some of the same people who were saying we are a great church feel like they have been stepped on.

How about the young people we serve! Do they feel at home in our churches? Do they belong? Or are they the outsiders? How do the Seventh-day Adventist youth rate their church when it comes to accommodating them in all aspects of church life? Studies done in some of our church circles reveal some very sad attitudes among some churches, which give a cold shoulder to our youth. In some of these churches our youth feel lonely and excluded from the adults and the activities of the church.

Last week I received a very long letter from a young person in which he complains about how the church is not involving the youth in the mission of the church. He sees only “old” people in deci-

## the ugliest word

sion making committees and feels that young people are isolated or excluded from the fellowship of participating in the mission of the church. His letter represents the cry of many of our youth around the world church.

Where does your church or conference/mission or division stand? How do the youth of your church rate your organization when it comes to this ugly word—exclusive? We bring into the church this ugly word we live with in our daily lives. I was reminded this week when I came to the following quote in *The Christian Century*,

“A journalist once asked Carl Sandburg, “What is the ugliest word in the English language?” After a few minutes Sandburg replied, “Exclusive.” The ugliness of exclusive depends upon whether we are among the included or the excluded. We pride ourselves on being members of exclusive clubs, living in exclusive neighborhoods, dining at exclusive restaurants, vacationing at exclusive resorts, belonging to exclusive churches. Being an insider carries with it a sense of pride and security. Most

of us, however, have been excluded often enough to agree that exclusive is an ugly word. When we are among the marginalized, the rejected, the pushed-aside or the left-out, it hurts!”

Dr. Kenneth L. Carder, “Un-exclusive Gospel,” *The Christian Century*, September 10, 1997

Sometimes without knowing, our churches find themselves accommodating this ugly word in its life. When young people are complaining that the church does not involve them in its business or the church does not listen to the concerns of its youth, when youth are not represented on various committees of the church organization, when we see clichés in the local church and youth get excluded while they worship in that same church, that shows that the ugly word is present. Indeed our youth are hurting! To get rid of this ugly word as leaders we need to involve and include our youth in all aspects of church life at every level of church structure.

I leave you with one question, does your church have this ugly word in the memories of its youth? Or is it?

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## leader's quote

If the Boeing Company can bring together millions of parts from 35,000 subcontractors in 25 countries to produce a 777 airplane that flies, then surely we as the body of Christ can come together to bring the gospel to every people and every person.

- Phil Bulter (quoted in PrayerNet Newsletter, June 16, 2000, page 1)



The concept of the Ambassadors was introduced this past spring during a meeting with some local church youth leaders in Oklahoma.

Experimental manuals were sent out to nearly all the churches of the Conference. Considerable interest was shown at that time and pastors as well as lay leaders began to talk and ask questions. However summertime is not the time for new beginnings. Our traditional cycle of beginnings centers on fall and the beginning of the school year. One church, Salisaw, took the initiative immediately following summer camps. Three of their youth and two adult leaders were part of the summer program at Wewoka Woods Camp so it was almost natural for them to organize as soon as camp was over and thus continue in some ways the experience camp had played in their lives. At our Youth Leadership Training Weekend, the usual seminars for Adventurers and Pathfinders were provided with a new additional track in Senior Youth Ministry. The Basic Course for Youth Leadership was given for the first time ever in its newly revised format which leads into organizing and running the Ambassadors. There were several participants who attended every one of the 10 hours of instruction and left very excited and ready to begin their new clubs. It is expected that several more Ambassadors will organize over the coming months. The new requirements for the Youth Leadership Award and the newly revised Basic Course as well as the Administrative Manual for Ambassadors are all available online at the GC Youth Department website.

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## Adventist youth group said changing lives

Youth director at the West Indies Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Pastor Charles Blythe, in delivering the main address, said: "Ask the police in Jamaica and they will tell you our boys and girls are contributing to the peace, not the crime rate in this nation. Ask the prime minister, the Honorable Portia Simpson Miller, and she will tell you how greatly she admires this group of young soldiers of the Lord."

He said he was proud to be part of the youth organization which was making such an indelible impact on society. "I am proud to be identified with the most powerful army in the world - the youth of the Seventh-day Adventist church," he said.

"I do believe that we can make a change in Jamaica," Blythe told the Sunday Observer in a post-sermon interview. "My philosophy is that we are making a difference... and the reason is that we are rightly connected. We have taken at least 35,000 young people off the streets and that is the unofficial figure because I don't have the information on me."

Speaking about the impact the group, which is open to non-Adventist youth, and which has sister organizations the world over, has had on others, the pastor cited examples from as far away as Thailand.

"Three years ago, we went to Thailand and the entire nation was touched by our young people doing voluntary service," he said. "We're talking about a country that is 95 per cent Buddhist. We made such an impact there that the governor put on a function in our honor [before we left]."

The contribution of the church organization toward nation building has also been identified by the Jamaican government which, through the National Centre for Youth Development, earlier this year donated a sum of \$300,000 for the continued development of the group. The contribution is part of an annual subvention to uniformed groups across the island such as the Girl Guides and Boy Scouts, but this was the first year a Pathfinder club was receiving the award.

The reason for this, according to Blythe, was that "we [Pathfinders] are one of the biggest [of the uniformed groups] - numerically speaking - and because of the impact we have been having on the society".

As part of their training and development, Adventist youth, a broad term that encapsulates Adventurers (ages 6-9), Pathfinders (ages 10-15) and Senior Youth Lead-

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## Pathfinders and bicycles abound at Farragut



Over 700 Pathfinders and staff, and just as many bicycles, swarmed into Farragut State Park in North Idaho September 15, 2006 for the Upper Columbia Conference Pathfinder Camporee. As always, the weekend event was full of fun, learning, spiritual growth opportunities.

One of the main attractions to this year's camporee was a bicycle theme. Pathfinder clubs were encouraged to bring bikes for special cycling activities that were planned throughout the weekend.

On Sunday, each pathfinder club formed teams of cyclists who were to participate in Olympic-style events using pedal power. The events were designed to challenge the team member's skills and dexterity. Events included a relay race, a newspaper-delivery-boy paper toss, a slow bike race, and a flat tire pit stop.

"I learned how quick we could change the tire on the bike," said Bradshaw, "and I learned that if you do it in parts then it is a lot easier than if everyone does it all the same time."

On Sabbath afternoon the pathfinders had the option of exploring the miles of bike trails that wander through the 4,000 acre grounds, or ride their bikes to the Naval Training Center Museum, which is one of the many attractions at the park. Farragut was the world's second largest naval training station used during World War II.



The keynote speaker for the weekend was Leo Ranzolin, former vice president of the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and former General Conference Pathfinder Director. In his talks, Ranzolin emphasized Jesus' love for all of us and how much he gave up to save us from sin.

Many pathfinders have learned to give up things for Christ, and was evident in their sacrifice for other Pathfinders in Peru. During the meetings, Wayne Hicks, Upper Columbia Conference Pathfinder Director, shared the need of a pathfinder club in Peru that was trying to raise money for Pathfinder uniforms. So an offering was taken up and over \$500 was raised.

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ers (ages 16-30), are encouraged to engage in a number of activities geared towards physical, social, mental and spiritual development.

They include outreach activities such as disaster relief and community beautification projects, as well as personal development and survival training such as social graces, first-aid, knot-tying, and camping. Their drilling and marching training have also been called upon as Pathfinders sometimes participate in national parades and other civic functions including the march passes at King's House on National Heroes' Day.

In keeping with their outreach and volunteer portfolio, and as they extend a helping hand to the needy, the Pathfinders plan to go to Taiwan next year where "people from all over the world will make an impact".

Statistics from the US-based General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists reveal that approximately two million of its worldwide membership of more than 14 million are Pathfinders. [Source: the Jamaican Observer: Internet Edition, September 17, 2006.]

*Since its inception in Jamaica in the 1940s, the youth arm of the Seventh-day Adventist church, the Pathfinder Club, says it has taken close to 35,000 youth off the streets, saving them from a life of crime and training them instead for service to God, to country and to man.*

### Travel Plans for October

Baraka Muganda:	8 - 11: Annual Council Office
Hiskia Missah:	8 - 11: Annual Council 15 - Nov 4: Andrews University Institute of World Mission
Jonatán Tejel:	8 - 11: Annual Council Office