

Link2Uth

July 2006

Volume 11 Issue 7

Today's youth - Tomorrow's leaders

On July 4-14, 2006, a ten-day-Youth Leadership Conference was conducted by the University of the Southern Caribbean (USC), with the Theme: "Today's Youth - Tomorrow's Leaders". The opening ceremony was held on July 4, attended by Mr. Anthony Dalrymple, Representative of the Ministry of Education of Trinidad & Tobago. The Keynote Address Speaker was Mrs. Diana Mahabir-Wyatt, Director of Personnel Management Services Ltd. All University Officers were present too.

The Youth Leadership Conference in Trinidad was really a high-quality event. Eighty participants who attended this conference were professional young people, 20 of them were non-Seventh-day Adventists, who came from different parts of the Caribbean Islands. Thirteen foreign and local facilitators shared their expertise as resource persons. The conference was held in Port of Spain, Trinidad. Thumbs up to Mrs. Phyllis Andrews, the coordinator of this prestigious and successful conference.

Following are two reports written by one of the delegates of the conference

on one of their two community services conducted in Port of Spain. The first community service was done in St. Michael's School for Delinquent Boys and the second one in Freeport, Trinidad.

Hiskia Missah

Associate Director

Youth Ministries Department

missah@gc.adventist.org

Community Outreach Project

by Omar Oliphant

On Sunday, July 9, 2006 more than twenty youth from the Youth Leadership Conference were mobilized into one mission team to Freeport, Trinidad in which they assisted in building a home. This project was executed in collaboration with Habitat International, a Christian volunteer non-profit organization which seeks to provide homes for those in need.

Having arrived at 9:30 in the morning, we waited until 11:00 for the water to arrive to actually begin the "exercise". After more than an hour and a half, the youth leaders engaged in physical missionary work: transferring cement from one location to another, taking in water



while others mixed the cement, pushed wheel barrows and poured out the cement mixture onto the foundation of the home. The environment was vibrant, alive and filled with team work and many of the youth leaders participated in almost all the activities for the day.

Just prior to the commencement of the missionary endeavor, the youth leaders sang, talked, played football and had track and field racing competition. Not only did we serve, but we enjoyed doing so and felt we achieved something very good that day.

(more on page 3)



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>

Teammate ² Teammate

Encouragement...

As I look back in my life, the people I remember most are those that kept encouraging me during my life journey. I remember so well, many years ago when I was doing my first degree at Solusi University, Zimbabwe, Africa, one morning the teacher in charge of the Cafeteria called me in her office and told me that she was praying for me during that particular week and encouraged me to never give up becoming a youth pastor as she saw some unique gifts in my life for working with young people.

Her words kept ringing in my ears. They became like fuel in my life. Every time I met her she would pass on an encouraging comment.

Chuck Swindoll writes, "In a cartoon strip some years ago a little guy was taking heat from his sister and friends for a newly found "calling" --patting birds on the head. The distressed birds would approach, lower their little feathered pates to be patted, sigh deeply, and walk away satisfied. It brought him no end of fulfillment --in spite of the teasing he took from others. "What's wrong with patting birds on the head?" he wanted to know. "What's wrong with it?" his embarrassed friends replied, "No one else does it!"

"If your niche is encouraging, please don't stop. If it is embra-

cing, demonstrating warmth, compassion, and mercy to feathers that have been ruffled by offense and bruised by adversity, for goodness' sake, keep stroking. Don't quit, whatever you do."

"I think many Christians are dying on the vine for lack of encouragement from other believers. Proverbs 15:23 says, 'A man has joy in an apt answer, And how delightful is a timely word.' Isn't that true? It's a delightful thing to receive a good word just at your time of need. Encourage someone today. If God made you a 'patter,' then keep on patting to the glory of God." (Dallas Seminary Daily Devotional for June 21,2006)

Youth Leaders at all levels in the Seventh-day Adventist Church need to cultivate this culture of encouraging the youth we work with. There is power in the act of encouraging others. Instead of blaming and making youth feel like they are no body, we should heed the words of Solomon... receiving a good word is worthy it in the lives of our youth.

Baraka G. Muganda

World Youth Director
mugandab@gc.adventist.org



Travel Plans for August

Baraka Muganda:	14 - 16: Youth Advisroy - WAD 20 - 27: Campmeeting - Kenya
Hiskia Missah:	24 - 30: Youth Congress - Haiti
Jonatán Tejel:	13 - 22: Nat'l PF Camporee - Portugal

Today's youth - Tomorrow's leaders (from page 1)

Television Interview *By Omar Oliphant & Damian Jones*

On Tuesday, July 11, 2006 Damian Jones, Verleyne Andrews and Omar Oliphant journeyed to the TV studios of TLC Channel 4 for the "10-12 with Allison".

After introducing the guests, Allison proceeded to ask questions about the Youth Leadership Conference and the impact it has had and the potential impact it will have on all of us, as youth leaders. Damian and Omar related youth leadership to the Caribbean, spoke of their leadership in Trinidad and Jamaica respectively. Not only were they passionate and eloquent but provided practical and positive alternatives to the negatives of youth without referring to the negative sides of life.

Many individuals who watched the interview commented on the great work the two youth leaders did, and spoke of the fact that if someone wasn't informed about the conference, the interview provided an adequate avenue for all to feel "jealous" about it. The host herself spoke of the quality, practical and meaningful activities of the "youth arm" of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the guests spoke quite well of the many projects the church has to initiate and maintain contact with other religious groups, within communities and in their own nation as they interface with individuals from various backgrounds, cultures and religious preferences.



Professional young people attending conference

The interview lasted for an hour and was broadcasted live. Damian Jones is a prospective graduate of the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine and Omar Oliphant a youth leader from Jamaica.

NAD has new Associate in Youth Ministries

Pastor Manuel Cruz was elected as North American Division [NAD] Associate Youth Director on June 13, 2006; The North American Division Committee also voted to add Young Adult Ministries and all of its functions to the Youth Ministries Department.

Manuel (Manny) Cruz is the former Youth Director of the Texico Conference in Albuquerque, NM. The Texico Conference Youth Department reached new heights under his leadership. Manny will be working side by side with James Black who is the NAD Youth Director. With the addition of young adults, we are certain that Elder Black is excited about having a young adult leader on board.

"Manny is a hard working, gifted young adult leader who will add strength to our team," said Black. "While speaking at the Texico Camp Meeting recently, I noticed that the youth program was extremely well organized. Now that we have this type of leader as an associate, by God's grace we plan to offer more services to our division."

Manny assumes his responsibilities in Silver Spring, Maryland, beginning August 1, 2006. For additional information, please contact the NAD Youth Ministries Office in Silver Spring, MD at 301-680-6420.



by James Black
NAD Youth Ministries Director
YPAC@nad.adventist.org

Colombia: National Pathfinder Camporees



I never thought that a storm could delay so much my very first trip to attend two Camporees as a World Pathfinder Director. I had a long wait at the Miami Airport (two days to be exact) and from there I had to flight to the beautiful country of Colombia. First stop...Medellin. The campground was located almost downtown. There were 2,350 attendees in this camporee constantly involved in different activities: drills, Bible contests about the book of Esther, Faith of Jesus, and other sports

competitions. The whole atmosphere was wonderful. But what I would like to highlight from the event is about the baptism on Sabbath where 23 people gave their heart to Jesus; among them were a mother and her two children. This was an unforgettable scene!

Second stop...Cali. I flew to this city with Bernardo Rodriguez, IAD Youth Director, and his wife, Elisabeth. There, I enjoyed another successful event. Upon my arrival I met about 2100 Pathfinders! I only found one difference between both events: the last one was located outside the city of Cali, in a huge park surrounded by acacias and colorful birds. Excellent location! In this camporee, 26 Pathfinders gave their lives to Jesus. The baptism took place in a swimming pool and there were up to six pastors baptizing at the same time; something I will always remember!

I would like to mention several facts about this trip that I think are of great significance: first, that the people of Colombia are extraordinary, I felt I was at home! Make

sure you continue to make your activities special. Second, the music played was phenomenal. I enjoyed every single musical moment we shared in both Camporees. Third, I was able to talk with all the organizers for both Camporees and Pathfinder leaders as well. We had an open dialogue and I think that there is an encouraging future in Colombia. Leaders are willing to improve, all of them said that "there's always a way for improvement." If there is a desire to analyze and evaluate as a team how things are carried out, we will make our countries, churches and clubs more pleasant places, and of course, we would be working efficiently to make sure our Pathfinders are citizens of heaven. May God continue to bless you all and I hope to enjoy another visit with the people of Colombia, if not on this earth, in the New Earth.

Jonatan Tejel
World Pathfinder Director
tejelj@gc.adventist.org

JUST CLAIM IT EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT

NAD World Youth Prayer Conference "Just Claim It" JCI - Only two weeks remaining to register for the earlybird discount. Many are taking advantage to the "Delegate A" which includes hotel accommodations and meals. The quad package (4 in a room) is the most popular.

JCI Just Makeover Mission Projects - For those coming in early to participate with this mission project, remember this is a separate registration. The projects begin February 25 and end February 28 which is the

day the conference begins. The cost is only \$65 per delegate. This includes 3 nights lodging (Conference Camp nearby), 7 meals, 2 T-shirts, insurance and recreation.

Dreamer 1000 Participants - We are still in need of JCI seed money to make this experience a success. Please continue to solicit donors who are willing to help. I am grateful that the NAD has contributed over \$100,000 (this was not included in the line of credit). For more information go to: www.adventistyouthministry.org

