Reaching Cities, Protecting Youth

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Read more...
World Youth Group is busy meeting its 2012 outreach goals in Cuba. It recently held a one-month LIGHT program for 42 students at the Adventist seminary in Havana. Students included nurses, teachers, couples, pastors, farmers, an actor, a fisherman, a physician, a photographer, a horse taxi driver, and the 83-year-old wife of the deceased president of Cuba’s original Antillean College. Sixteen of the graduates were sent out as Bible workers to the towns of Arabos, Agaucate, Sibanicu, and Encruicada. Click here to request the WYG newsletter.

ASI Southwestern Union held its chapter meeting Mar. 1-4, 2012, at the Joshua Seventh-day Adventist Church in Texas. Services were well attended by nonmembers. The Oklahoma Academy choir provided music, and elections were held, with Floyd Courtney continuing as president, supported by Gracie Japas, general vice president, Art Humphrey, vice president for communication, Ross Lorenz, vice president for recruitment, and Paul Karmy, vice president for evangelism. Pat Humphrey is the liaison between the chapter and the Southwestern Union. More than $17,000 was gathered to support three projects: Ouachita Hills, Oklahoma Academy, and Guatemala Project. Visit the ASI website Chapters page for information about other upcoming chapter events.

“My Bible First” said a broadcast professional to Juanita Kretschmar, president of Multicare Foundation Inc. dba A Key Encounter, and AKE audio engineer Brad Groves regarding recent FCC approval of the ministry’s full power non-commercial radio station. AKE is a list so we can highlight your ministry and outreach activities!

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Convention

Members in Action: The planning committee is in the process of selecting Members in Action stories for the convention. If you have a story or know of an ASI member who is doing a special work, please email Esther Doss.

Meetings & Events: Please make your special meeting & event reservations and orders as soon as possible using the 2012 Meeting & Event Reservation & Contract on the ASI website. Direct meeting & event inquiries to Sharon Blumenberg.

Youth For Jesus

The 2012 Youth For Jesus program is still accepting applications from potential youth participants. Apply today!
creation-based, not-for-profit nature theater and planetarium tourist attraction in Key West, Florida. Visitors to the nature theater and planetarium regularly take home large quantities of literature such as *The Desire of Ages*, *The Great Controversy*, *Ten Commandments Twice Removed*, and *Day to Remember* from prominently displayed literature racks. "All credit goes to God, as this ministry’s growth in a weak economy continues to amaze!" says Kretschmar.

A [Maranatha Volunteers International](#) group helped last month with the Thunderbird Adventist Academy renovation project. The boys' and girls' dorms received fresh coats of paint, and showers and tile were renovated in the boys' dorm. Work was also done in the dorm rooms, deans' quarters, office, lobby, and girls' kitchen, with additional plans for carpet, lighting and windows. TAA sends a big thank-you to Maranatha.

[TEACH International](#) was invited to pick up beds and frames last Christmas from two Adventist hospitals as donations for the 75-bed K. Moses Memorial Hospital in South India. It took two weeks to load all the donated hospital and medical supplies into two 40-foot containers from two separate locations, including Shady Grove Adventist Hospital. The shipments left the port of Baltimore and arrived in India 45 days later. The hospital inauguration is planned for sometime in June, and TI will be signing up volunteers for six-month posts from their booth at the ASI Convention in Cincinnati.

grant money from ASI and other generous donors, *My Bible First* reports that it has completed translation of its junior, primary, kindergarten, and cradle roll lessons into Mandarin Chinese, and its primary lessons into French. Translation of kindergarten lessons into Spanish is still in progress. Next steps include editing, layout, and design.

### The Last Debate

The last debate is coming soon, and my prayer is that the people of God will step out in faith to share Jesus with mankind. We will not be distracted from the mission, and the power of the Holy Spirit will flow through our veins.

Dan Preas, president
Gospel Outreach

### All That Is Needed

Before I became a missionary, I thought I needed special qualities that I did not have. I realize now that I don't need to be talented, bright, or experienced to serve the Lord.

Nayeli Cabrera, missionary
1000 Missionary Movement
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In the late 1800s, Ellen White wrote, "In every large city there should be corps of organized, well-disciplined workers; not merely one or two, but scores should be set to work."1 But she warned, "The cities are filled with temptation. We should plan our work in such a way as to keep our young people as far as possible from this contamination."2

How to balance calling with risk for young people is an ever-present issue. It is to their credit that GYC and YFJ leaders have sought to carefully balance the call to the cities with the warning to protect and equip young people. GYC attracts thousands of young people, as well as interested adults, from all over the world to its annual conference held each New Year's weekend in a North American city. Somehow it has manages each year to organize and send out young people in hordes into the city streets to do effective personal evangelism. GYC programming is engaging and challenging. Its seminars speak to the personal and practical needs of youth as well as to their evangelistic calling. GYC hallways are quiet and noticeably empty during general sessions, while meeting halls and seminar rooms are full. Attendees are noticeably enthusiastic.

"GYC is so much more than just a conference. It's a movement. A movement of young people who realize that there is more to religion and more to life than merely going through the motions, says 2011 GYC attendee Andy Hausted, a 20-year-old from Central California. "We believe it's about taking your religion outside of the walls of your church, outside the bounds of your comfort zone, and revealing to the world what it looks like to be a follower of Christ. To 'taste and see' is to experience. GYC is a place where you can personally encounter and experience God."

YFJ is a longer-term program that involves sending youthful Bible workers into one city each year, months in advance, to lay the ground work for a cluster of summer evangelistic series featuring youth speakers and support workers. It is truly a "corps of organized, well-disciplined workers." Youth participants receive intensive training in evangelism, as well as hearing presentations on a variety of topics relevant to their daily, personal challenges.
Both GYC and YFJ do more training and equipping than sending, which seems to provide the youth with the protection they need while doing city ministry. Of this kind of work, Ellen White wrote, "Each company of workers should be under the direction of a competent leader, and it should ever be kept before them that they are to be missionaries in the highest sense of the term. Such systematic labor, wisely conducted, would produce blessed results."3

This year's team of YFJ Bible workers is already hard at work in the Fort Worth Metropolitan area. Some have experienced the following reality: "If our brethren will use their God-given ability to warn the cities, angels of God will surely go before them to make the impression upon the hearts of the people for whom they labor."4

Edwin Zapata, a 21-year-old YFJ Bible worker from Orlando, Florida, went knocking on doors one day and was invited in by Glenda, a mother of four. She had been struggling with relationships, work, and matters of conscience. A few hours earlier, she had gotten down on her knees and cried to God for help. Then came Edwin's knock. She scheduled a Bible study, and as Edwin was getting ready to leave, she cried and explained how overwhelmed she was at the timing of his knock. She has continued her Bible studies and is asking about church attendance.

Another Bible worker, 23-year-old Renee Edwards from Michigan, decided to pass out GLOW tracts and Bible study request cards one afternoon. First thing, she spotted a work truck parked in the street. A man sat in the back of the truck, searching through his tools. He gladly accepted the materials she offered and asked about Adventist teachings on salvation. He seemed excited by Renee's thoughtful response and decided to attend small group Bible studies.

Later on, Renee remembered the quote, "God will impress those whose hearts are open to truth, and who are longing for guidance. He will say to His human agent, 'Speak to this one or to that one of the love of Jesus.' No sooner is the name of Jesus mentioned in love and tenderness than angels of God draw near, to soften and subdue the heart."5

"I was confident that it was the Holy Spirit that had led me to speak to this worker," Edwards says. "He didn't live at the house he was parked at. He was simply working in the area and lived in a completely different town."

This year's team of YFJ Bible workers asks that you pray for their efforts in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The end-of-program baptism ceremony will be held Saturday, Aug. 4, 2012.

Scott Moore, director of both LIFE and YFJ, says, "We would love as many as possible of the ASI family to join us in Dallas-Fort Worth for that special ceremony.

Visit the Youth For Jesus website, or apply for this year's YFJ program.
1. Medical Ministry, pp. 300, 301.
3. Medical Ministry, pp. 300, 301.

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