Inter-America: Organizers set to welcome thousands of young people set to participate in Pathfinder Camporee

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Montemorelos University: Campus focuses on a day of spiritual revival

Montemorelos University, an Adventist institution in Mexico operated by the Inter-American Division (IAD), celebrated a day of prayer, praise and gratitude on April 6.

Inter-America: Youth leaders meet for final logistics meeting for upcoming historic Pathfinder Camporee

As thousands of Pathfinders throughout the Inter-American Division (IAD) have their sleeping bags packed and make their way to Mexico City for the church’s largest camporee ever during the next few days, organizers and youth leaders go over final logistics.
Seventh-day Adventist youth leaders met late into the night to coordinate final arrangements as they prepare to welcome more than 6,000 Pathfinders today for the third and largest division-wide camporee which starts Tuesday evening in Mexico City.

April 17, 2011 - Mexico City, Mexico...Libna Stevens/IAD

Among the leaders' concerns are the thundering rains this weekend and the two-inch hail which hit the city last night, flooding and shutting down many streets and threatening to affect the 227-acre space at Ciudad Deportiva, the camporee site. In addition to the Pathfinders, nearly 14,000 more guides, leaders, and chaperones will also be descending on the area.

"Last week, we prayed for rain," said Pastor Benjamin Carballo, youth ministries director for the church and organizer of the camporee, as he addressed the youth leaders from the 21 church regions gathered to review the event's strategies. According to Carballo, the heat wave which hit Mexico City during the past few weeks prompted the relocation of many campsites to greener pastures. "Now let's pray that the weather does not put a damper on this event," he added.

The camporee, coined as "Conquering Giants" after the biblical story of David and Goliath, has presented many challenges for organizers to overcome. "We are struggling with many giants," said Carballo. "But we must continue to pray so that these 'giants' can be knocked down. God has something wonderful in store for the thousands of pathfinders coming this week."

Already bus loads of young people and leaders are traveling from Central America and Mexico, a journey that will take more than 48 hours for some.

Pastor Zamir Sarmiento, youth ministries director for the church in Honduras, has faced many challenges for his pathfinder group making the long journey. His group of 86 will cross two borders to arrive at the venue late tomorrow.

"We had to get special permits with the ministry of transportation and the office of the transit police in Honduras to allow for our two busses to cross the border into Guatemala," said Sarmiento. Several trips to the Honduras-Guatemala border during the past few months took place before the group could travel at night to get to Mexico on time, he added. Although he was concerned that only 86 out of the 191 campers registered for the event, Sarmiento is thankful that his group of young people is on its way.

Many parents are not sending their children because of safety concerns.

Pastor Emilio Perche, youth ministries director for the church in the Venezuela Antilles Union, also faced many challenges for some 500 Pathfinders from his area. A group of only 185 will be arriving during the next few days, due to visa challenges and limited flight availability, said Perche.

For Earnal Scott, youth ministries director for the church in South Central American Union stationed in Costa Rica, a group of only 95 Pathfinders are scheduled to arrive. "I am saddened that some 25 young people from Nicaragua were denied visas to Mexico and will not be able to participate in this great event," said Scott, who said that only young people from Panama and Costa Rica will be arriving at the airport in the next two days.

Large delegations of young people from three of the four church regions in Mexico are already on their way to the event, some taking nearly 24 hours to arrive at Ciudad Deportiva.

Pastor Jeremias Morales, youth ministries director for the church in South Mexico, tops off the list of delegations with over 6,500 Pathfinders scheduled to arrive by busloads today and tomorrow.
Montemorelos University: Campus focuses on a day of spiritual revival

April 16, 2011 – Montemorelos, Nuevo Leon, Mexico...Benjamin Garcia/IAD
Montemorelos University, an Adventist institution in Mexico operated by the Inter-American Division (IAD), celebrated a day of prayer, praise and gratitude on April 6. The special day, which took place in the midst of a three-week prayer campaign, was part of the territory-wide Constant in Prayer initiative, a spiritual revival and reformation emphasis going on now in the IAD.

Students, faculty, staff, community leaders and visitors gathered at the university’s church early in the morning to worship and pray for spiritual revival and for Adventist Education.

Pr. Zeferino Luna, president of the church in the Northeast region located in Monterrey, spoke to more than 500 gathered on the importance of personal revival and held a session of prayer for students and the Christian mission which drives Adventist educational schools and institutions.

Dozens of decals were posted in offices and classrooms throughout the campus commemorating Constant in Prayer. Students and teachers gathered throughout the campus, under trees, in classrooms, and in offices to pray at designated areas for special requests, Adventist education and schools across the territory.

Dr. Elie Honore, Adventist Health International Services for Inter-America, traveled to the university and spoke on the significance of a spiritual prayer revival in the lives of students and teachers at the hundreds of educational institutions throughout Mexico and throughout Inter-America.

To view a photo gallery of the Constant in Prayer initiative held in Montemorelos University and its programs visit www.um.edu.mx
Visit Inter-America’s photo gallery at www.flickr.com/photos/interamerica
As thousands of pathfinders throughout the Inter-American Division (IAD) have their sleeping bags packed and make their way to Mexico City for the church’s largest camporee ever during the next few days, organizers and youth leaders go over final logistical plans for the event.

Challenges like relocating hundreds of Pathfinder clubs to better pastures at the Ciudad Deportiva or the Sports City, getting final details approved by the city, and the delay of 700 portable showers that were delayed from China, sent organizers to the drawing board for alternative plans.

“There will be showers available to all our campers,” said Carballo, who said it was a major concern for coordinators this week. Builders have worked around the clock setting up makeshift showers that will provide the daily shower service through pumps and tanks during the five-day event, according to Carballo.

Youth leaders representing the 21 church region of Inter-America went over their pathfinder club lists, campground sites, financial arrangements, and arrival itineraries.

Some 220 bus loads of campers from throughout Mexico are expected to arrive tomorrow and dozens more are expected to arrive at the Benito Juarez International Airport. Thousands more are expected to arrive Apr. 18-19.

Pastor Carballo went over the security measures in place to ensure the safety of the campers through a 250 security personnel hired for the event in addition to youth leaders, pathfinder club leaders and chaperones participating in the event.

Leaders prayed for three youth ministries directors who were recently appointed in their respective union territories. Among them were Al Powell from the Atlantic Caribbean Union, Luis Aguillon of the El Salvador Union and German Dario of the South Colombia Union.

In addition, a special prayer of gratitude was made for Pastor Ruber Alvarez, youth ministries director for the church in Cuba who through tireless efforts with visa challenges announced that 40 campers from the island would attend the event—a surprising result, according to Alvarez.

Youth leaders will continue to meet later tonight for final event details.

Benjamin Garcia contributed to this report.

For news updates on IAD’s Pathfinder Camporee, visit us at www.interamerica.org and www.camporee.interamerica.org

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