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To: Adventist Heritage

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IAD News

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Posted: 22 Apr 2011 09:00 PM PDT
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Posted: 22 Apr 2011 09:00 PM PDT
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Lizeth Daniela Garcia, a Pathfinder from Cabo San Lucas, Baja California, won the first place in the 50-meter individual race and 200-meter relay race at Inter-America's Pathfinder Camporee this week in Mexico City.

April 22, 2011 - Mexico City, Mexico...Raul Lozano/IAD

Lizeth Daniela Garcia, a Pathfinder from Cabo San Lucas, Baja California, won the first place in the 50-meter individual race and 200-meter relay race at Inter-America's Pathfinder Camporee this week in Mexico City. Her club and parents shouted with joy because they knew something the other clubs ignored: Garcia is a champion in sports.

Garcia is only 12 and has been into artistic gymnastics for half her life. She has won 66 medals at regional, state, and national championships. She recently participated in the Women's Artistic Gymnastics National Championship in San Luis Potosi, Mexico, ranking among the ten best athletes in the country in this discipline.

However, things have not been always easy for Garcia. When she was nine months old, she was diagnosed with leukemia. Her parents were devastated and had her go through a series of additional tests. She was later diagnosed with hemolytic anemia, which is said to be incurable.

Her parents prayed by the bedside of their thin, fragile daughter. "We put Lizeth in the Lord's hands," says Noemi, Garcia's mother, "and asked God for a miracle." Grinning, Noemi says, "God gave us our girl back. God performed a miracle and healed her."

Six years later, Garcia's pediatrician advised the parents to involve the girl in exercise. A lot of exercise.

"Close to home we spotted a gymnasium, and we decided to try it," says Miguel Angel, Garcia's father. Once enrolled, her trainer saw great potential in her and she began to compete in many different sports, even abroad. She has had the privilege to train with national champions that helped her get to the top.

As a Christian, Garcia has made a commitment to not compromise on her beliefs. Although there are times when she trains eight hours a day, she keeps the Sabbath and gets home early for church.

"My friends see me pray and ask me what I believe," says Garcia. "So I share my faith in Jesus with them, because Jesus is alive. Sometimes I give my friends Adventist tracts."

Besides disease, there are other giants in Garcia's path.

"I don't know what comes next for me in terms of competitions, and I think about it a lot," she confides, adding that other "giants are school and growing in Christ. But I find strength in Philippians 4:13 and Joshua 1:9. They never fail."

http://www.interamerica.org/users/index.php?type=news&id=1791&lang=...
Inter-America: South Mexican Union takes first prize in Bible Bowl Competition

Libna Stevens

Apr 23, 2011

The Inter-American Pathfinder Camporee held its Bible bowl competition before night fell yesterday. Twenty-one pathfinders representing the 21 church regions comprising the territory took to the stage to sit behind computer terminals and answer a series of questions on the Book of 1 Samuel.

The top three winners representing the Spanish, English and French territories of the church in Inter-America included Juan de Dios Dzib grand winner from the South Mexican Union; Nicoyann Blackette of the Caribbean Union took second place, and Emmanuelle Sainte-Rose Fanchine of the Caribbean Union took second place, and Emmanuelle Sainte-Rose Fanchine of the Carribean Union took the third place.

"You participated in this Bible competition not to win a prize but you have demonstrated that you live in your Bible," said Pastor Israel Leito, president of the church in Inter-America as he addressed the finalists. "It is very important for you to spend the rest of your lives falling in love with the Bible."

As Pastor Benjamin Carballo, youth ministries director for the church in Inter-America and top organizer of the camporee, announced the winner he congratulated all for studying the Bible.

"You are an example of everything a pathfinder should be-a student of the Bible," said Benjamin Carballo, "Young people who each day learn of Jesus and live for Him."

Carballo announced that all finalists would be automatically registered to take part in Inter-America's territory-wide camporee to be announced at the closing of the camporee. Among the prizes, each of the top three winners received an iPod touch from the Inter-American Division, an airplane ticket to attend the International Pathfinder Camporee to be held in 2014 in the United States.

Bible bowl winner Juan de Dios Dzib, age 10, is a sixth grader from the Emmanuel Club from Yucatán, South Mexico. To get to represent his union meant he had to beat hundreds at the district, conference, and union level contests.

"When they launched the Bible bowl in my church, I signed up immediately," said de Dios who is an only child. "I want to thank God first and later my parents because they supported me in everything and they even studied with me."

His parents aren't surprised. "No one was able to beat him in the competitions, because he committed the entire book of 1 Samuel to memory," added de Dios. He is says his father studied the book and made up questions to help him review.

Top leaders from each of the three winning unions promised their finalists a laptop computer.

Fabiola Quinto contributed to this article.

For more information on Inter-America's Pathfinder Camporee and photos of the Bible Bowl, visit us at www.interamerica.org
Inter-America: Camporee day 2 concludes with challenging words by Rojas

Amid the hustle and bustle of the day's activities during Inter-America's Pathfinder Camporee, pathfinders camping at the Ciudad Deportiva, in Mexico City, took to different fields and sites in the large complex to participate in day two of march demonstrations.

April 22, 2011 – Mexico City, Mexico...Libna Stevens/IAD

Amid the hustle and bustle of the day's activities during Inter-America's Pathfinder Camporee, pathfinders camping at the Ciudad Deportiva, in Mexico City, took to different fields and sites in the large complex to participate in day two of march demonstrations, honor classes, swimming competitions, running races and more.

The day was sealed with a spiritual program which included a praise concert, baptisms, a musical drama presentation and challenging words to the more than 20,000 pathfinders, leaders and chaperones who gathered to take in the message of the night amid a cool breeze.

Pastor Jose Rojas, director of volunteer services for the church in the North American Division, continued with his first message to the young people to be daring, strong and stubborn for Jesus.

"Jesus can transform any of you," said Rojas as he spoke to the thousands of young people. "He will grant you a strength that is not your own so that you can confront the giants in your life."

Rojas emphasized that the only way to confront giants is by having a measure of faith. "If you want to have power from on high, you have to have faith because the secret to conquering giants is to have faith of Jesus."

He also pleaded with the young people to use their talents and their time for Jesus. "If you give so much time to Facebook and Twitter, just imagine if you used these for Jesus," added Rojas.

The core message of the camporee echoed through Rojas' second message. "If you want to rise with the strength that God can give you, you will be able to use your faith against the giants."

"Learn to see faith with new eyes," said Rojas. "Don't look at your problems the same. Your friends need you but how can you help them if you are weak?" he asked. "If you learn to have faith by talking to Him, by the study of the Bible, by reading Ellen G. White's writings, you will discover how much Jesus loves you and is ready to lead you."

Rojas called on young people to confess their sins, surrendering to start anew as they commit to becoming an army to finish the mission of the church before Jesus' return. Thousands representing the more than one-and-a-half million young Seventh-day Adventists throughout the 34 countries spread out in Inter-America's 21 church regions, stood as Rojas made a call of commitment.

Episode three of the musical drama presentation illustrated David visiting King Saul during the distressful period of his life in his palace.

Several more pathfinders were baptized during the evening program. The program was sprinkled with praise and music.

Guest speakers today and tomorrow will include Pastors Baraka Muganda, Jonatan Tejel, Israel Leito, Benjamin Carballo and more.

To watch the morning and evening programs go to www.camporee.interameria.org

To view a photo gallery of the Camporee visit us at www.flickr.com/photos/interamerica

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More than 260 pathfinders have made their decision for Christ and have been baptized during the 3rd Inter-American Pathfinders Camporee in Mexico City.

April 22, 2011 - Mexico City, Mexico... Raul Lozano/IAD

More than 260 pathfinders have made their decision for Christ and have been baptized during the 3rd Inter-American Pathfinders Camporee in Mexico City. Children belonging to the four different unions of the country, wearing their pathfinder uniform, have testified of their new life in Christ as a baptismal ceremony is held each night of the camporee.

For many children the experience of being baptized at the camporee is highly appealing. This was the case with Valeria Rosado, a 10-year-old pathfinder from the Sirio Pathfinder Club in Delicias, Chihuahua, Mexico, who is going to be baptized today.

"I wanted to be baptized a while ago, but once I knew about the camporee, I made up my mind to be baptized here," said Rosado.

Reasons to participate in baptism during events like this camporee are motivated by several reasons. However, it is the social string what moves some kids to a decision, church leaders said. "This is a huge event; there is going to be lots of people. I am thrilled just to think of being baptized before so many people," adds Rosado.

"The pathfinder age is the best time to make a decision for Jesus," says Pastor Arcadio Gonzalez, who is responsible for organizing all baptisms during the camporee.

"When children get older and become teenagers, committing their life to God turns out to be challenging because the pleasures of the world are more tempting," adds Gonzalez.

The last baptismal ceremony is planned for Saturday April 23, when nearly 200 will enter the water.
During the Inter-America's Pathfinder Camporee, the Salvation in Symbols ministry from Montemorelos University has been showcasing a sanctuary model for pathfinders and campers at Ciudad Deportiva. More than 3,500 people of various ages and cultures have had the opportunity to view the model.

Since the ministry was established in 2008, the portable sanctuary, which is usually stationed on the campus of Montemorelos University, has made its way to different events throughout Mexico and the United States.

Roberto Baños, an engineering professor in charge Salvation in Symbols, leads students and teachers through the experience. He says that the ministry is committed to fulfilling the mission Christ left to His church: To preach the good news of salvation.

The ministry carries on various activities. Among the highlighted ones is the set up of a replica of the Tabernacle of the Wilderness. Its atrium measures 67.25 feet wide and 147.63 feet long. Inside the replica, guided tours for groups of up to 30 people, for about 30 minutes, are carried on.

The objective is to enrich and strengthen the spiritual experience of participants in this ministry," added Baños. "This is a way of presenting the gospel without barriers of gender, age, race or faith."

Juan Ignacio Hirreri of Mexico City, learned that the Day of Atonement was when the sins of the Israelites were forgiven. He also liked the Most Holy Place because God’s presence was there.

Other pathfinders said they enjoyed the explanation of each object and had learned more about the sanctuary.

For additional information, visit www.salvacionensimbolos.com
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Cheers came out spontaneously; they were heard in accord because each team was backed by its cheering team. It seemed like they were injected with additional enthusiasm.

"We felt very excited, very nervous but, at the end, we came out very much amused," said a pathfinder girl. "We all agreed that the so-long awaited event had become a reality."

This event is a 100-meter relay in styles: back, chest, butterfly, and freestyle. The reward is given to the first place of each category. During the three-days of events, 60 teams are expected to compete.

The competitors and prepared. Previous efforts and the hours they practiced are evident. Nevertheless, every effort has its own reward and it was visible to see that pathfinders who reached the finish were satisfied and happy for having participated.

Today's winners - April 21 - come from Guatemala and belong to the Maranata and Kainos clubs. Winners, and each one of the participants, have conquered their giants and, the pathfinder clubs, no doubt, are always wonderful experiences.