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- **Inter-America: Children’s ministries leaders commit to preparing children for heaven**
  - Posted: 14 Jul 2012 09:00 PM PDT
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Jul 16, 2012

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July 16, 2012 - Mandeville, Manchester, Jamaica... Nigel Coke/IAD

A team of students from Northern Caribbean University (NCU) in Jamaica walked away with top honors in the mobile app competition at the Digital Jam 2.0 Marketplace and Job Fair held recently in Kingston Jamaica.

Team PPS, or Porthole Position System, made up of Joel Dean, Nicolas Brown, Michael-Joel Atkinson, Mario Dennis and Jovi-chen McIntyre, recognized the need to lessen road fatalities and injuries caused by the scores of potholes in Jamaica. So they devised a mobile application to not only assist motorist navigate through, but also to alert the government in fixing the potholes.

"We realized that Jamaica has no system in place to assist drivers while they are on the road and so we decided to use our skills and knowledge in technology to assist in this regard," said team captain Joel Dean. "Many accidents are caused by drivers not knowing the condition of the roads and are sometimes caught off guard."

PPS Jamaica is a cross platform web and mobile application that gives users the opportunity to access and utilize the pothole information of Jamaica's roads. The app uses mobile platforms namely, Android, Blackberry and iPhone to enable users to access this information anytime at their own convenience. It is a community-driven application, therefore data about the location and pictures of potholes are supplied by users.

"Initially," Dean continued, "we will make the first version of the app free to motorists, with a system in place for the Government to subscribe to the information, which can assist them with creating detailed statistics about the number of potholes in each region, parish or town."

PPSJamaica provides an interactive and easy way to review and rate roads based on the ever growing data repository. Users can view the rating of a road based on its pothole density. They can view and create road reviews, while having the ability to see the location and pictures of individual potholes. They can also upload images and location of potholes using their smart phones, and earn rewards for participating.

In addition to the main award, team PPS was also winner of the Audience Award and placed second in the Development Award segment. Another team from NCU - Team Olympal - was second in the Technical Excellence Award.

Approximately 2,000 young Jamaicans participated in the Digital Jam 2.0, which aimed at creating solutions to the problem of youth unemployment in Jamaica, by providing job opportunities via the global virtual economy. Another aim of the program is to improve skills in Information Technology.

Digital Jam 2.0 is part of the Caribbean Growth Forum, a new one-year initiative led by the World Bank, the Inter American Development Bank and the Caribbean Development Bank, that brings together stakeholders from the private sector, academia, civil society as well as the Caribbean Diaspora.

For their success, team PPS left the competition one million Jamaica dollars richer, eight android
phones, six months internship at FLOW Digital Network Jamaica.
Three members of the team received assistance with scholarships to Howard University in
Washington DC.

"We are extremely proud of the phenomenal achievements of this team of students who have
work very hard to develop this mobile application that is both practical and relevant especially to
Jamaica, said Dr. Kenrie Hylton, NCU Chair of the Department of Computer and Information
Sciences. "The department has a track record of making a significant contribution to the
information technology domain as it relates to innovation and creativity. We hope to continue this
trend of educating students to make significant contribution not just to our society, but to the
wider world."

Earlier this year, Minister of Science, Technology, Energy & Mining, Phillip Paulwell, revealed that
his ministry would be working with NCU to undertake the expansion of the institution to make
Mandeville the hub of Information & Communication Technology in the region. *

NCU is known internationally for its dominance in the annual Microsoft Imagine Cup Competition.
They were crowned regional champions in 2005, 2007, and 2009 Microsoft Imagine cup. In 2007,
NCU Imagine Cup Team ICAD represented Jamaica and the region at the world finals in South
Korea where it outclassed competitors from across the globe to place 3rd in the world.*

Information from NCU's website dated March 16, 2012 was used for this article.
Pastor Israel Leito, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Inter-America, urged children's leaders and teachers to actively seek children who have left the church and offer comfort to their parents during his Sabbath address at the Children's Ministries Leadership Convention held last week at Camp Kulaqua in High Springs, Florida.

"Your responsibility as children's ministries directors and leaders is not only to save children, but to console and be there for the parents when one of their children strays from church," said Pastor Leito to the more than 500 gathered for the convention.

"If a child leaves the church, let us not blame parents, we [as a church] also bear that responsibility," said Pastor Leito. "We must love, embrace and do what we can to offer comfort and seek the lost."

In driving his message, Pastor Leito quoted from Leviticus 10, and reflected on Aaron's loss of his two sons. "The children in our churches are our children too, so as a church we have to do everything possible to rescue them when they stray," he said.

"How can we celebrate and participate in church activities, when we well know that our children have left the church?" asked Pastor Leito. "There is nothing more valuable than the salvation of our children in our congregations," he added.

"I hope you understand the seriousness of our responsibility when it comes to the salvation of our children," Pastor Leito continued. "It is what the church expects from us as leaders and teachers and one day, you will see the fruits of your labor."

Pastor Leito's message resonated as leaders nearly ended five days of seminars and presentations focused on strengthening church families during the Children's Ministries Leadership Convention, held in Adventist-owned Camp Kulaqua, in High Springs, Florida July 10-14, 2012.

For resources on embracing families with special needs children, visit cm.interamerica.org

To view a photo gallery of the event, visit www.flickr.com/photos/interamerica

For updates on Inter-America's Children's Ministries Leadership Convention, visit us at www.interamerica.org
More than 500 children's leaders and teachers attending Inter-America's Children's Ministries Leadership Convention at Camp Kulaqua in High Springs, Florida, took a break from workshops and seminars last Friday night to slip into white robes and golden belts for a special "heaven-like" fellowship dinner and worship program.

The program was highlighted by Biblical readings, musical numbers and performances by Dominican Union and Jamaica Union leaders and delegates. Delegates crowded close to the stage to sing and praise about the New Jerusalem City in heaven.

"We are all striving to reach heaven and prepare the thousands of children in our congregations to love Jesus and make it to heaven," said Dinorah Rivera, church ministries director for the church in Inter-America and main organizer of the event. "It's the reason for our mission as children's ministries leaders and commitment until the Lord comes to take us home."

"There's a feeling in the air tonight as I look across and see how you're dressed tonight and we welcome the Sabbath," said Dr. Elie Henry, executive secretary of the church in Inter-America.

Dr. Henry focused on the new earth described in Isaiah 11 and the need for leaders and teachers to pursue a closer relationship with God through the study of the Bible and a prayerful daily life in order to continue impacting the lives of children and their families as well as those they encounter in their ministry.

Leaders and teachers of children stood and prayed as they committed to leading children across Inter-America.

To view a photo gallery of the event, visit [http://www.flickr.com/photos/interamerica/7567670646/in/photostream](http://www.flickr.com/photos/interamerica/7567670646/in/photostream)

For more on Inter-America's Children's Ministries Leadership Convention, visit us at [www.interamerica.org](http://www.interamerica.org)
Children's ministries leaders from the church in Jamaica perform praises on the New Jerusalem during the Friday evening program at the gymnasium in Camp Kulaqua, High Springs, Florida, Jul. 13, 2012.