A Word from the Director

Over 75 conference youth leaders convened on the Campus of Union College in Lincoln, NE for our annual YPAC Committee Meetings. By the end, the leadership had confirmed a direction, debated timely topics for the different ministries, approved events, honors/awards, initiatives, and curricular changes and additions.

Although we always had a great time together, there was something special about this year – leaders came to the table ready to work and get the job done. Some leaders and focus groups arrived up to five days prior to the first meeting just to make certain the anticipated recommendations were feasible for ministry to local churches.

This edition of our Update eNewsletter focuses on sharing information and minutes from all the YPAC Committees. We want you as young people and local church leaders to be aware of decisions that impact your ministry. In the very near future you will hear more about a new focus for Youth and Young Adult Ministries in the North American Division. Our new focus theme is “1Voice 2Gether”. We want to send a message that we are united in youth ministries. This does not mean that one-size will fit all, but we will stand as “1Voice 2Gether” (see supporting documents, especially the Powerpoint Presentation).

For the next 5 years, youth ministries will stand upon 5 Pivots (foundations) called P.E.R.M.S.:

- Prayer and Bible Study
- Equipping Youth for Service
- Reclaiming the Forgotten
- Ministry in Action
- Shepherding

From among the many decisions that were made during each committee, I would like to highlight two items:

1. At the request of many Pathfinder leaders around the division, the NAD Pathfinder Committee and Network now has its own Pathfinder Bible Bowl Ministry Program called The Pathfinder Bible Experience. The focus group assigned looked at the six models in existence across the NAD and worked to find a new program that borrowed from the strengths of these independent programs.
At the Pathfinder Advisory meeting, there was a strong feeling of support and affirmation for this new program, that we trust will breakdown the divide, and encourage more Pathfinder ministries to get involved in the study of God’s Word. This program is now called “The Pathfinder Bible Experience” (PBE). The leadership team is in place and you will be hearing more about this is a few weeks. Our first NAD Pathfinder Bible Experience Finals will be held at the General Conference World Headquarters next spring. We are encouraging all to come and participate in this historic event. Adventsource is currently publishing a complete standardized manual and leadership documentation that will be available to all clubs wishing to participate.

2. We spent a lot of time and prayer discussing the JUST CLAIM IT (JCI) Prayer Conference. The consensus among leaders was that each conference and union needs to embrace this as their event for their youth. Leaders have urged us to continue with JCI due to the fact that it is a unique opportunity for bridging senior youth and young adults to their local church. We are encouraging a record number of youth and young adults with the help of the Holy Spirit to claim Greensboro, North Carolina March 7-11, 2012. Our theme is “2GETHER” as we focus on – SALVATION and SERVICE. JCI belongs to the youth of the NAD. JCI will inspire your young people, and as a result, your local church!

We trust that your will ministry to youth will be blessed by the information shared in this special feature.

Blessings,

Pastor James Black, Sr.
NAD Youth Director

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**Adventist Christian Fellowship (ACF)**

ACF Committee and advisory participants entered into a quality discussion about ministry plans and programs for the purpose of supporting the five pivots of NAD Youth & Young Adult Department for ministry specifically on non-Adventist college and university campuses. The result was an extensive practical worksheet of ideas that they believe can be enacted on non-Adventist campus within the next five years.

Read full report | ACF PERMS Worksheet
Adventurers

Adventurers have a variety of new or expanded resources that were voted this year. First, three new awards were voted and will be available soon: Saving Animals (2nd) Acts of Kindness (3rd) and Purity (4th). They have also recommended to the General Conference that Little Lambs and Eager Beavers be formally included in the umbrella of leadership with Adventurer Ministry. Also, the Adventurer, Little Lamb, and Eager Beaver songs have been translated into French, and the Adventurer Leadership Guides are available from AdventSource in both Spanish and English.

Read full report

Camp

The Camp Committee met at Cohutta Springs April 11 & 12 to discuss some pressing issues in summer camp and year-around camp programs. For summer camp, they emphasized the “nature teachable moments” that are so much a part of the camp experience and asked for assistance from Southern Adventist University's Outdoor Education Department in developing a guide to assist staff in teaching campers “those moments.” In all aspects of camp ministry wage scales were a major focus as camp leaders attempted to balance fair-pay with fair pricing of camp ministry programming.

Read full report

Master Guide

Significant time was spent discussing the function of Master Guides. Most unions reported that their Master Guides (and clubs if such existed in their union) were required to be involved in ministry to Adventurers, Pathfinders, or Youth ministries within their region. It was firmly expressed that Master Guide clubs are not designed to exist simply for their own end, but rather to be a training ground and ministry center to assist other ministries. Also discussed were the various uniform practices within the NAD Master Guide Community. Some design changes and
formalization were recommended for further study.

In addition, as part of the NAD’s continuing focus on Youth involvement, it was suggested that we review and recommend changes to the existing MG curriculum using youth and young adults with seasoned adults who have previous experience.

Pathfinders

Pathfinder Ministry may be over 60 years old, but we continue to adapt to meet the needs of a changing ministry. This year, changes that meet our future include a replacement to the Classwork called Investiture Achievement, a track of Adventist Youth Ministries Training (AYMT) to be piloted for NAD Pathfinders, the NAD Bible Experience to provide a united NAD-wide “Bible Bowl” experience.

In addition, new NAD Pathfinder honors address changing sports, skills, and increased spiritual interests in Pathfinders: Prayer and Advanced Prayer, Odonates (dragonflies), The Ultimate and Advanced Ultimate (flying disc sport), Waterfalls, Rivers and Streams, Forestry and Advanced Forestry, Postcards and Advanced Postcards, Cardmaking and Advanced Cardmaking, Lifesaving and Advanced Lifesaving (to replace Community Water Safety honors), Water Safety Instructor and Advanced (WSI) and significant updates to the Swimming honor series.

Youth

Coming Soon!
Ministry Reports:

**Ignition3 Report**

“The speakers, workshops and resources made available at IGNITION Summit 2011 have inspired me to do even more ministry for GOD, reaching new generations,” shared Trey Sharp, a pastor from Burleson, Texas. “I am refreshed, energized, and ready to go! IGNITION was a huge blessing for me.”

Trey was among a great constellation of ministry professionals, lay leaders, educators, parents, and young adults who convened in Arlington, Texas, April 4-6, to receive training in young adult ministry at IGNITION Summit 2011. General sessions by Drs. Tim Elmore and Hyveth Williams, best practice workshops, Habitudes leadership training, and a service excursion to the North Texas Food Bank were among the array of experiences afforded the 120 attendees from across the North American Division and beyond. Registrants came from all over, including Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, and internationally from Mexico and the Virgin Islands.

Dr. Tim Elmore, president of Growing Leaders, Inc., shared revealing insights about Generation iY, those born since 1990. Elmore also equipped attendees

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**Adventist Christian Fellowship Survey** – Adventist Students and Alumni on Public School College Campuses

We are excited to provide you with the College Experiences Survey link: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NDQRX26. Your opinions about your college experiences will help
church and student youth leaders improve the quality of experiences for future Adventist students who attend public universities or secular private colleges or universities. I invite you to complete the online survey which should take between 25-30 minutes. In order to encourage you to be completely candid in your answers, your individual responses will be kept strictly confidential. At the end of the College Experiences Survey, you will be invited to enter your name in a drawing for one of 10 iPod touches to use for yourself or give to someone else.

Please forward this email to your Adventist (or former Adventist) friends who attended and/or graduated from a public or secular private college or university.

If you have questions about the survey I invite you to contact Rob Weaver (rob(at)adventistcolleges(dot)org or Jimmy Kijai (Kijai(at)andrews(dot)edu

Job Opportunities

The Southern New England Conference is looking for a qualified individual to fill the position of Associate Youth Director. This position mainly focuses on family, singles, young adults, collegiate, and camp meeting. Other responsibilities may be added. Resumes should be received with three reference contacts by June 30 2011. More info: josue4pr(at)gmail(dot)com.

In Closing

Know that your leaders work hard to make a difference across the NAD for YOUR local youth group, Pathfinder or Adventurer Club, or Young Adult Ministry. They work to provide resources, training, and memorable “mountain top” experiences that will draw them closer to Christ.

Thank you for joining us in prayer and in ministry action for our young people.

Pastor JB

Find Previous Committee Minutes online
Committee Minutes are linked for many of our committees for years past.

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