NAD YPAC News eNews The Update -- August, 2011
Could This Happen In Your Church?

On June 16, 2011 at 4:00 pm, something historic took place in the General Conference building! Hold on to your seat because you are not going to believe this! The support staff for the North American Division planned, announced, and hosted a baby shower for a young lady that was soon to have a child out of wedlock. Can you believe this?

Yes, I can believe it, because I know the spiritual commitment of these ladies. I am convinced that what they did was an honorable act of kindness. Now before you ask for my resignation let me share a few observations. The young lady’s mother works in the building and the planners were aware that this has been a trying time for the family so they wanted to show love and kindness for the family, in spite of the awkward situation. Before anything was planned, one of the Administrative Assistants approached and asked if I would support this cause. As usual, I get excited about doing stuff like this and pledge my support.

An invitation was extended to all NAD employees to voluntarily attend the baby shower. My job was to figure out a way to get the girl to the building for the surprise, so I invited her to come and be a part of a special youth ministry focus group dealing with youth and young adult issues in the church. She was surprised by the invitation but gladly accepted. My assistant and I escorted her to the meeting room, and when we opened the door she was overwhelmed and surprised by the crowd. She was absolutely speechless.

Why was she speechless? She was speechless because generally this is not what happens to someone who gets pregnant outside of marriage. She was speechless because in the audience were the NAD Administrators, vice-presidents, departmental directors, and most of all, some bold caring administrative assistants. The community showered her with prayers, hugs of support, and gifts. More importantly, she sensed the presence of Jesus in the room.

Needless to say, this experience has changed her view of our church. Before this day, she had heard such accusatory comments as – “How could you,” “God is not pleased,” “Shame on you,” and “Do you know what
the Bible and spirit of prophecy say about this?" But thanks to some brave and caring leaders, the negative influence of these comments has been mitigated.

I realize that some of you will be offended by this editorial because you feel that we are sending the wrong message to our youth. However, our youth are not stupid, they are very much aware of the issues. In fact, many of them are faithful and are living a more committed life in Jesus than their parents. Maybe this editorial would have been better received by some if I had just laid down the letter of law on church discipline. I will be the first the first to say that church discipline has its place but so do acts of kindness.

Nonetheless, I am convinced that we are really messed up when it comes to “open sin”. An obvious nasty attitude is an open sin, a deacon who is an alcoholic is an open sin, to know that a fellow church member is missing from church and no one is searching for them is an open sin, etc. Just as in Bible times, when it comes to church discipline, we target the obvious, and thousands of young ladies have fallen victim to this misfortune. Rarely do the guys (if members of the church) face the same scrutiny.

I am so thankful that Jesus is our example in Mark 10:13-15. While He was preaching some mothers wanted Him to bless their children and the disciples thought it was inappropriate at the time. Jesus scolded them by telling them to never prevent mothers from bringing their children to Jesus. Bible commentaries and the writings of E.G. White make it clear that in this instance it was the mothers bringing the children to Jesus. The point we often miss in our explanation of this scripture is the absence of the fathers. Generally, when children are brought to blessed the father is in the picture as priest of the home, but in this instance it thought or understood to be mothers only. Could it be that the fathers did not want to be identified? Could it be that these were mothers who had had children out of marriage and had been refused by the church? Could it be that Jesus knew this and made a special point about ministry opportunities in the church and in the world that we often reject?

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will FORGIVE their sin and heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

Wouldn't it be great to be a member of a church that is guilty of making a difference in the lives of people who need it most, regardless of the background of those they are ministering to?
Praise & Hallelujahs

Please keep Pam Scheib, Pennsylvania Conference Adventurer and Pathfinder Coordinator as she recovers from major surgery this week. She has emailed many of her fellow leaders in the past few weeks requesting your prayers.

On Tuesday evening, her husband Michael emailed and told of the success of the surgery in apparently completely removing the cancerous growth. He says “Pam is a tough fighter and her “Faith is on Fire”, she has “Courage to Stand”, and she will recover for the command once again of “Forward, March!”. We leave her continuing progress within the Hands of God and His Plans for revealing the future, as He is “Forever Faithful”.

We thank you for the many prayers, kind words and understanding thoughts that have already been offered and shared on her behalf.

We request your continued prayers and support in the days, weeks, and months ahead.” We encourage you to join her “network of prayer warriors” over the coming days and weeks.

Help us Pray and Praise

Prayer is foundational to our success in ministry. If there is a prayer need that you have, please let us know (email msoffill@sbcglobal.net).

Announcements

We’ll Be There (Youth Department Travel Schedule):
**Pr. James Black**

- August 1-3 Carolina Conference Pastors Retreat
- August 11-13 Pacific Union Young Adult Convention
- August 19-20 MT of Blessings, Amarillo, Texas

**3rd NAD/World Youth Prayer Congress**

Just Claim It3, Leadership SUMMIT, and Ignition4 combine to provide an incredible opportunity for teens, leaders, and conference leadership to learn, share, pray, and serve together.

March 7-11, 2012, Greensboro, North Carolina

Register NOW!

[http://www.jci3.org](http://www.jci3.org)

**Physically Challenged Student Needs Host Family**

David Beiser, of Ayusa (San Francisco, CA) contacted the General Conference a couple of weeks ago, looking for an Adventist Family willing to be a host family for a physically handicapped (wheelchair/walker) young man from west africa who wishes to study in the USA. According to Mr. Beiser, the young man in question attends an Adventist Church in his homeland.

While ayusa.org is not an NAD/GC organization, they did reach out to us in an attempt to find a host family (paid) that subscribes to the young man's belief system. If you have questions, please contact the Mr. Beiser

Email: dbeiser@ayusa.org

Website: [www.ayusa.org](http://www.ayusa.org)
Abuse Prevention Emphasis Day.
Aug 27, 2011.

World Wide. Order a FREE kit from AdventSource to help you plan an event for your church. If the fourth Sabbath in August is not a convenient date for your church to observe Abuse Prevention Emphasis Day, please work with your pastor to find another date. This year's resources will be available on the web site beginning in June. Phone: 800-328-0525. For more information, email: service@adventsource.org

Let's Move Day
September 25, 2011
Thousands of Adventist Churches and schools are joining together to practice healthy physical fitness. Churches are hosting 5k runs, community fitness events, and more. Whatever the fitness activities, they are inviting their communities to join them in MOVING on Let's Move Day.
More Information: http://www.nadhealthministries.org
Reporting, ideas, etc.: http://www.adventistsinstepforlife.org/

Youth Empowered to Serve (YES!)
focuses on involving youth and young adults in service ministries. Sponsored by Adventist Community Services, YES! is a network of young people throughout North America who minister through random acts of kindness, strategically planned service events, disaster response and emergency relief. To learn more or to get involved visit YES or YES on FB.
http://www.communityservices.org/article.php?id=118
http://www.facebook.com/AdventistYES

Ignition

Over the last decade, we have provided young adult ministry training across the NAD and beyond. Under the branding of IGNITION, we have seen several local conferences continue this training in their context, giving special emphasis to helping local leaders disciple those post high-school through preparenthood. We applaud these local efforts and direct you to our continued division-wide efforts to educate
and equip [Look for young adult seminars at the coming NAD Festival of the Laity and the NAD Just Claim It 3: Prayer Summit].

We encourage you to establish an IGNITION for your constituents. Our blog site [http://ignitionblog.wordpress.com/], offers us an online space to advertise and alert others to your young adult ministry training events. Also find there helpful resources and dialogue. It is exciting to see many leaders, beyond youth ministry professionals, seeing the importance of mentoring new generations and beginning in earnest to train and equip to that end.

IGNITION Young Adult Ministry Training:  http://ignitionblog.wordpress.com/

Resources

Adventist Resources:

Pastor Black’s latest book, Entitled “The Youth (Doing) Ministry Formula (y+m)=YM2” provides a simple strategy for revitalizing your church and community by turning the interests and talents of youth into ministries for Christ.”

If you are a youth group leader, AYS leader, youth federation leader, youth pastor, church school/academy teacher, you want to order a copy for each of your youth/students. Available at www.AdventSource.org ($9.95 each – 72 pages)


Why Are Conservative Churches Growing?

Do you feel “stuck” in a small conservative Adventist Church? You may have the fastest growing church in the area! Why are Conservative Churches Growing (or are they)?
KidsView online @ Facebook

The Adventist Review's popular KidsView articles now have a Facebook site!

Facebook Link

Other Resources:

Astronomers Love Autumn!

Whether earning the Stars honor or the Astronomers Award, Pathfinders and Adventurers find autumn a fun “star” time of year. The Perseid Meteor shower, Mercury and Venus, and Summer constellations along with mild camping temps all pull at our hearts to get us out away from city light distractions and look up at the stars. Also, don't forget that in many cities from Oakland to D.C. there are Astronomical observatories that offer students, groups, and families opportunities to view deep into the heavens.

Resource: http://earthsky.org/

List of Observatories around the world: http://www.123world.com/observatory/

iPhone/iPad App: Starwalk 5.3 http://vitotechnology.com/star-walk.html

Honor: http://www.pathfindersonline.org/

Award: http://www.adventurer-club.com

Social Networks of Our Lives
Close to half of all adults now use social networking sites (SNS) -- double the number of users in 2008 -- and the average user is getting older. Are there benefits associated with being connected to others in this way? A new study finds SNS users more trusting, politically engaged and able to keep close social ties.

http://pewresearch.org/

**Sex and The Christian**

For years, Adventist young people have wondered if they're the only ones choosing (or wishing for) sexual virginity. This insightful article by Adventist Review makes us aware of current trends and questions young people are asking today about sexuality.

http://www.adventistreview.org/

**CollegeReady?**

Intended for Seniors in High School or Freshmen in College, this video-guided series helps get teenagers ready for the issues they'll face in college.

More info: http://lifeready.com/collegeready/

**Events**

**Pathfinder Camporee - Eastern Canada**
Aug 1, 2011 - Aug 7, 2011 Camp Scout Awacamenj Mino, 143 Ch Mcnicoll, Duclos QC, J0X 1S0 Canada.
"Fan the Flame (Ravivez la Flamme)."
For more information http://camporee.ca/
The One Life  
Camp Cedar Falls, 39850 State Highway 38, Angelus Oaks, CA 92305. The One Life is an event where high school students can experience an unforgettable encounter with Jesus. This weekend will feature passionate singing, preaching and discussion all for the purpose of emphasizing the importance of Jesus in our lives. Costs associated with event. For more information, email: craighadley@gmail.com

Gulf States Conference Singles Retreat  
Majestic Beach Resort, 10811 Front Beach Road, Panama City Beach, FL 32407  
God wants us to be sure of His will for our lives. Do you want to make sure you are giving it your all and receiving your direction? If you answered yes, then this retreat is for you! All singles 18 and older are invited to attend. Featured Speaker: Captain Jonathan T. Runnels, United States Air Force Chaplain, Lackland Air Force Base.  
Phone: 850-774-8644.  
For more information, email: pembleta@yahoo.com

Join James Black, Manny Cruz, and many other ministry leaders at the Festival of the Laity  
2011  
Sep 7, 2011 - Sep 10, 2011  
Sheraton Dallas, 400 N Olive Street, Dallas, TX 75402  
More information and to register: http://www.festivalofthelaity.com  
email: carol.barron@nad.adventist.org
Pathfinder Camporee - Lake Union
Sep 15, 2011 - Sep 18, 2011
Berrien County Youth Fairgrounds, 9122 US Highway 31, Berrien Springs, MI 49103. "Finish Strong."
For more information, http://www.camporee.org/luc/
email: charris@misda.org

ReFined Youth Leadership Conference.
Sep 23, 2011 - Sep 25, 2011
Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, 1101 Lincoln Street, Columbia, SC 29201.
The ReFined Leadership Conference seeks to reach, cultivate, and refine youth and young adults (ages 17-35) among all Christian denominations, across ethnicities and across the states of South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia. We envision this conference as a Revolutionized Evangelistic Effort that will foster an expansion of community outreach and cultivate effective youth leaders in today's society. Phone: 888-459-6884 from 4-8pm M-Th
For more information and to register:  http://www.therefinedleaders.org
email: info@therefinedleaders.org

Southern New England Conference Pulling Together Leadership Conference
October 14-16, 2011
Sheraton Bradley
Registration for Event and Hotel required by September 30.
Ron Whitehead, Brad Forbes, Bill Wood, and Jose Cortez Jr. “pull together” to provide a power-packed weekend for serious leaders!
More information and to register: http://www.snecyouth.org

EndItNow: Break the Silence About Abuse
October 15-17
Loma Linda University
Join experts Darriel Hoy, Chris Bradford, Renee Drum, and many others in this practical symposium on one of the most pressing, yet seldom talked about, issues in Christian circles – Abuse. Help us EndItNow!
180 Symposium:
October 18-20, 2011
Berrien Springs, Michigan. Addressing the most pressing issues in Adventism, the 180 Symposium uncovers new and thoughtful solutions and ideas for repairing and reinforcing our church body.
More info: Visit AdventistYouth.org/180

Cruise with a Mission
Annually, CYE provides a cruise with a mission emphasis. Mission projects include medical and dental clinics, light construction projects, vacation bible school programs at orphanages and children’s homes, and environmental projects.
Each port provides a different project.

Just Claim It 3 / Ignition 4 / Leadership SUMMIT
March 7-10, 2012
Discover seminars, prayer initiatives, and service opportunities that you and your team/group can participate in online at our new site:
http://www.jci3.org
or view video at:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IqEqg6ggGLyw&feature=youtu.be

Pacific Union Conference Pathfinder Camporee
March 28-31, 2012
Love. Live. Lead.
http://www.camporee.org/puc/index.php

Free Forever Faithful Camporee Tickets!
Forever Faithful 2014 International Pathfinder Camporee
August 11-16, 2014
The Center for Youth Evangelism is offering a special drawing on October 1, 2011. 20 free tickets will be given away as part of this promotional if 2,014 or more tickets are sold by October 1, 2011.
http://createsend.com/t/r-F9399AECFA255C796EF14C24C4F52

Leadership Changes

Youth Director, Rocky Mountain Conference, Benji Maxon

"Benji's passion for ministry comes directly from God and his family. He loves being able to show young people a glimpse of a loving God. Throughout his life, Benji has had great mentors to direct and inspire him as he challenges young people to build their foundation of faith and to always leave the door open to God. He believes in the commission God left for us to do and he loves to help young people begin to write their own stories with God as the center.

Benji and his wife, Kartini, met and married at Southern University. He begin his ministry in Washington as men's dean, then took a position as an associate pastor in West Virginia, where their son Benjamin was born (now 8 years old). For the past seven years, Benji has been chaplain and Bible teacher at Campion Academy."


Assistant Director, CYE, Tibor Shelley

Tibor Shelley, An ordained minister, has accepted the position of Assistant Director at the Center for Youth Evangelism. He has served as the Youth/Communications/Ministries Director for the Arkansas Louisiana Conference, as well as several other pastoral positions.
~CYE eNewsletter, August, 2011
Ministry Opportunities

Southeastern California Conference: Seeking an Associate Youth Director to develop summer camp and conference-wide year-round spiritual and recreational programs. More info: Contact SECC Human Resources at (951) 509-2352.

Bloomington/Bedford, Indiana: Pastoral position available in two-church district. Looking for someone willing to do church planting, camp ministry, discipleship and educational youth ministry. More info: Contact Van Hurst vanhurst@yahoo.com, Indiana Conference President.

In Closing

Summer is ending, school is beginning. Pathfinder and Adventurer programs are gearing up for another God-packed year. Summer camp weeks are mostly pleasant memories as campers head back to school and staff head back to jobs or college while Youth/Camp Directors work to reconcile accounts and pack the remnants of the summer into storage for another season. College-bound freshmen are headed to Universities across our nation, many to Adventist Universities, and many more to the public Universities.

God is moving in the North American division among, with, and through our young people. I pray that this season is a season where God makes a difference in your experience and in your world through YOU!

Pastor JB

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