Dear Fellow Directors

As a follow up to our advisory meeting in Lincoln, NE earlier this year, I would like to remind you of one of the main issues that plague senior youth and young adult ministries in the Adventist Church.

Adventurer and Pathfinder ministries are strong because of the structure and chain of command that clearly identifies a leadership team on every level of our church governance. Unfortunately, we cannot say the same for senior youth and young adults. Due to the lack of clear leadership, the gap for meeting the needs and challenges of these members has widened drastically. Consequently, many of our churches are void of these age groups, yet few are sounding an alarm.

We believe it is now time to change this dynamic by recruiting leaders who have a passion for helping to stop the bleeding of youth and young adult attrition in the Adventist Church in North America. First, we need to identify these local leaders, most of whom are currently volunteers who have a heart for leading youth, yet have little or no training. Thus, we feel that there is a serious need for training. We have endorsed a program that I have authored but that is managed and directed by some of the brightest minds in the church called CLYP – Certified Lay Youth Pastors Online Training or Certified Lay Youth Leaders (whichever title one prefers).

Now you can begin preparing to have a youth ministries presence in each church in your conference. As individuals from your conference enter into this program you will be notified so you will be aware of those new recruits that will be ready to assist you in moving your conference forward.

Can you imagine the potential? Churches that (if anything) only had a Pathfinder focus, can now have a full and vibrant senior youth and young adult ministry as well, simply because a leader was identified and was CLYP trained.
Please make a commitment to get several people from each of your churches to enroll in CLYP and see what a difference it is going to make in the lives of a forgotten generation. Several of you have even decided to go through CLYP just to refresh their youth ministry skills and learn new ones, and others have already committed to enrolling members in their conference's churches for this training. Thank you – You are setting the example and envisioning wonderful results in your conference.

Please join with us as we assist the CLYP organizers in getting the word out to our church members and leaders. The time is now!!! Registration is open 24/7. Register at www.clyponline.com. The Good Shepherd cares for His sheep!

Blessings,

James Black, NAD Youth/Young Adult Dir.

Manny Cruz, NAD Youth/Young Adult Assoc. Dir.

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