"The Update" eNewsletter, October/November 2013

You HAD to be There!

This past Sunday was an exciting day for Senior Youth and Young Adults. In preparation for our Year End Report for the NAD Executive Committee, we had to present our report on Young Adult LIFE (also known as Young Adult Retention). We were blessed to have young adults present the entire report -- which included the newly released research by the Barna Group on Seventh-day Adventist Millennials. The result of the report can be viewed here.

Benjamin Lundquist and Marquis Johns, both young adults, gave the Young Adult LIFE (YAL) presentation. In addition, five students from Washington Adventist University read "A Letter to the Church." This insightful letter's reading brought a standing ovation. Additionally, young adult guest representatives from iShare (Pacific Union) and Adventist Intercollegiate Association (all NAD Adventist Universities) were given opportunity to participate and "give their voices" to the LIFE conversation. While they had no voting privileges, their voices WERE clearly heard!

It was clear from the Young Adult LIFE report that the NAD is clearly on a path to fighting and eliminating the issue of youth and young adult attrition. Established from the ground up, a focused group of about 30 young adults met earlier this year to establish an agenda and areas of focus for investing this initiative. The areas are:

1. We Are Listening
2. Small Group Communities
3. Why am I an Adventist?
4. iCreate Movement
5. The Locals
6. Public Campuses

$250,000 per year is given to launch and implement these initiatives that will ultimately impact every congregation in NAD. Please make certain your local leaders are tuning in to make certain your church benefits. Having them subscribe to this newsletter is a start.

The full plan and how you can you benefit from resources, training, grants, etc. will be launched at the Just Claim It Prayer Conference in Miami in February. A special two-day conference for Young Adults called IGNITION will host this occasion (this alone makes it worth coming).

Mission Lifeguard – we are pleased to introduce our Mission Lifeguard Coordinators – Steve Case and Carol Moses. Mission Lifeguard was created to assist churches with a plan for search and rescue of missing youth and young adults or anyone. This life-saving resource now has wheels and will be rolling fast. For more info visit www.missionlifeguard.com and register.

Please continue to pray that the power of God will rain down on our church and we will always be sensitive to those whom we have lost and to those who are barely holding on. Jesus says "I came that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly." John 10:10 (last part).

To view all reports including the Defining the Theology of Ordination Study Committee visit http://bit.ly/1eH7Pp

Blessings,
Pastor JB
North American Division
Youth & Young Adult Ministries Director
Prayers

The Thousands Missing in the Phillipines

We cannot begin to comprehend the large numbers of presumed dead and missing in the Phillipines after the recent typhoon wrecked havoc there. Our prayers go out to them. For relief efforts information visit http://www.adra.org.

Just Claim It 4 / Ignition!

Haiti Mission Trip @ Just Claim It / Ignition

Young Adults can do mission service in Haiti prior to JCI Ignition. The mission is to provide love and care to children of the RAC orphanage, continue light painting and finishing work on recently constructed building, assist with agriculture projects of planting fruit trees, and conduct a VBS or evening evangelistic meeting at a local church. Only 40 young adults can participate so space is limited. Information is available at www.jci4.org.

Graffiti for Jesus!
Spray paint the love of Jesus for the people of Miami!
http://youtu.be/-3pr2KpCl4Q

JCI4 / Ignition Teleconference Agenda Items

Tuesday, November 12, 3:00 pm ET. Teleconference login information: http://bit.ly/JCI4teleconference

- JCI Reminders Registration early bird has been extended until _____
- Hotel Reservations
- Miami Area Youth – Be sure to register your youth groups
- Weekend Package still available
- Social Networking -- how to share JCI Ignition
- See Updated Workshop List
- Nightly Concerts are back by popular demand – Talent/musicians, please sign up on web http://bit.ly/JCI4talentaudition
- IGNITION Young Adults Conference as part of JCI4
- Jesus in the City (JIC) Outreach Initiatives
- Special Feature – “The Call to Ministry”
- Sabbath Meal Only – Details
- Pastors needed for Anointing and Communion
- Volunteer Presenters
- Updated JCI Schedule at a Glance
- Especially for Conference Presidents and Youth Directors
- Master Guides

Conference Leadership

Youth Directors JCI Shoutouts!

We are now less than 4 months before the opening of JCI4. We need your help in making this YOUR event. Some of you have had a constant flow of information and reminders to your territories and some have said nothing unfortunately. Please, we need your help because are surprise to discover that youth group leaders are missing the deadlines for registration discounts. The early bird saves young people lots of dollars. Please give a weekly shout out to remind your constituents about JCI. Please place the JCI logo and link along with the 90 second video on your websites and social network pages. We are pleased with registration but numbers can be deceiving. We need you to remind folks that in addition to the full package, there is a weekend package that includes a Sabbath meal for only $40, etc. We have a team of young leaders who are calling churches and pastors and the responses are always positive. Still the surveys show that many have heard nothing from conference or union leaders. Please rally for your youth and young adults for this unique experience.

We are please to report that when a call was made to one pastor, he was so excited to know that the Adventist Church offers a ministry like JCI. He is now rallying all the churches in his city to bring as many youth as possible. Please call and make your reservation now and spread the JCI Fire. If you have any questions please let us know how we can assist you.

Meet Our Conductor Team!

We are priveleged to have three professionals join our team to bring us orchestra and choral performances. Learn more about auditions by "liking" our JCI FB page or Twitter @justclaimit. Auditions are being accepted through YOUTUBE! If you are receiving THIS newsletter you are already signed up to receive JCI Newsletters. Does your youth group need to subscribe?
**Announcements / Highlights / Reports**

**Young Adult LIFE Featured at NAD Year-end Meetings**

On Sunday November 3, the North American Division Retention of Young Adults Building Block better known as Young Adult LIFE, was presented by Focus Group Members Benjamin Lundquist and Marquis Johns. They were introduced by Debra Brill, NAD Vice President and the presentation began with the six "Initiatives/Ideas" that the Young Adult Focus Group developed: We Are Ready to Listen, Small Group Communities, iCreate, Why Am I An Adventist?, The Locals and Mentoring/Campus Ministry. Benjamin mentioned the NAD Camp Ministry study and how Adventist Camp Ministry is one of the best ways to retain young adults in the church. The presentation also included a report from Clint Jenkins, PhD Vice President for Research for The Barna Group on the SDA Millennials Study. The NAD Year End Meeting delegates listened intently as Dr. Jenkins shared the attitudes of SDA Young Adults (ages 18-29) towards the SDA Church, Doctrines, Lifestyles and Practices. He also shared stories of several SDA Young Adults and how their intergenerational relationships in the church had affected them in both positive and negative ways. He concluded by reminding the attendees that intergenerational relationships, especially mentoring type relationships between older members and young adults are crucial in the spiritual development of SDA Millennials and ultimately in their decision to stay or walk away from the church. [Read the Reports here.]

**Travel Schedules**

**Pastor James Black:**
- November 9 – University of Maryland AFC Speaker – College Park, MD
- November 15 – Andrews University Chapel Speaker – Berrien Springs, MI
- November 17 – Florida Conference Adventurer Super Fun Day – Viera, FL
- November 19 – Southern Union Youth Advisory – Daytona Beach, FL
- December 5-16 – Moscow Conference Young Adult Evangelism – Moscow, Russia

**Pastor Manny Cruz:**
- November 9 Dover, DE - Pathfinder Day: Guest Speaker
- November 15-17 Texas A & M University, College Station, TX - Collegiate/Young Adult/Campus Catalyst Weekend: Presenter
- November 18-20 Lake Union Youth Advisory Meetings

**Manny Report: Guam-Micronesia Evangelism**

Recently, I had the opportunity to hold a weeklong Evangelism Series at the Airai SDA Church on the Island of Palau. It had been about 8 years since I had preached an evangelistic series so I was a little nervous because I did not know how I would do. [Read More...]

**REPORT: Harvard Chaplain Appointment**

Ryan Simpson, Associate Director, Youth & Family Ministries Southern New England Conference recently reported "I was appointed as the Seventh-Day Adventist chaplain at Harvard University. I joined a team of over 40 chaplains from a multiplicity of denominations, non-denominations, religions and non-religions (atheists as well). It is an extremely diverse interfaith group with, I believe, enormous ministry opportunities and possibilities. As an Harvard chaplain I am also considered to be an employee of Harvard, albeit without pay, but with certain authority and privilege to function freely as well as to have a say and make meaningful contribution to on campus religious affairs. I therefore solicit your prayers and support as I venture into this phase of ministry to our Adventist students on this campus as well as to the wider Harvard community.” We keep Ryan in our prayers!

**Camp (website)**

**Important Dates to Remember**

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<th>Event</th>
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<th>Location</th>
<th>Source</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AACP Convention</td>
<td>December 4-7</td>
<td>Wewoka Woods – Oklahoma</td>
<td>AACP Newsletter, November 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>CCCA Convention</td>
<td>December 9-12</td>
<td>The Broadmoor, Colorado Springs</td>
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<td>ACA Convention</td>
<td>February 5-8</td>
<td>Orlando, Florida</td>
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**Thundersnow Could be Coming Your Way!**
Thundersnow, a somewhat rare occurrence, is becoming more common. Often, it begins with a loud clap of thunder as the masses of air and moisture collide. With the colder temperatures, the thunder is often followed by significant snowfall. As compared to a spring thunderstorm, these colder storms have cumulonimbus clouds that are much lower. And instead of rain falling, it’s snow falling. These clouds form in an area of upward motion in the cold sector of the storm. You can often see flashes of lightning and hear the clap of thunder when thundersnow is happening. [source: www.optcorp.com/ccd-imaging/astrophotography/ccd-video-cameras.html]

Want More from the AACP Newsletter?
If you enjoyed the Camp articles, sign up for the AACP Monthly E-News. Contact bnmiddag@comcast.net.

Living It High School [website]

How To Live Out Your Faith Promo – Vimeo!
http://vimeo.com/77857176
For more information also see: www.livingiths.org

Public High School Quick Stat Guide!
Help your church leaders catch the vision by providing them with the Public High School Ministry Quick Start Guide. Each church can make a commitment to minister to high school students in some way. This booklet helps you determine what level of commitment your church may be ready to take on. The Public High School Ministry Quick Start Guide is now available from AdventSource!

Living It HS App!
Now you can keep the Living it resources you love with you at all times, right there in your pocket! The Living it app is up for grabs, right now, at the App Store. Have inspiring videos and devotionals at your finger tips, and be alerted to new content as soon as it's available. Available for

Young Adults / ACF [Public Campus website]

Ignition 2014 – Miami, FL
It's not just for youth! Just Claim It 4 is also about IGNITION, the unique gathering for training, networking, praise, and much more specifically for young adults. Look for more information in a news update later this week, along with information being published on Just Claim It 4 (website, Facebook, and Twitter (@justclaimit)).

LIFE comes to NAD Young Adults!
Ron Pickell, Volunteer Coordinator, Campus Ministries shares his excitement that NAD Young Adult initiatives have received funding from the NAD. [source: http://youtu.be/KbIBNa56lA]

SDA Millenial Study
As mentioned above, there has been a recent study of Adventist Young Adults and their faith was commissioned by the North American Division to learn about the current trends in Adventist Young Adult spirituality and their relationship to the church. To learn where Adventist young adults are on the continuum with the rest of their non-Adventist peers check out the report on their findings. Read More here. The telling question of the Barna findings is - Do we care more about our children or our traditions?

MERGE Report: Young Adults on Montana University Campus Encounter God
“This weekend MERGE hosted a three-part workshop called iConnect, led by Dr. Allan Walsh and held at a chapel on the Montana State University campus. The aim was to learn and practice experiential ways to engage God. At the heart of each of the sessions was the idea that God communicates to people through the Bible - but not solely in an academic/doctrinal/“study” sort of way. Through journaling and using imagination to enter into the story, students representing a variety of different faith traditions sought to engage God in conversation through the reading (not solely the “study”) of scripture. My sense of this particular group is that perceived familiarity (without encounter) has indeed bred apathy and skepticism in many. Dr. Walsh and I have high hopes that a more experiential model of conversing with God will prove transformative.” [source: Allan Martin]

Adventist Youth Service @ NYC Marathon!
Over 400 Adventist young adults, teens, and adults from the Greater New York, Northeastern, Southern New England, New Jersey, Allegheny East, and Pensilvania Conferences volunteered for a combined 3,200 hours during the
world's largest marathon, the ING New York City Marathon. They showed Compassion and were the heart, the eyes, the hands, and the feet Read More: Adventists Serve at NYC Marathon

Campus Catalyst Training
Jump start your campus ministry with the North American Division ACF Campus Catalyst Training (CCT). CCT introduces student leaders, participating church members and pastors to the ten essentials of campus ministry helping launch, grow and sustain Adventist public campus ministry. To learn more about CCT go to: CCT Schedules for upcoming CCT events:
- Texas Young Adult/CCT, November 15-17
- Atlantic Union Conference Young Adult/CCT, April 18 - 20, 2014
More Info: Upcoming CCT Events Calendar
Source: ACF Today, October 2013

Adventist Young Adult Wins NYC Marathon!
November 3, 2013, was a good day for 29-year-old Priscah Jeptoo. Jeptoo, an Adventist marathon runner from Kenya, not only participated in her first New York City Marathon, but finished first, with a time of 2:25:07.
http://www.adventistreview.org

Take ACF with You QR
Got a Smartphone? Scan QR code and take ACF Newsletter with you.

ACF Today Monthly Newsletter
We can't list all the resources you would receive on a monthly basis if you took the 20 seconds to sign up! Even YOU can take 20 seconds! Sign Up Now!

Adventurers (website)

Awards That Bug You?
Adventurers NOTICE: bugs in ways most adults don't. Feed their curiosity with this cool award: Ladybugs.
PREP Powerpoint Presentation for leaders | Award Requirements

REPOST: NAD Adventurer Camping Policy
Adventurers and Pathfinders are both club organizations for young people within the Adventist Church. However, CAMPING POLICY is VERY different & may change your annual plans!
Find out more...

New 2013 Adventurer Award Requirements Released!
While the patches aren't available quite yet, the requirements are available for 2013-2014 club planning.
* Cooperation
* Tabernacle
* Sand Art

Pathfinders (website)

Pathfinders Earn a $1000 Award -- Webinar
Join InStep for Life for an informational webinar that may help YOUR club earn $1000!
http://www.pathfindersonline.org/31-news/service/379-instep-for-life-1000-award-webinar

PBE Information
PBE 2 Samuel Activity Guide
PBE SDA Bible Commentary 1 & 2 Samuel

How are You Affecting the LIFE of Your "Wimpy Kid(s)"?
http://www.wimp.com/footballplayers/
Resources (website)

Menu Book of NAD Youth Ministry Offerings Still Available

You may have wondered what all the North American Division Youth & Young Adult Ministries Department offers YOU.

Look no further than this "Menu."

Download (9.6 MB PDF)

Inspiration from Ellen White

"The effort to bless others will react in blessings upon ourselves. This was the purpose of God in giving us a part to act in the plan of redemption. He has granted men the privilege of becoming partakers of the divine nature and, in their turn, of diffusing blessings to their fellow men. This is the highest honor, the greatest joy, that it is possible for God to bestow upon men. Those who thus become participants in labors of love are brought nearest to their Creator…. Every act of self-sacrifice for the good of others strengthens the spirit of beneficence in the giver's heart, allying him more closely to the Redeemer of the world…. And it is only as we thus fulfill the divine purpose in our creation that life can be a blessing to us."

Step to Christ pg. 79 - 80

Source: AACP E-News, November 2013

Ministry Openings / Ministry Seekers

Advertise Here!

Looking for a ministry professional? Let us advertise for you and reach a wide network across the NAD. Contact us!

In Closing

During this holiday season, as your youth group, church, or family celebrate what you are thankful for, maybe you will find these texts significant as you say "Thank You" to the Source of all blessings:

Psalm 31:19
How great is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you, which you bestow in the sight of men on those who take refuge in you. (NIV)

Psalm 95:1-6
"O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is his also. The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land. O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker." (KJV)

Psalm 100
"Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations." (KJV)

The NAD Youth/Young Adult Ministry Team

To unsubscribe from our list(s), CLICK HERE
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Reports:

Barna Report Powerpoint | Barna Report Summary (PDF) | Handout/summary (PDF)

Our Response:

Presentation | Young Adult Ignition website
Last month, I had the opportunity to hold a weeklong Evangelism Series at the Airai SDA Church on the Island of Palau. It had been about 8 years since I had preached an evangelistic series so I was a little nervous because I did not know how I would do.

After months of preparation, I arrived on the island on a Friday night and was received by a wonderful delegation of kids, youth, student missionaries and pastors. On Saturday morning I woke up excited and ready to preach. As I stepped out of my room I realized that I was going to have to get used to the 86 degree weather and the humidity. Before I even got into the vehicle that was to transport me to the church, I was already drenched in sweat.

That day at church I was greeted by a wonderful group of people who treated me like I was family. I discovered that Palauans are very friendly people. They are so warm and hospitable. They reminded me of my first church in Galeana, Mexico. That night we started the Evangelistic Meetings and we had a good attendance. Each night the people kept coming back and by the end of the week we had 42 decisions for baptism. I have to mention that the Pastor and members there and the Palau Mission Academy staff did an excellent job preparing for these meetings. I have to especially thank Pastor Eliki at the Academy and Abner Sanchez the academy principal for all their support and follow up. On my last day there, I had the privilege of witnessing 20 individuals being baptized, many of them young people. As I boarded the plane headed back home, I thought about how nervous I was going into this. I was reminded that it's God who does the work, not us.

PS I would encourage anyone who wants to go on a mission trip, to consider Palau, Guam and/or the Micronesian Islands.