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**Ice Rinks, Exhibitions and Art**

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31 July 2013 Novi Sad, [Agnieszka Kluska, tedNEWS] A large glowing red cross was lifted up off the stage and so the morning worship began. Short video segments, warm welcome from the hosts and inspiring music followed, all under the theme for today: 'The Power of Jesus to make us NEW'.
Before Matthew Gamble walked onto the stage to preach, a short drama piece preceded. "My child you are beautiful", the words of acceptance culminated a lively performance seasoned with a pinch of humour.

Matthew Gamble, the main speaker for today who is a pastor at Elmshaven Seventh-day Adventist Church, is known for his passion for Christ and love for the youth and there is no doubt the message did appeal to young people. "Some people believe they need to get over sin to be accepted by Christ. This is not the gospel! The gospel of Jesus Christ is this:"
You’re going to heaven because of what Christ has done, what he is still doing and what he will continue to do. But what you need is Christ in you.”

The speaker emphasized the importance of being filled with the Holy Spirit. He also encouraged the audience to focus more on Jesus and less on one’s sinful self. The power of One is available to live a victorious life in Jesus Christ. „As we continue through this incredible Congress, may God breathe His Holy Spirit onto you“ he concluded.

The time of reflection and worship was sealed with the intercessory prayer led by Kärt Vahtramäe, the leader of the worship team.

[tedNEWS]

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31 July, 2013 Novi Sad, Serbia [Tabitha Krznar, ted/MEDIA] The rising temperatures and heat of the Novi Sad sun have only increased the energy of the Power of One congress delegates who attended the first of the Adventist Youth Congress (AYC) Workshops, social activities and Art Exhibition from 11:00-18:30 today.

17 different workshops and speakers shared personal experiences and spiritual insight with AYC delegates. The largely attended workshop presented by Pastor David Asscherick inspired us to live the "The Mission Lifestyle," by outlining the important biblical principles of the nurture of both spiritual and physical health while taking up the call to walk a Christ-centered and mission-focused life. "This was a life changing message for me," says Elycia Martins from Australia.
Saralie Bognandi and Maren Maanja from Sweden were encouraged and confronted in Dr Matthew Gamble’s workshop "The Porn Epidemic." "We weren't sure what to expect with this workshop, but we discovered that Pornography is probably as big an issue as alcoholism and we don't talk about it enough at church if at all." "Dr Gambel encouraged us by saying that starting to study the Bible for just 15 minutes a day can give us victory from such addictions."
After the consumption of workshop information it was time for AYC delegates to consume physical food. The SPENS centre make-shift food court (ice rink) was full of excitement as the lively multilingual chatter rivaled that of The Tower of Babel. Food proved a great vehicle for networking according to Mariam Castillo Joya, Spain, who said, "It's not everyday you get to meet new people from all different countries and eat a delicious nutritious iceless lunch in an ice rink!"

An important part of physical health at this Power of One Congress is to increase and maintain hydration, "drink water, and lots of it, stay out of the sun, eat healthy and dress in light clothing," suggested a Power of One congress first aider. Please note that the medical team is diligently working to keep you healthy and safe, so please seek medical attention from our diligent medical team if you are unwell.

The networking and fun continued with Martin Skarka from the Czech Republic testing his coordination in the social activity time by playing "Labyrinth." This was a game invented by Romanian Ionel Indricau who used the steel from his own truck to create a yellow "golf ball in the hole-coordinated maze for the Romanian Pathfinder camp." "The game was much harder than it looked, but worth trying because I got to make some new friends out of it," says Martin.
The real talent was showcased by a vast array of AYC delegates at the official Power of One Art Exhibition in the Small Hall commencing at 17:00 this afternoon. The countries represented there were: Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Italy, Serbia, Scotland and the United Kingdom. Each country’s finest gave performances in various art forms such as music, visual art, interpretive movement, and drama.

Klara Njagach from Croatia said "I was blessed by all the items at Art Exhibition, each person was from a different country and had different talents to share, it was a wonderful spiritual experience which brought me closer to God."

Throughout the performances we watched the development of an evolving artwork, which later revealed the powerful image of the cross of Christ symbolising the stages of our personal spiritual walk and development as Christians.
The Art Exhibition proved a highlight for many, such as Leah Tobler from Switzerland who said, "The artistic painting and the step-by-step development of The Cross by Krystal was so interesting to watch, the musical items and drama were equally amazing, the Art Exhibition was definitely a highlight for me!"

AYC Delegates were able to beat the heat and deliver nothing but positive feedback for today's Power of One congress action packed activities. The powerful words of Art Exhibition co-host Sarah's musical item continue to inspire and motivate us as we anticipate the evening programme, "Our God is greater; our God is stronger; God, you are higher than any other!" [tedNEWS]

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'Side By Side We Stood, In song at Afterglow Praising our Awesome God Gathered round the guitar and our drummer-bro!

Lord, We Come To You To Lift Your Name On High! Celebrate Jesus, Celebrate! Remembering the cross on which You died.

The Power Of One, Each singing their part You are Mighty To Save! So please, Lord, Open The Eyes Of Our Heart!

You Are My Desire, On the new earth we shall meet Soon and Very Soon, We will see the Prince of Peace!

Kumbaya My Lord, Hear our harmonious prayer Countries sing together For tonight’s Afterglow, will YOU be there?'
Wednesday evening’s message was brought to us by the enthusiastic Pastor Matthew Gamble who, encouraged our young people to dig deeper into the book of Ephesians. With reference to chapter 1 verse 13, which says: ‘Christ also brought you the truth, which is the good news about how YOU can be saved! With your faith strong and with the Holy Spirit’s signature seal, there’s no doubting that YOU are a child of God!’

Will you take the Gamble, the leap of faith and believe that before you were even born, God had an amazing plan for your life?

Will you take a Gamble on giving your all to the One who loves you? Religion teaches you that you have to earn salvation; the Bible shows us that we have to accept it. Will you take a Gamble and accept Jesus, today?

Please join us live for the morning and evening worship sessions: www.ted-adventist.org. [tedNEWS]

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A Free Refill at the European Youth Congress in Novi Sad

31 July 2013 Novi Sad, Serbia [Yvonne Bauwens, tedNEWS] Welcome, Greece! Welcome, Hungary! Welcome, Estonia! Welcome, Norway! These are just a few out of the 45 countries represented here making total of around 3,000 guests. Each cheers at the calling of their name, while waving flags and standing tall for their nation, as an exceptional array of coloured clothing takes to the stage and we are treated to some traditional Serbian dancing – The Kolo! There is no denying that although many countries are present in the massive arena at SPENS Sports Centre, we are indeed in Serbia! For what reason? The Seventh-Day Adventist Youth Congress, 2013! As the sun beats down on the city of Novi Sad we gather together for this long-awaited event. We join together to celebrate, to be re-vitalised and to unite with fellow believers. That is the Power of One, the power of Jesus Christ in our lives.
Excitement and anticipation fill the room as the band take to the stage. Side by side we are ready to face the mighty tempests of life, our theme song reminds us: ‘hold tightly to the Hand of God, we will be strong! Voices are lifted and hearts rejoice; we are united!’

Proclaiming the glory of God by hearing the inspiring messages from the lips of our speakers, it does not end as we walk out the door. Take these words with you wherever you go, and may our lives be Bibles for others to read.

Good physical food, our minds indulged in the spiritual vegetables we craved as Pastor Dejan Stojkovic encouraged you and I to connect and re-connect with our personal Saviour.
Talking of food, Dejan, do you need any help in devouring all that popcorn?! It was free?? Surely not! But there is no such thing as a ‘free lunch’. Sceptical of the freebies in this life, convinced we have misread the small print, we often find ourselves not believing the gift of something free! So often there is a catch, a hidden term of condition and we leave disappointed. During the first of what I know will be a week of inspiring and thought-provoking messages; Pastor Dejan encourages the young people to accept Jesus’ free refill. Free for us to accept, all you have to do is believe and say ‘YES!’ Coca-Cola may satisfy your need for a quick sugar fix and Ice-Tea is refreshing on a hot day, but tonight Pastor Dejan invited us to drink from a cup that will eternally quench your thirst.

Isaiah 55 verse 1-2 says: ‘If you are thirsty, come and drink water! If you don’t have any money, come, eat what you want! Drink wine and milk without paying a dinar. Why waste money on something that really isn’t food? Why work hard for something that doesn’t satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and you will enjoy the very best of foods!’

Shooting those ‘evil’ chickens with stones may not be high on your priority list, but here at the European Adventist Youth Congress, may you be inspired to connect with Jesus and make Him your No.1 priority in life!
First Impressions from AYC 2013

31 July 2013 Novi Sad, Serbia [Agnieszka Kluska, ted/NEWS] Some have been travelling 14 hours by bus, some have been travelling 8 hours by car, but for some it has been only a 2-hour flight. Young Adventists from all around Europe have been flooding to Novi Sad, the third largest city in Serbia, to take part in Pan-European Youth Congress, under the theme ‘The Power of One’.

The Congress has been organised by the Trans-European and Inter-European Divisions, but there are guests coming from all around the world. There are 19 people from Euro-Asia Division, 15 people from Australia, 8 from Canada, 2 from Chile and 2 have just arrived from Papua New Guinea” says Judy McKie, Congress Assistant. ‘We’re expecting around 3,000 people with the climax of 4,000 people on Saturday’. 

Everyone comes to the Congress with different expectations, however, there are some goals shared by all; meeting new friends and hearing good preaching is the key focus of youth coming to Novi Sad. ‘We’d like to meet new people and have a chance to meet Jesus’ say Anja, Stephanie and Valeria from Germany. ‘I’m expecting things I have not done or seen before. Maybe some new ideas for outreach and church work,’ adds Paulina from Poland. ‘We want to have fun!’ laughs Daniel from Italy.

The preachers are keen to work with the youth and share their message. ‘I would like to see young people inspired and coming back again to the core of adventism. I’d like to see them interested in God, the story of God and the Bible. On Friday all young people will be taken onto the streets of Novi Sad. I’m expecting to see a lot of these young people ministering,’ says pastor Janos Kovacs-Biro.

Some newcomers are surprised by the heats, but the majority are enjoying the sun and are taking a chance to do some sightseeing before the programme officially starts. Novi Sad, a city situated on the banks of the Danube, is a major cultural centre in Serbia and it has a lot to offer. ‘We went for a walk around the city and it’s lovely. There are lots of nice cafes,’ Ola and Sara from Poland are very enthusiastic about their experience. ‘We feel at home here,’ say young people from Croatia.

All the time new people arrive to the Congress site. The hall is crowded and full of laughter and excitement. If you’re not able to join us in person, click here for the live coverage from Novi Sad. [tedNEWS]
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