

# North American Division

## Youth Ministries Update June 2004

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### A. MESSAGE FROM JB

During the summer of 1996 I had the privilege of leading over 500 pathfinders on a 7000 mile bus tour from the Southwest to Calgary, Banff & Glacier National Parks, Salt Lake City, Grand Canyon, and the Petrified Forest. While at Lake Louise in Banff, one of my macho youth was seen wiping tears from his eyes. When asked what was wrong, he replied “I see God for the first time!” Take the advantage of the outdoors (outdoor church). Every now and then give our youth an opportunity to see God in nature. Kindly read Psalms 19:1-6.

### B. BEEN THERE, DONE THAT!

People are always asking me where I’ve been, so here it is:

January 2004

- Mid America Union Youth Directors Advisory – Lincoln, NE
- Penn. Conf. Pathfinder Leadership – Laurel Lake Camp – Weekend highlight was the pathfinders biblical events created in snow.
- Atlantic Union Youth Directors Advisory – S. Lancaster, MA
- Atlantic Union College – Chapel speaker

February

- Walla Walla College Black History Speaker – This was awesome. I was accompanied by NPU Academies Mass Choir as they sang Negro Spirituals.
- Denver, Co – Leadership Convention – I am still standing still and I am still seeing God’s Salvation (smile).

March

- Hawaii Conference – Honolulu Youth Rally – Left early, rescheduled

- Chesapeake Conference Youth Ministries Leadership – Baltimore, MD. Carl Rodriguez and Cheryl Smith are taking things to another level for Chesapeake.
- London, England – Youth Week of Spiritual Revival – Miracles, Miracles, Miracles. I saw God answer every prayer I prayed in 10 days.

April

- Black Adventist Youth Directors Assoc. (BAYDA) Fall Meeting – Oakwood College – Huntsville, AL
- NAD Camp Committee – Camp Mivoden – Spokane, Washington
- Columbia Union Department Meetings – Devotional Speaker and meet with Youth Directors Advisory. Mike Stevenson chosen and new union representative. Congratulations Mike!
- Ramah Jr. Academy Homecoming – My first time sharing the preaching stage with my spiritual brother, Senate Chaplain Barry Black. I spoke first, I refused to follow him (I have good cents) “Cents” is a joke!
- Winnipeg Adventist Jr. Academy – Chapel Speaker

May

- Winnipeg Area Rally “Bringing Us All Together” – All four churches closed on Sabbath to support the rally. Roger Wade assisted me. He had the youth and I had the adults. The purpose for the rally was to prepare the local churches for the Canadian Youth Summit this fall, visit [www.youthsdacc.org](http://www.youthsdacc.org)
- Oshkosh, Wisconsin – Downline Directors Meeting – It’s Looking Good!!!
- Northern New England Adventurers Spring Escape – Camp Lawroweld – Utterly amazing!!! I have seen many Adventurer Habitats throughout the years, but what I saw at Northern New England was at another level altogether. We are preparing a special feature with photos. The photos will be featured on the Adventurer web site at [www.adventure-club.org](http://www.adventure-club.org)

So, as you can see, there has not been much time for fishing!

### **C. DENVER – FOLLOW UP**

Praise God! NAD Youth are still reaping from what was sown. As a result of the NAD Youth Ministries Leadership Conventions, conferences are adding junior and senior youth ministries to their leadership tracks. Four youth pastors from Southern California Conference have already met with their leaders to create a strategic plan for implementing what they learned. Several conferences are organizing their churches to establishing youth federations to support area youth and strengthen churches that are struggling. The Central California Conference Hispanic Youth Coordinator asked for the convention backdrop to use at their leadership training. The teen speakers inspired leaders to train and schedule their youth to speak at campmeetings. Presenters are being invited all over NAD to train. With the presenters help, several new resources are being developed. Finally, posted on the web site is a comprehensive report from Kelli Dulan, a youth leaders from the Breath of Life Church in Los Angeles, CA. This report to her Director, Ron Pollard is what gives me the strength to continue working for the Lord and our youth.

Convention DVD and VHS videos are ready. They are AWESOME!!! Capture the moments from opening to closing. Program & Souvenir videos are available. Call AdventSource and order your set today!!! 800-328-0525.

#### **D. 2004 YEAR OF EVANGELISM**

This is the year of evangelism. Don't forget to ask your administrations for evangelism funding. This is usually given separate from your regular conference or church operating budgets. Many young people are sharing the Sow One Billion cards with their friends. Encourage pathfinder and youth groups to play a part in leading people to Jesus.

#### **E. NAD YOUTH & PATHFINDERS REAL TV**

I believe Seventh-day Adventists are the head and not the tail. Every time I watch American Idol I keep thinking, "I've seen better than that", "we have better than that". We have some of the most talented youth in the world. My dream is to have our youth and pathfinders share their God-given talents before the world so Jesus can be glorified. We will show the world that talents don't have to be compromised. We have entities ready to make this happen. Adventist Television Network (ATN) has made a commitment to televising youth in action and a weekly pathfinder television program. I am sure you would want your youth and pathfinders to be a part of this initiative. Stay tuned for further instructions.

#### **F. SUMMER & DAY CAMP EVANGELISM**

My thanks to the Union Journals that dedicated their entire spring issue to camp ministries. Every year thousands of young people have life changing experiences at Adventist camps. Please help promote and pray for our teams as they follow God's directions in leading our children. Safe Camping!!!

I am pleased to announce that the NAD Camp Committee recently voted to approve the final draft of our first Day Camp Manual. This is a resource for local churches. Bill Wood chaired the day camp task force. Thanks guys!

#### **G. BIBLE BOWL MINISTRIES**

Although we don't have an approved division level Bible Bowl, we support all three of our active Bible Bowl ministries. Congratulations to the Michigan model and the Mid-America model for hosting successful championship play this spring. The BAYDA model plays this fall.

#### **H. NADFOF PATHFINDER CAMPOREE**

I just returned from a planning meeting in Oshkosh. We are excited about the 30,000 registered campers. Ron Whitehead, our camporee director, the downline directors, and

hundreds of volunteers are ready for “Faith On Fire”. Let’s continue praying for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on this event. Make your checklist and check your checklist.

**I HAVE A CONCERN!** As pathfinder leaders, let us be very careful how we manipulate attendance to spiritual events as reward and punishment. I receive calls about pathfinders who may not come to the camporee because of behavior problems, etc. We should address the behavior but don’t deny a child an opportunity to meet Jesus at “Faith On Fire”. Remember, pathfinders is a ministry, not a social club for the obedient. Use your pathfinders in the club to minister to those who struggle with behavior challenges. Jesus said “I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance”. On camporee Sabbath, when I make the appeal for young people to accept Jesus, it’s impossible for “Larry” to respond if he’s not there. Just a concern!!!

## **I. NAD YPAC COMMITTEES UPDATES**

For the first time in our history you can visit [www.adventistyouthministries.org](http://www.adventistyouthministries.org) for a complete summary of the Youth, Pathfinder, Adventurer and Camp (YPAC) Committee actions for 2004.

## **J. FUTURE EVENTS REMINDER**

- August 10-15, 2004 – Faith On Fire Camporee, Oshkosh, WI
- August 22-28, 2004 – West Africa Division Camporee, Nigeria
- September 16-19, 2004 - Canadian Youth Summit, Winnipeg, Manitoba
- September 23-26, 2004 – Potomac Conf./NAD Leadership Convention
- September 23-27, 2004 – Youth Specialties, Anaheim, CA
- October 7-11, 2004 – Youth Specialties, Dallas, TX
- November 19-23, 2004 – Youth Specialties, Atlanta, GA
- November 19-21, 2004 – Lake Region/NAD Leadership Convention
- December 1-4, 2004 – AACP Conv., Nosoca Pines Ranch, Liberty Hill, SC
- December 5-8, 2004 – CCI Convention, Savannah, Georgia
- December 27-31, 2004 – South Pacific Division Youth Congress, Fiji
- January 7-13, 2005 - NAD Ministries Convention – Orlando, FL
- February 24-27, 2005 – NAD Adventurers Convention, Portland Oregon

## **K. RECOMMENDED RESOURCES**

I am pleased to announce that our web site has been updated with a brand new look. I want to thank those who continue to give input as we develop this resource to help meet you needs in youth ministry. Visit the new site for current recommended resources at [www.adventistyouthministries.org](http://www.adventistyouthministries.org). **IMPORTANT NOTE** – If you do not see a total new look, click the refresh button on your browser window.