

# **North America Division**

## **Youth Ministries Update March 2004**

### **Convention Follow up:**

**THANKFULNESS** - I want to thank the Lord for stepping in and allowing us to see His salvation in Denver. I also want to thank everyone who went beyond the call of duty to help make this one of the best training events I had ever seen. We are indebted to the **ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE** for supplying us with a record number of volunteers for registration and much more. Thanks to Jim Brauer, the conference president, and your entire leadership team. Thanks to Ron Russell, from the Mid America Union and all the conference youth directors for being a great host. Most of all, thank you Jesus!

**OFFICIAL DELEGATE COUNT** – During the convention, many kept asking “how many delegates?” I intentionally refrained from playing on the numbers because I did not want us to be distracted. We had 1300 delegates to pre register and 200 registered on site. For Sabbath, an addition 300 chairs were added for the Sabbath attendees. This gave us a total attendance of approximately 1800 from around North America, Inter America, Trans European, and South Pacific Divisions. To view the breakdown by conferences and daily photos, visit [www.adventistyouthministries.org](http://www.adventistyouthministries.org). Please note that the conference list is only a total from those who had their photos taken for the directory. If corrections are needed please let us know. Some delegates did not indicate a conference.

**YOUTH AWARDEES** – Please send us a single photo and your biography for our website and publication. Please rush!

**EMAILS** – Please beware of unauthorized entities who will group you into their mailing lists. I want to be clear that my office does not give permission for anyone to solicit you to subscribe to their electronic newsletters. I would respectfully ask that discretion is used with the cd directory.

**EVALUATIONS** – Your observations count. If anything extreme occurred during this convention that you feel was overlooked, please do not hesitate to share it with me. I am already aware of several presenters who went beyond our agreement and had their own agenda. Some used this opportunity to market their own programs that have not been endorsed by the North American Division Youth Ministries. Every presenter will receive a copy of their evaluations. Our team is having a second debriefing on Sunday, Feb. 28. We will list the observations on the website. If something was missed or not addressed please let me know.

**PRESENTERS** – I want to thank you once again for your cooperation. Your expertise and volunteer spirit are the heart beats that make this event possible and affordable. Many of you did not give us an electronic copy of your presentation. We need the

presentation as a resource for the website. Delegates would like to download the presentations for continued training in their local churches. Please send them ASAP to [cloveth.smith@nad.adventist.org](mailto:cloveth.smith@nad.adventist.org) or [james.black@nad.adventist.org](mailto:james.black@nad.adventist.org) We need to receive these within the next 72 hours. Thanks.

**OFFERING** – Based on the emails I received, many of you thought we were going to take another offering on Sabbath evening and were prepared to give. Well, I wished we had. First, I want to thank everyone for \$7000. We missed our goal by \$3000. For those who would still like to help, you can send donations to NAD Youth Ministries - 12501 Old Columbia Pike - Silver Springs, MD 20904.

**THE CONVENTION IS OVER, WHAT DO YOU DO NOW?** – Someone asked if I had any data showing the benefit of these training events. The data comes from you. Every delegate, every church, and every conference has to determine what they will do with the training. I challenged you during my closing challenge to go home and make a difference.

I would suggest the following:

- a. Get help. Establish a council or team to help you make a difference
- b. Create a strategic plan customized to meet your local needs
- c. Share the vision with your church leaders, then with the congregation
- d. Create a calendar of events which includes follow up training for your church
- e. Be sure to involve youth, pathfinders, parents, etc. in all levels of planning.
- f. Refuse to accept defeat. Be determined. As a leader, keep God first and last in everything.

Summary - Answer these questions:

What is your plan?

Is it written down?

Is it clear?

Can it be communicated?

Is it workable?

How can you implement it?

When will you begin?

Jesus had a plan!

Please stay in touch. This is the year of Evangelism. Let us know what your youth, pathfinders, adventurers, master guides and camps are doing.

May God bless us as we continue.

James Black, Director  
NAD Youth Ministries

