

Young Adult Ministry Advisory
North American Division Youth/Young Adult Ministries
February 17, 2008 10:30a-3:00p
Adam's Mark Hotel • Dallas, Texas

Introduction - 10:50am

Allan Martin - welcome and opening comments

- Purpose of Young Adult Ministry Advisory [YAMA] is to disciple young adults (post-highschool – pre-parenthood)
- Each member of the YAMA serves as an example of Christ's body functioning in diverse unity, capitalizing on strengths for the benefit of the body.

Consecration – 11:00am

Praying through the Sanctuary - Carolyn Macomber, Roy Ice, Elia King, Nick Zork

Definition – 11:45am

Allan Martin – Young Adult Ministry Advisory [YAMA] is a recognized advisory to the North American Division [NAD] Youth/Young Adult Ministries Department. This think tank of young adults, ministry practitioners, and professionals offers leadership and consultation to shaping the vision and direction of young adult initiatives based in the United States, Canada, & Bermuda.

Emphasis was given to YAMA's role offering solely "advisement" to the NAD Youth and Young Adult Ministries department. This is not an official committee, but is recognized as an advisement entity to the NAD through the department.

Administration – 12:00pm

Minutes – VOTED to accept the minutes from February 2007 Young Adult Ministry Advisory [YAMA] as were emailed to each member prior to the meeting.

James Black – "THANK YOU" to Allan Martin and affirming his role as NAD Young Adult Ministry Coordinator. Black noted there will be a budget provided to support Allan Martin and Ron Pickell, ACF/NAD coordinator, so they are more available to provide help at the local and conference levels.

Evaluation – 12:15pm *(see appendix a for compiled raw data)*

IGNITION Evaluation

- Do in the future
 - Separate time of praise and worship as a general session for young adults
 - More self contained with a consistent Ignition experience and opportunity to bond together as a group of YA leaders
 - Food kiosks and eating options
- Do Better
 - Improve technology
 - Clarify differentiation between general session for attendees who may not be familiar with Ignition
 - Record sessions and workshops to distribute on CD

- Done well
 - Encounters CAFÉ!!! Can't say enough good about the experience and thank you to the volunteers and the Lane Campbell and Texas Conference for sponsoring
 - Thank you that this event happened and the ability to worship in an SDA venue
 - Case Studies were very appropriate and helpful
 - Making space and modeling what a young adult ministry with Prayer Rooms and Case Studies
 - Prayer Rooms – special blessing and opportunity to express worship through prayer; also appreciated that they were open to the whole conference

Follow up to Initiatives of 2007 (*see appendix a for compiled raw data*)

- Leadership in the public college campuses with Adventist Christian Fellowship (ACF)
 - Ron Pickell recognized as the leader in this area – for more information contact www.acflink.org
 - Learning more about SDA students in public high schools in North America and their needs
- Cruise With a Mission & Impact Taiwan
 - Impact Taiwan – (James Black) 110 from North America attended and participated in 6 projects
 - Next project in 2013 in Cape Town, South Africa
 - CWM – (Raewyn Hankins & Genevieve Koh) 330 young adults from around the world gathered to minister to those in the Caribbean

Lunch Break – 12:50p

Evaluation – 1:45p (*continued*)

Cruise With a Mission 2008 – Genevieve Koh & Raewyn Hankins

- Next CWM slated for December 14-21, 2008, flyers handed out
- Redefining mission as a way of life and not just on the boat – infuse with the trip
- Stronger and clear description of the purpose of the trip
- Limit of 350 people on the boat

Resources and Networks

- Catalyst – partnership with Advent Source as a catalog for young adult ministry and resources with a paper “maga-log” feel
 - Do in the Future
 - “Catalyst in Context” – column of how to stay connected to the larger church – politics of church, children, adults – blog or column format
 - Include DVDs and music – more media - in the resource lists
 - More photos and graphics
 - Do Better
 - Need more “grabbing” cover and more marketing appeal
 - Attach articles to a website with further commentary on the issue or the ministry and resources
 - Has Advent Source catalog feel – may need to be tweaked more

- Done Right
 - Informal/personal pictures – candid and artistic feel
 - Publish events that are going on with young adults around the country
 - Resource/book lists
- Online Social Networking – mentioned the discussion from 2007 YAMA meeting. The idea of an exclusive SDA network was not pursued and that direction was affirmed.
 - Facebook YAMA group doesn't seem to work although OSNs are prevalent among young adult communication
 - Would like to see a feature re: OSN for ministry in Catalyst or some YA geared publication
- GODencounters – reflect on implementing a YA discipleship model for the NAD - what would that look like? (see feature article in Catalyst for description of GE)
[Definition: discipleship – an intentional opportunity for a believer to deepen their love and devotion to Jesus.]

Suggestions for disseminating a discipleship plan to the local churches:

- Kit to reach church and un-church with DVD and resources (aka Jesus loves jeans, etc.)
- Implement discipleship in local church as a grass roots movement without “normal” marketing and “mission impossible” kit – have coaches from current ministries guiding local church – aware of the need for resources in this context as well
- Plurality of models – something that can reach more than the educated segment and “yuppie” young adult generation – there are areas where the population is primarily uneducated minorities – this then becomes a social justice focus – also be sensitive of the young married families
- Instilling the need of being a disciple for ourselves first (and our communities) before going out into broader communities – implementing discipleship into other's lives is far less important than what God is doing in our lives
- Authenticity – getting more support from the division level to allow people who have experience in Deeper, GE Café, etc to help replicate this in their local church as encouragers and coaches
- Day by day resources and “real life” vs. just a large event and seminar that happens
- Events vs. process – focus on the process at home – not neglecting that when we go home. As leaders it is important to emphasize this at home when we do have events and focus on the process that comes out of the event.
- Leaders don't have the answers and also needs to be a disciple – moving from the modern view of “expert” to a fellow traveler on the journey.

GODencounters Conference @ GC 2010

Begin dreaming about the possibility of young adults coming together in an international venue to bring honor and glory to GOD.

- YA ministry coordinator at the local level – SDA church does not have anything like this organized as a conference position.

Dialogue related to developing Young Adult leadership

- Solutions to initiate YA coordinators at the local church level
- Initiate a ministry YA director at the conference level
- Opportunities at the Union level for a YA ministry director/coordinator

Motions – 2:45pm

MOTION – NAD consider raising the budget for Young Adult ministry... Two-fold request 1) for travel budget already committed to by James Black and 2) further resources to overall ministry to the division. Division asked to consider the growing awareness, referring to the 200+ registrants of the summit specifically interested in young adult ministry and the 60+ attendance of YAMA.

Second

VOTED – APPROVE above motion

MOTION – Especially at constituency vote gatherings, consider the above young adult ministry budget recommendation be replicated at the union, conference, local church level providing support for young adult ministry at each level of church administration/structure.

Second

VOTED – APPROVE above motion

RECOMMENDATION/NOTATION to include Maranatha projects as part of the Young Adult Ministry opportunities. Currently there are two trips annual specifically targeting young adults.
NOTED

MOTION - create a task force to formulate a plan for a GODencounters gathering concurrent with the General Conference Session 2010.

Question – is this competing with the GC when this is a leadership arena of the whole church?

Answer – no, there was only one young adult delegate to the 2005 General Conference and this would not be seen as an event to pull them away. Simply an effort to gather young adults during the GC Session for worship.

Discussion - Recommend that GODencounters gathering happen before the GC session with prayer and service opportunities being a focus of the conference.

Discussion – Implications of collaboration with IMPACT events.

VOTED – APPROVE the above motion with stated questions noted

VOTED to adjourn with prayer 3:12pm

Elisa Brown, MBA, recording secretary

A Allan Martin, PhD, CFLE, chairperson

Date

Appendix A:
Compiled Feedback Data
From YAMA February 2008

NAD Young Adult Ministry Advisory

Compiled Feedback • 021708

Content Areas

1. Summit
2. IGNITION
3. Elements of Youth Adult Discipleship Models
4. Recommendations for Young Adult Ministry Development at local and conference level
5. Catalyst
6. Cruise with a Mission
7. ACF

* Comments mentioned multiple times are written once with parenthesis indicating their frequency (example = 2x, 3x)

1. NAD Youth/Young Adult Leadership Summit

Strengths

- One hotel- everything in one place (3x)
- The food and service was great (3x)
- Keynote speakers were powerful (2x)
 - Eddy Hypolite (2x), Elden Ramirez, Willie Ramos (2x), George Barna
- Letting us have IGNITION
- Good to have forums
- The AV for seminars was an awesome team
- Direction people with info and where to go were excellent
- Exhibit Hall good

- Videos of “ground work,” praying
- Free resources- thanks!
- Tara Vincross- experiential, excellent; Left wishing I had gone to more

Growth Opportunities

- Scheduling
 - Start programs on time, make timing of programs consistent, shorten general sessions, tighten the program (5x)
 - Simpler Schedule - Divide schedules rather than having to page thru all (2x)
 - Schedule breaks between programs (2x)
 - Do recognition of youth on screen.
 - Current info. posted on website such as changes to schedule or immediate events
 - Repeat workshops so people have a chance to go to both
 - Instead of early morning sessions- maybe late night sessions
- General Sessions
 - Shorter general sessions with improved timing (4x)
 - Church was waaaay too long, poorly planned, too packed with different items (3x)
 - Increase worship planning time so worship time is not wasted (2x)
 - Technology was poorly run. Maybe find someone who is better acquainted (2x)
 - Too much going on before message in general sessions- music, video introductions
 - Music in general sessions was more entertainment oriented with the glitzy lights
 - Music that is culturally diverse in its appeal other than at Saturday night concert

- The evening programs/general sessions had wonderful elements but they felt quite disjointed. It felt a bit too much like a variety hour and not enough like an intentional worship service (although there were times of wonderful worship).
- Target Groups
 - Better to separate Pathfinders and Adventurers from Youth and YA
 - Emphasize youth ministries beyond Pathfinders
 - Better organization if we're going to have all age groups in the summit
 - Separate places for young adult/collegiate
- Food
 - Advertise the food court
 - Have some food kiosks
 - Include Sabbath breakfast to avoid conflict of interest and misrepresentation of Adventists when they buy breakfast
 - Food not so elaborate, buffet style- especially on Sabbath please. Box lunches?
 - Schedule Saturday night dinner time
- Misc.
 - Social networking- Saturday night activity
 - Have the next one at Lake Louisa in Canada
 - Temperature needs to be more regulated the cold got to be VERY uncomfortable
 - The theme was poorly represented throughout
 - Great exhibitors, needed more
 - More para-church organizations exposed/highlighted- CYE, John Hancock Center
 - Parking- maybe get discount, etc

- No small group examples
- For us to come was big money- too big of an event to help
- Be nice to exhibitors

2. IGNITION

Strengths

- Sessions
 - Quality speakers/presenters who were relevant, well-prepared, professional, and extremely insightful, many were young adults (7x)
 - Human Sexuality Seminar (Keep addressing the challenging, relevant issues of our church/young people), good to divide into gender groups, interactive, Gamble and Townsend did a good job (6x)
 - Good variety of relevant workshops (6x)
 - Case studies- actual practitioners (4x)
 - Well-organized
 - Outreach- socks and towels
 - Seminars were practical and experiential
 - Schedule was good
 - Secular campus seminars
 - Recognizing a need and taking action for it
 - Willing to listen
 - Aware of current trends/issues
 - Enlisting quality leadership
 - Intentional thematic and well-integrated programming (styles and resources)
 - “Balloon” tables during meals
 - Information from Allan

- Post-modern talks- question/answer session
- AV support for presenters
- The leadership and presenters/speakers were real and honest. You can tell that they really cared, both for you as an individual and for the entire young adult population.
- Experiential Space and Time
 - Encounters Café (great atmosphere/ambience, inviting, loved set-up, comfortable talking to people, able to worship, discussing something real, interactive, reflective, times for socializing) (13x)
 - Prayer rooms (4x)
 - This was a safe place to be real and open (2x)
 - Elia King and Nick (2x)
 - Very experiential when it came to worship and prayer.
 - Spiritual atmosphere
 - Heart experience, not just an intellectual gathering
 - Speakers were authentic, genuine, real
 - Variety of learning experience (presenting, experiential, variety of topics)
 - Having space
 - Not only how to do young adult ministry but it was modeled
- Networking
 - Good opportunities for dialogue and networking (4x)
 - Quality leaders (2x)
 - We felt that we developed into a tight-knit community within a very short time.
- Resourcing
 - Giveaways (2x)
- Promotion
 - Good promotion, marketing, signs

- NAD Connection
 - Combined w/ and recognized by NAD, good combo (2x)
 - Having young adult conference at all (2x)
 - Engaging young adult at General Session

Growth Opportunities

- Recording and Technology
 - Offer notes from other case studies or combine them so hear both (2x)
 - Record all sessions/workshops and sell them (2x)
 - Technology needs to be better
- Connection with NAD Summit
 - Worship didn't hit young adults. Focus on Pathfinders & youth (3x)
 - Stand alone YA would be even better without Pathfinders and Adventurers (2x)
 - Make sure the general sessions start and stop at the right time (2x)
 - Barna's talk- first talk was about children, not young adults
 - Clarify the difference b/t IGNITION and Youth...
 - IGNITION was wrapped around main meeting, not its own identity (Café starting at 9:30 but General Session not out)
 - Young Adult Praise and Worship (apart from General Session)
 - Awful programming in General Session
 - Shorter prayer time
- Workshops, Speakers, and Worship
 - Have main speakers available for dialogue
 - Have a topical track (i.e. list all the presentations on Postmodernism...)
 - Felt scattered- not a coherence (bonding and making connection- more opportunity)
 - You are pulled between the different tracks

- Some presenters were speaking in many different tracks
- Fewer workshops self-contained to build relationships
- More praise and worship
- Dwight Nelson, Rob Bell as speaker
- Toby Mac concert
- CROWDER!!!
- ISRAEL
- Larger & more easily accessible prayer room
- timing of the programs (sometimes ran into each other) too lengthy at times
- Wasn't familiar with songs both in general and at Café
- Encounter Café
 - Have food and drinks for the encounter café (6x)
 - Encounter Café- you said we could talk but so much onstage we didn't feel like we could talk (2x)
 - Weak programming in Café
 - Wi-fi at Café, open all day 4 people to come and go
 - More music in café
 - More original works/creations for music instead of well-known praise songs
- Miscellaneous
 - More heat in the room
 - Get more young adult involvement "on the spot"
 - Do more outreach for the community and other faiths
 - Increase attendance
 - Regional coordinator meetings (See Jose Bourgat for elaboration)
 - ACF must stay involved

- Have point people to come to for questions to be answered
- Focus more on Young professionals- how to keep them and motivate them, equip
- I think that the evening gathering can be a little more interactive, maybe some games that motivate people to talk to each other or people they don't know.
- Give more tools for ministry
- More opportunities to know about it in advance (PR- more communication to the conference leaders/directors directly)
- Volunteer help staff to help guide, direct and inform participants

Suggestions for the Future

- Better advertisement, more promotion, higher attendance, market at the local level through bulletin announcements, flyers so more of those mid- to upper-20s will come (4x)
- More diversity in MUSIC and MUSICIANS.
- Perhaps we could get world-renown, non-adventist speakers, much like NAD did with George Barna. However, I don't consider this a priority, because the speakers/presenters were phenomenal this year.
- Better networking of all conference attendees, attach gatherings to age-based
- A young adult general session
- More experiential for young adult
- Somehow build community intentionally to identify resources
- Push the envelope in all that we do. Christianity and Seventh-Day Adventism has become a "safe practice". If I can borrow from Erwin McManus, "Christianity has become docile, domesticated, civilized. We have forgotten that there is a kingdom of darkness stealing the hopes and dreams and souls of a humanity without God..."
- We need to show by example that living the LIFE is THE most exciting life that you can lead. It is filled with fear of the unknown, uncertainty, unrelenting testing of your character, and brokenness, yet amidst all of this we HAVE hope, peace, personal growth, excitement, adventure, joy, and contentment. Being a Christian is anything BUT BORING.
- Poll more to find out what the attendees might want, as well as prospective attendees. If young adults are being considered 18-35, then we need to consider things for people that are 1) in college 2) just out of college and searching for career/life/establishment/meaning 3) have

newly found establishment and meaning and are wanting to continue to grow spiritually
 4) have never been to college and are starting out on their own in younger years 5) already are married or starting a family and many more.

- Seminars on things like dealing with difficult people or difficult relationships, how to establish yourself in a new church and/or new area, dealing with spiritual emptiness when life gets too busy, being a Christian in a non-Christian workplace, practical ways to get involved in your community, etc. Things with practical application, beyond “hot issues” like relationships, sex, substance abuse, etc. that we have talked about a lot at the youth level.
- Need more of a distinctive difference from the youth event. I understand that general sessions are supposed to be for everyone, but it would be worth considering a general session that isn’t geared toward *youth* ministry for the Ignition track. If possible, maybe have certain rooms that only have Ignition things and others just for youth.

3. Elements of YAM Discipleship Models

- Need the desire for lost souls- all in ministry are called to have this
- Retreats: Spiritual disciplines studied and experienced, visit monastery, classes or small group training in Discipleship (Bible study, prayer), required for small group leaders
- Outreach opportunities
- Spiritual gifts identified or chosen- purpose found for each person
- Testimony of what Jesus is doing in life- help facilitate this, show how to share
- Identify elements of a curriculum, but show several examples/models (GODencounters, The Path, etc.) and identify which elements of the curriculum are being used.
 - Focus on God (not performance)
 - Elements of prayer, scripture, music flow in the gathering
 - Acceptance of differences, interaction, worship in your style
- Our target group seems to be college educated professionals who have grown up Adventist. What about those who don’t go to college or are new immigrants?

4. Recommendations for Young Adult Ministry Development

- At the local church
 - Seek out YA who is already involved, ask them to lead
 - Transition Youth to YA group
 - Have events to start the process of building YA group
 - Vision casting- share harsh reality with church
 - City-wide or regional chapters for YA ministry
 - Churches with strong YA presence can elect rep's for the chapter)
- At the conference level
 - YA Task Force Worker
 - Appoint more Youth/YA Pastors, even to small churches
 - Choose church planters w/ the vision of YA-appropriate churches

5. Catalyst

Strengths

- Real, authentic
- Relevant
- It introduced readers to a ministry, community and a person (Matt Gamble article)
- Good resources, good choice of books
- Good book reviews, like *Dear Church* letters of disillusionment
- Highlights CWM
- Good layout inside, impressive design (2x)
- Helpful for youth pastors who want to go buy the books and do more research

Growth Opportunities

- Feature local youth and community: Alone in a community, how do I connect?
- Column “catalyst in context” how to relate rest of church (children, old people & organization)

- OSN for ministry
- TOO Adventist cover, mainly liked cover because of Matt. Too Insight-ish
- Maybe make “catalyst” vertical or rethink size

6. Cruise With a Mission

Strengths

- It happened and was done well overall (2x)
- Service activities were great- off ship (2x)
- Authentic community with other Adventists
- Good social opportunities for young couples
- Small groups every night
- Excellent speakers

Growth Opportunities

- Community
 - Need more community building/mixers early on (3x)
- Vision
 - Redefine mission statement
 - Concept for retired people perception
 - Didn't strike us as something that was worth supporting initially
 - Not a lot of material that explained what the event does
 - More focus on people coming onboard rather than mission projects
- Service
 - There are other opportunities – like Maranatha's collegiate/young adult mission trips- there are 1-2 each year. July, 2008 to Mozambique December, 2008 to Chile - maranatha.org, David Lopez dlopez@maranatha.org; IMPACT Taiwan in 2013
 - Spend more time @ ports
 - Mission tasks were disconnected

- Communication
 - On-ship not very organized, a lot of disconnect (2x)
 - Add, endorse, promote
- Misc.
 - High cost
 - Mixed reports- positive and negative
 - Young adult team of leaders could have used some appreciation from CYE

7. ACF

Strengths

- Videos and curriculum are being produced (3x)
- Workshops and getting to know each other
- Recognize the term ACF now broadening to target not just SDA's, but all students
- Good up-front exposure at General Session
- Word is getting out

Growth Opportunities

- Need to get the word out, possible provide simple training materials about ACF (3x)
- Update contact info/redesign website - more “usability” – connecting w/ this generation (2x)
- Need more mixing /mingling of leaders and students
- Need more students to come out
- Update logo/brochures to be more appealing to this generation