

Link2Uth

February 2009

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be connected to the

POWER

SOURCE

About 450 young people with their leaders gathered at the 1st New Zealand Pacific Union Youth Congress at Tui Ridge Park, two hours drive from Auckland, New Zealand, from December 30th 2008 to January 4th 2009 under the theme, "In His Hands."

Togamau Tuaoi, Union Youth Director, emphasized the main reason for bringing these youth to the event, "This Congress will assure our youth that they are secure, safe and saved In His Hands". He went on to say, "The congress will inspire youth to be connected, stay connected, with God and with each other.

Youth from the various Conferences comprising New Zealand Pacific Union Conference (NZPUC) met every day for great worship services, plenary sessions, music worship, drama, and fellowship. Tours were organized for each afternoon. The Prayer tent proved to be very popular with the youth. Many youth were seen visiting this venue, writing their prayer requests on a Prayer Wall. This activity was spiritually energizing among them.

Togamau popularly, known as Mau, went on to say, "By bringing these youth here, we want to raise a God-fearing generation of young people who will

not be shaken because they are secure in the relationship with their God. We want to explore what it means to be connected to Christ and still be part of this generation and postmodern world."

On the eve of New Year, December 31, 2008, the Congress organizers prepared a New Year program which featured various cultures of NZPUC. At midnight the program was brought to an end by praising God through music and youth recommitting themselves to place their hands in the Hands of Jesus Christ. Prior to the program a well delivered sermon to welcome the New Year was given by Pastor David Solomon Hall, from the United States. It was very exciting to welcome a New Year surrounded by these rich cultures of the Pacific Islands.

Bringing the Youth Congress to a close, Mau, challenged the delegates to go out and shine for Jesus Christ. He reminded the delegates to "Go Ye into all the World ... go, go, go." Youth responded by participating in the candle lighting as a symbol of going out into their territories letting their lives shine for Jesus Christ. Our Youth in this part of the world are on fire for Jesus Christ!

There are 17,196 church members in New Zealand Pacific Union Conference worshipping in 136 churches.

by Baraka Muganda, World Youth Director



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...and these GOSSIPERS

by Baraka G. Muganda, World Youth Director

As long as you are a leader, you will always be faced by gossipers. They live with us and we cannot run away from them. Have you ever experienced gossip in your ministry? Sometimes even our own youth we lead can start a gossip about you or your ministry. Unfortunately, now and again we, ourselves, start gossips about the youth we lead. I have also found out as church workers we are not immune from "these gossipers".

Gossipers have killed prematurely some leaders, gossipers have broken marriages, gossipers have messed up relationships, gossipers have destroyed the reputation of good people. Gossipers have brought among workers so much hatred and

hurt. Gossipers have created so much animosity among church members who one time were so good friends, the list of damage done by, "these gossipers" can go on and on.

The other day I came across a great way of stopping "these gossipers" I thought I should share it with you leaders who one time or the other you may find yourself fighting "these gossipers." You can use this illustration to assist people who are suffering from this illness.

"In a particular church they had a lady who was known to be the town gossip. She was always sticking her nose into other people's business. One day she accused a new member of being an alcoholic because she had seen his truck in the parking lot in front of a bar. The new member said that he had simply parked there; but the gossip said that if his truck was parked in front of the bar, she knew he was up to no good inside.

The new member, being a quiet sort, simply and silently walked away from the accusation. He didn't try to talk her out of anything. He did, however, get a bit of revenge when later that evening he quietly parked his truck in front of the gossip's house, walked home and left it there all night." J. Michael Shannon-Preaching July/August 2008.

After reading this illustration I wondered what happened next! But this is a good way of shutting the mouths of "these gossipers."

As workers of God we will always face gossip in our ministries.

Teammate 2 Teammate

congratulations grandpa **Baraka!**



On December 20th, 2008, Diana Muganda Perry was blessed with the arrival of a baby girl, Diana Anne. Diana is Baraka Muganda's oldest daughter. We want to congratulate Baraka for his beautiful granddaughter! We pray that this baby will grow in His grace always and also pray for a special blessing on her parents Diana and Lasana.



Travel Plans for February

Baraka: 2 - 8: Youth Congress, Argentina
12 - 20: Cape Town, South Africa
26 - 27: Andrews University

Hiskia: 1 - 9: Camporee, Taiwan
12 - 20: Cape Town, South Africa

Jonatán: 1 - 10: Spain
12 - 20: Cape Town, South Africa

4th National Camporee, Chile

by Jonatan Tejel, World Pathfinder Director

2. We had a special group coming from the Rapa Nui Island. The Seventh-day Adventist Church, during the past years, has been trying to inaugurate a church in that island. The Church has sent people to evangelize in different circumstances without success. One year ago, a lay woman, and Pathfinder leader, decided to go to that island by herself and start to work with the local people organizing a Pathfinder Club. The success was tremendous. In this IV National Camporee we had the privilege of baptizing the first three Rapa Nui people for the glory of God. This shows us that the Pathfinder movement is not just a movement to have fun. The first objective of this movement is to drive our children to Jesus, is the salvation of our kids and a very powerful tool to evangelize others. Now in the Rapa Nui Island we have the possibility of building the first Adventist Church, and I am thankful to God for this.

Sabbath morning the baptismal time was so special and precious, that I know there was joy in Heaven.

God bless the leaders in Chile and may God help every leader in the world to understand that the Pathfinder movement is a movement created for the salvation of our precious children.



New Year, new trips, new countries to visit. In my first trip of the year, I traveled to the Chile Union to participate in the IV National Camporee.

The trip started with problems...my plane had mechanical problem and therefore I arrived one day later. Shame on the airline company because the Chilean Pathfinders came to meet me at the airport and I never showed up while they were waiting for me.

But after this incident everything went on smoothly. Nearly 5,000 Pathfinders attended the Camporee. I had the privilege to enjoy this event with the South American Division Youth Director, Otimar Gonçalves. We shared the pulpit and I really enjoyed his company.

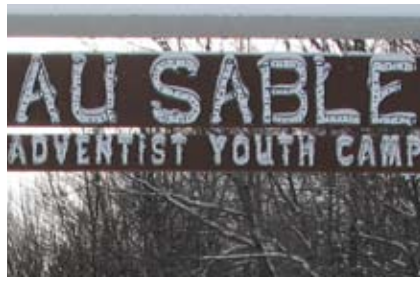
Pastor David Victoriano, Union Youth Director, did a very excellent job organizing the Camporee with the support of all the Chilean Conferences Youth Directors.

There are a couple of things that I would like to highlight from this event.

1. The number of baptisms was more than 200 and there were an great number of kids that in that event stood up saying that in the near future they wanted to be baptized too.



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pathfinder teen SNOW OUTING

january 16 - 18

When my airplane was about to land in Chicago O'Hare International Airport, the pilot announced that the temperature on the ground was 27 degrees below Zero Fahrenheit or 32 degrees below Zero Celsius, it was really very cold. I was on my trip going to Traverse City, Michigan, to attend the Pathfinder Teen Snow Outing held by Michigan Conference Youth Ministries Department. The venue chosen was Camp Au Sable, and the temperature in Camp Au Sable was warmer compared to the one in Chicago, it was 5 degrees Fahrenheit or 15 degrees below Zero Celsius. The campsite was all covered with beautiful clean white snow.

This 840-acre Campsite, purchased in 1948 is located in stunning northern Michigan State with a private lake, Lake Shellenbarger. It is owned by the Michigan Conference. In this campsite, Pastor Terry Dodge, Michigan Conference Youth Director led out 385 Pathfinders of his Conference to enjoy their Pathfinder Teen Snow Outing. The Theme for this program was: "Growing in Christ." Three speak-

ers were invited, Dr. Rick Beckermeyer touched the Spiritual Emphasis on Sabbath School, Dr. Gordon Atkins gave his interesting Nature Nugget speeches, Dr. Hiskia Missah used the Key Text, Luke 2:52 in his 4 sermons, encouraging the Pathfinders to grow like Jesus, growing in wisdom, growing in physical stature, growing in favor with God and growing in favor with men.

On Sabbath, January 17, 4 Pathfinders gave their interesting and encouraging testimonies and stories about their Teen Mission Team which they did in Dominican Republic from December 24, 2008 to January 5, 2009. Then Teen Leadership Training Ceremony was held with 1 Master Guide invested and 14 TLT were recognized of the completion of their courses.

On Saturday evening and Sunday morning outdoors activities were done, the Pathfinders enjoyed so much their snowboarding and sledding excitements, also the Snowmobile Rides, Downhill Skiing and Snow Tubing. Congratulations to Pastor Terry Dodge for his successful Pathfinder Teen Snow Outing.

by Hiskia Missah, Associate Youth Director