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SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
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SOUTHEAST FIELD YOUTH CONFERENCE

Atlanta, Georgia
December 26-28, 2003

The Youth Conference began at 5:40 p.m., with the opening of the Sabbath by Br. Wikler Moran, who presented the blessed Sabbath as a day given to humanity, a day of peace, a gift from God, a day that unites one week with another, a memorial of the Creation, and a sign and feast of celebration.

Pastor Ciro Arevalo presented the theme of "Total Surrender" at 7:00 p.m. He gave the example of a young man named Guillermo Borden, who, when he became 17 years of age, received a fortune of 40 million dollars and gave it for the preaching of the gospel in the entire world. He didn't keep a single cent.

Pastor Arevalo called upon the youth to do all for the Master, without retaining 20% or 10% for themselves but giving 100% to Him.

December 27, 2003

At 9:30 a.m. we began the day of worship with the Sabbath School, led by Sr. Evelyn Arevalo and Br. Eder Marquez. The youth teacher was Sr. Edelmira Castro, and Br. Mario Raniola was the teacher for the adults.

Br. Wikler led out in 10 minutes of missionary reports and invited the congregation to think about what they had done for the kingdom of God in the year 2003. He shared the "Andrew Plan" to win new souls. Its goal, based on John 1:40-42, is to win at least one soul for the kingdom of heaven.

Br. Joshua Martinez gave the second service for the young people and spoke about "Prayer," beginning with Matthew 5:5, 6. He strove to motivate the youth to seek friendship with Jesus through prayer and to avoid a boring Christian life, full of burdens and things that are forbidden. When we pray, we should think of what we are saying to God, and not just repeat what we hear. Parrots repeat what they hear but this does not make them Christians. We should open our hearts to God.

After the service we shared a fellowship lunch. In the afternoon we went to a park next to the lake, where a youth program was held. Sr. Miriam Chocoyo and Br. Richard Carbajal led out and the program featured a dialog between the youth, Bible games, and music.

Later we returned to the church, where Br. Hunger Castro closed the Sabbath. Sr. Tunde Martinez led out in a session of prayer and at the end of the prayers the youth enjoyed a video.

December 28, 2003

At 10:00 a.m. Br. Richard Carbajal shared an important message: "Samson and Beyond." The fall of Samson began with his eyes. When he fell into the trap, his eyes were taken away by his enemies.

To be a Nazarene meant not to drink wine, not to marry a pagan woman, not to cut his hair, and not to commit adultery. Samson disobeyed in all these things. The end of Samson was very disappointing. He ended up doing the work of the beasts. We can also end in bondage if we do not control our senses, especially our eyesight.

Later we had a time of recreation. The young people participated in interactive games, then had lunch.

At 2:00 p.m. Br. Wikler gave a presentation on the book of James. We exchanged various thoughts about anger, favoritism, the tongue, criticism, presumption, envy, rivalry, etc., and Br. Moran made a call for God to transform hearts.

The youth conference closed with a few words of encouragement and motivation for the youth by Pastor Ciro Arevalo, Br. Richard Carbajal, Br. Wikler Moran, and Br. Joshua Martinez.

Br. Eder Marquez, Sr. Evelyn Arevalo, and Br. Wikler Moran led out in special music.

Wikler Moran
Youth Leader of the Southeast Field



ARE YOU A THIEF?

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. . . In tithes and offerings. . . Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing." Malachi 3:8, 10

Are you paying an "honest" tithe? Could it be that you are also robbing God of the time that belongs to Him—especially the Sabbath?

"Tithes for Christ! Oh, meager pittance, shameful recompense for that which cost so much. . ." Patriarchs & Prophets, pp. 187

CHURCH ACTIVITIES



Tampa, Florida

On February 29, 2004, the Tampa congregation held its first vegan cooking class under the direction of Sr. Linda Su_rez.

After reading and hearing over the years about cooking classes held in Sacramento, California, and Toronto, Canada, Tampa opted to do the same and reach out through the kitchen.

About 31 persons, including 26 visitors, attended and enjoyed the meal which followed. Five members served as cooks: Sisters Aleida Maseda, Irma Su_rez, Elba Santana-Echevaria, and Linda Su_rez, and Pastor Idel Su_rez, Jr. The meeting opened with prayer and the reading of God's word in Matthew 6:8. Later a testimony on the importance of cooking classes was shared, taken from *Counsels on Health*, page 135:

Greater efforts should be put forth to educate the people in principles of health reform. Cooking classes should be established, and house-to-house instruction should be given in the art of cooking wholesome food. Old and young should learn how to cook more simply. Wherever the truth is presented, the people are to be taught how to prepare food in a simple yet appetizing way. They are to be shown that a nourishing diet can be provided without the use of flesh foods.

Six vegan dishes were demonstrated, tasted, and enjoyed. We also distributed copies of the "Gourmet Caf_ Recipe Booklet." The dishes prepared were:



1. Light and Easy Spinach Salad
2. Lord's Supper Bread
3. Delicious Vegetarian "Beefsteak"
4. All Purpose Sauce
5. Tortilla Con Sofrito
6. Baked Potatoes and Steamed Corn

May all the glory be given to Jesus. May we all enjoy the benefits of the vegan lifestyle and diet. God bless you!

—Pastor Idel Su_rez, Jr.

Coming in April or May:

Do you know what the city of Nairobi is like? Elder Dering will present a short report on conditions there.

Denver, Colorado

The Denver Church has scheduled a lot of activities for 2004. They are:

1. Monthly visits to nursing homes
2. Monthly canvassing
3. Bible Seminars: 4/23, 6/4, 10/1, 12/3
4. Public Meetings: 2/28, 7/2
5. Health Seminars: 3/26, 8/6
6. Food Drive: 7/30
7. Clothing Drives: 3/5, 9/3
8. Visiting out of state: 5/28, 10/29
9. Cooking class: 5/7

May the Lord help the church to be able to carry out these activities. This list will give other churches ideas of what they may be able to do.

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Note: Thanks to the churches and fields for their input to the current *Newsletter*. We would like to get all of you involved.

CALENDAR

2004-2005

1. AU Board meeting: March 28
2. Southwest/Northwest Field Conference: July 1-4.
Further information is included with this *Newsletter*.
3. Youth Conference, Dillard, GA: July 14-18
4. International Youth Conference, Sydney, Australia:
December 27, 2004, to January 2, 2005.
More information will be forthcoming.

YOUTH CONFERENCE

Dillard, GA (near the North Carolina border)

July 14-18, 2004

The Northeast and Southeast fields will be holding this conference. All youth from the American Union are invited to attend, and are encouraged to participate, whether or not they have been baptized.

 More details will be given next month as to price, address, and theme of the conference.

The *American Union Newsletter* is published for members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church Reform Movement, American Union. This publication is complimentary and carries items of interest submitted by members of the church. We reserve the right to make changes as necessary.

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The original Seventh-day Adventist Movement for Reform of 1914, built upon the firm foundation of the Adventist Movement of 1844