

God is truly at work in the Bay Area

It is no secret that the Adventist Church Community is losing its young people at a faster rate than we care to admit. A number of our young people leave for college, but when they return they don't come back to church.

Young people are continually saying that Adventist Christianity is no longer relevant. However, it doesn't appear to be 'doctrine' why young people leave the church, but because, they argue, that the church seems indifferent to the social issues young people and the people in their communities face on a daily basis. They say, that in order for Christianity to be relevant to our young people, they need to be part of a church that makes the gospel message of Christianity tangible. They need to see the things that we preach, read and pray about, being practiced in their lives and in their communities. Most importantly, they need to be part of the mission to make it happen.

As a direct response to this issue a group of young adults, youth leaders and Pastors from around the south Bay Area, drawn by the power of the holy spirit, have come together to form 'The Bay Area Youth and Young Adult Ministry'. (B.A.Y. Ministry). The B.A.Y. Ministry has three elements spiritual, outreach and social. Our objective is to find ways to engage our young people and ultimately nurture them into a lasting relationship with Jesus. Our first event on January 28<sup>th</sup> was introduction to the ministry. Approximately 200 young people from churches around the Bay Area attended a vespers and game night.

On February 25th we launched the outreach arm of the ministry - **FIGHT THE HATE**

**OUR FIRST MISSION:** To deliver thank you cards and gifts to police officers and fire fighters to show our appreciation for their selfless service in our community.

**THE OBJECTIVE:** To show and spread God's love in a practical, tangible way. To make connections and build relationships with these agencies, in the hope that we can collaborate with them in identifying social issues in our communities and work together with them on future outreach projects.

The 90+ youth and young adults that took part were split into groups of 10-15, then headed out to complete the first mission. It was so awesome to see such enthusiasm for God's work. The feedback we received from police officers, fire fighters and our young people was so very positive.

A fire has been ignited in hearts of our young people in the Bay Area. Praise God!! Please keep our young people and this ministry in your prayers.



# FIGHT THE HATE MINISTRY



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