



Beloved Metro New York familia,

I am grateful to God for his abundant peace and grace throughout this past year. What a year of changes and challenges it has been! It has been an exciting year to see growth in relationships, partnerships, and mentorship across our district. It is a vision we seek to continue nurturing together as we “Celebrate Diversity, and Affirm Unity”. Below you will find a brief description of the highlights of the past year, including some that are already being planned for this next year.

- 1. Youth Quizzing:** Under the awesome leadership of our Youth Quizzing Director *Yakima Browne* youth quizzing has been growing on our district. Along with the monthly quiz meets, our MNY Youth Quizzers represented our district at Regionals that took place at Eastern Nazarene College May 17-20, 2018. www.nazarene.org/nyj/bible-quizzing
- 2. “Quest” Student Leadership Retreat:** 12 youth representatives from our district participated in the NYI Eastern Field Student Leadership Retreat that took place at ENC May 25-28, 2018. This retreat focused on a hands on experience for students to work as a team and learn 8 core leadership skills and competencies. The goal is for these students who participate in this retreat to return to their churches and be plugged into the leadership teams of the local church. Servant Leadership!
- 3. “INSANITY” Summer Youth & Young Adult Retreat:** The summer camp was exactly as it sounds INSANE! Camp took place Aug 23-26, 2018 at Tuscarora Retreat Center in PA. We had the privilege and honor to have as speaker Larry Acosta the founder of Urban Youth Workers Institute. We had 285 participants for youth camp! We had a tremendous time as youth were able to experience the love, hope, and transformation of Jesus Christ! We experienced such an amazing presence of God through his Church, the youth of today!
- 4. “Aquatopia” Back to School Overnight Rally 2018:** We were joyful to continue our goal of partnering with other districts. We participated once again with the Philadelphia District for the overnight Back to School Rally held at the amazing Aquatopia Indoor Water Park in PA (11pm-5am) Sept 1, 2018. We had approx. 50 students that participated at this event. An increase of 20 from the last year.
- 5. Festival Of Life 2019:** We are making our comeback to FOL! This year our participation grew to 37 students, and our participation in various events increased as well. We are proud to inform you that our Metro NY team competed in 12 events and brought back 7 Gold Medals, and 1 Bronze. We are looking forward to this next years preparations for FOL 2020! We are grateful for the leadership of *Jorge Bourdett* our Metro New York FOL Coordinator.
- 6. Urban Youth Workers Institute Training:** We have continued our partnership with UYWI seeking to sharpen our youth leaders impact in the lives of this current generation. We have 4 youth leaders taking part in the current cohort of students meeting in the City Seminary in Manhattan. We were able to assist our youth leaders with tuition assistance and negotiate a special rate reducing the cost by 50%. We are looking forward to continuing this valuable kingdom partnership with UYWI by connecting more leaders to this resource. We are seeking also to resource our leaders with the discipleship toolkit that is available in both English & Spanish. www.thediscipleshiptoolkit.com

7. NYC “Phoenix” 2019: We are so excited to report that we have a significant increase in our participation for Nazarene Youth Conference taking place in Phoenix, Arizona July 10-14. We are grateful for the leadership of *Miriam Hunte* our NYC coordinator. We have made several trips to Phoenix in preparation for this amazing event. We will have 55 students flying out to Phoenix to learn and grow in the mission of Loving God and Loving People! Keep this group of youth and leaders in your prayers.

8. “At The Table” Youth Leadership Gatherings: This year we were challenged to find other ways for our youth leaders to connect and ***develop relationships, partnerships, and mentorships***. Many of our youth leaders balance and juggle work, school, family, and ministry responsibilities which limits their availability. We began to use the video conferencing app Zoom which has allowed us to meet remotely. This year we have appointed coordinators for the various mission areas on our district which will be contacting each local church to schedule the dates, times, and locations.

Mission Areas: 1. Northern NY 2. Central NY/CT 3. NJ 4. Queens 5. Brooklyn 6. Long Island

9. Mission Trip Costa Rica 2020: We have begun planning for our first NYI Mission Trip with Encuentro Missions to Costa Rica. The dates of the trip are June 20-27, 2020. You will be receiving more info very soon regarding this trip.

There are so many more details that it’s impossible to capture them all within this report. The relationships that have been built over this year across cultural and ethnic lines is indescribable! We are looking forward with hope and great anticipation for what is to come. We are thankful for the leadership, investment, and vision casting of District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Samuel Vassel. We are also grateful for the District staff Rev. Bruce Barnard, Rev. Christine Paolino, Coleen Mendes, Rev. Yelssy Manza, Everith Palmer, Julissa Urrutia for their support behind the scenes and their willingness to always be available to pray, listen, and help in any way they can. On behalf of the entire Metro New York NYI Leadership Team, we thank you Metro New York Family for your prayers and support. God is on the move, and our youth will be engaged at the front lines of that movement of the Kingdom!

Love you all!

Rev. Norberto Rivera “Tito”

NYI Youth Director

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