

**“THE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY OF NAZARENE YOUTH
INTERNATIONAL IN THE USA”**

**BY
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Youth Ministry in the Church of the Nazarene began in the very first Church of the Nazarene founded in 1895 by Phineas Bresee in Los Angeles, California.¹ Eventually, Bresee's church would be the mother church to other Nazarene churches, and ultimately, be influential in the convergence of other holiness churches to become the denomination known as The Church of the Nazarene. Youth ministry was part of that emerging story.

By 1903 there were two youth ministries entitled "*Company E*" and the "*Brotherhood of St. Stephen*" offered to the young people in Bresee's church.²

Company E, led by Mrs. Lucy P. Knott, was the name designated for the young ladies in the church who met on Friday evenings for study of the Word, united and intercessory prayer, testimonies, and evangelism.

The November 19, 1903 issue of the *Nazarene Messenger* reported greetings from Mrs. Lucy P. Knott to the Eighth Annual Assembly of the Church of the Nazarene on the work of *Company E*:

"We thank God that, in the unity of the Spirit, our work is your work, and that we have a part by the way of the throne in each field represented at this time. In presenting our report we feel that we cannot sufficiently emphasize the importance of definite holiness work among young women and girls. The tide of worldliness that is sweeping through the churches is also threatening the holiness movement. No organization, however divinely ordered can prove a sufficient safeguard to these young lives. There must be a definite heart experience of the sanctifying power of God. There is one standard of holiness for old and young alike – carnality destroyed; and the incoming Holy Spirit to teach

¹ *The Manual of the Church of the Nazarene* (2001-2005) : 18.

² Mendell Taylor, *Nazarene Youth in Conquest For Christ*, (Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press, 1948), 13.

and to lead into all truth. I think I may state as a fact that the most patent agent for good in the hand of God is a good woman.

No one can exert such influence upon the lives of others as a woman. God has given her a natural intensity of devotion that is peculiarly hers; and when that devotion is purified and hallowed by the Holy Spirit, its power cannot be estimated, nor its possibilities measured.

This dispensation of the Holy Ghost gives to women unlimited opportunities. Not only in the field of domestic life and social relationships, but as partakers of the gift of prophecy they are called to aggressive service for God. David had a vision of them in the 68th Psalm. 'The Lord gave the word; the women that publish the tidings are a great host. Kings of armies flee; they flee, and she that tarrieth at home divideth the spoil.'

The purpose of the existence of Company E is to raise up a host of young women who will be indeed and truth "examples of believers." For this we pray with groanings that cannot be uttered. We believe that the service is the natural result of perfect love, and have found that just as we are true to the Holy Spirit, God has enabled us to bring forth fruit that remains. We rejoice as a company we are going on to know the Lord."³

The *Brotherhood of St. Stephen*, led by Mr. R. E. Shaw, was the name of the ministry for the young men of the Los Angeles First Church of the Nazarene. This ministry for young men conducted regular Bible study, praise, prayer services at the church, and the holding of street services.

The 1903 *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene* included a statement that described the significance of the *Brotherhood of St. Stephen*:

"We recognize Jesus Christ as Lord. We regard His servant Stephen as a kind of young manhood well pleasing in His sight, in that he was full of faith and the Holy Ghost and was thus filled with heavenly wisdom and power, and enabled to give his testimony for Jesus Christ, even in the face of overwhelming opposition, and do blessed service for Him. That he was also transformed by the indwelling divine glory and enabled to gaze steadfastly into heaven. To have the same divine anointing and enduement, and with the same intensity, fidelity, spiritual transformation and power to do the Lord's service, is our earnest desire and for

³ R. Pierce, "Company E," *Nazarene Messenger Magazine*, no. 8.21 (November 19, 1903) : 2.

the more perfect attainment of which we band ourselves together as the Brotherhood of St. Stephen, that by united prayer and steady co-operation we may thus glorify our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; that we may thus be filled with His presence, testify to His grace, band ourselves together, praying God to make us like his servant Stephen and thus like our blessed Lord Jesus, we subscribe ourselves His servants.”⁴

Together, the members of *Company E* and the *Brotherhood of St. Stephen* searched the Scriptures for a verse that would represent their desire to live what they described as “the higher Christian life.” This was a life led by the Holy Spirit resulting in spiritual growth and maturity. The two groups ultimately agreed on I Timothy 4:12 as their theme verse. The King’s James version of the Bible was their source:

“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”⁵

These young people of *Company E* and *The Brotherhood of St. Stephen* wore a badge which consisted of a Maltese cross with “I Tim 4:12” engraved into it. The young men and young women wore this badge as a visual reminder of their commitment to live the higher Christian life.

Before the formation of a denomination, the importance and effectiveness of youth ministry was becoming noticed due to the efforts of willing people like Lucy P. Knotts and R. E. Shaw, both members of the Los Angeles First Church of the Nazarene.

⁴ *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene*, (1903) :74.

⁵ 1 Timothy 4:12, KJV (King James Bible).

1907

In 1907 the leadership of the Church of the Nazarene began what would be a fifteen year journey of a general youth ministry by the creation of a fourteen member *Committee on Young People*. This committee was established to send out circular letters to local churches for the purpose of gathering information, and then evaluate the information contained in the replies. The following is a portion of the report submitted by the *Committee on Young People*:

“The replies received revealed the fact that there is at present no demand for any definite organization for young men or women in our churches....owing to the fact that in the large majority of our churches there are not a sufficient number of young people to warrant separate, and in some cases, no society at all; therefore, we recommend that each church be free to choose whatever methods may seem to be wise in their particular case, but that nothing be done in any church without the consent of the Pastor and the Church Board.”⁶

1908

The Church of the Nazarene grew stronger as a denomination when several holiness movements merged in a historic gathering in Pilot Point, Texas in October of 1908. Youth ministry was not developing at the same pace; however, as the General Assembly of 1908 had no discussion of the promotion of youth work. The 1907 report from the *Committee on Young People* continued to reflect the general view of youth ministry at this time. The youth membership of the Church of the Nazarene stood at 523.

1911

⁶ Taylor, *Nazarene Youth In Conquest For Conquest*, 17.

Youth membership at the 1911 General Assembly was reported as being 1,491. No official youth membership records were recorded between 1908 and 1911; therefore, the report of 968 additional young people over the three years brought more attention to young people. The need for more advanced record keeping was met when the 1911 General Assembly appointed a Statistical Secretary which began the annual reporting of youth membership.

Four years after the establishment of the *Committee on Young People*, another 21 member committee was established entitled the *Committee on Young People's Societies*. This committee explored various youth ministries which had contributed to this exciting growth of young people. Their conclusion was radically different from the 1907 *Committee on Young People*. Here is an excerpt of the committee's report:

*"It has been frequently asserted that the hope of the church lies in its young people. Upon their shoulders the burdens of the work must some day rest. Upon their hearts now the responsibility of the work should press....It is the duty of the church to throw around these young lives those environments which will most quickly adapt them for places of enlarged usefulness....Above everything else we see the importance of keeping our young people intensely spiritual...We believe that our young people will find their greatest joy in God's glad service, and hence we feel that no provisions of a social aspect need be introduced....Let our young people strive by every legitimate means to enlist the interest of others, endeavoring to win them for God and holiness."*⁷

As the church took notice of the increase of youth, articles on youth work began to appear in the *Herald of Holiness* denominational magazine. The first article was submitted by the Utica Avenue Pentecostal Church of Brooklyn, New York on December 11, 1912.

⁷ Ibid., 20.

*"The young people of the Utica Ave. Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene organized some months ago the Young People's Nazarene League, following the outline of the constitution prescribed by the Manual. Our Thursday night meetings are signalized by a deepening spirituality, the power of God being more and more manifest in our meetings, and precious souls saved, sanctified and reclaimed right along. . . . Last Thursday we had another blessed meeting, and two souls, both outside our church, came forward at the earnest invitation, and were sweetly saved."*⁸

Another article submitted by Will T. McConnell, president of the young people's society at Kansas City First Church, outlined five advantages which may be reaped from a young people's society:

1. The Young People's Society forms a framework for the systematic operation of Christian activity among the young folks of the church.
2. It is a preventative of worldliness.
3. Church quarrels, listlessness, church poverty, and many other hindrances will not thrive if the young are spiritual.
4. The young people themselves will be strengthened and built up and kept on fire for God.
5. If a pastor will devote sufficient time and energy to the maintenance of a spiritual Young People's Society, he will find that he will be saved almost an equal amount of energy formerly consumed in admonishing, pleading with, and reproaching young people for the seeming delinquencies.⁹

Earl Wilde, president of the young people's society at Los Angeles First Church submitted an article that outlined the seven prerequisites for the president of a local young people's society:

1. Must be comparatively young
2. Must be thoroughly and genuinely saved and sanctified
3. Must be a person of prayer
4. Must be a person with a vision
5. Must be humble
6. Must be one with leadership ability
7. Must have a love for young people and their salvation¹⁰

⁸ *Herald of Holiness*, (December 11, 1912) : 13.

⁹ *Herald of Holiness*, (March 25, 1914) : 5.

¹⁰ *Herald of Holiness*, (June 16, 1915) : 9.

The establishment of the *Committee on Young People's Societies* and subsequent discovery of ideas and resources through the *Herald of Holiness* began a denominational wide interest in youth ministry. The local youth ministry work of the Church of the Nazarene became known as the *Nazarene Young People's Society* or *N.Y.P.S.*.

1915

Youth membership at the 1915 General Assembly was reported as being 3,162. The youth membership had more than doubled in four years. The young people of the Church of the Nazarene now had the full attention of the General Church when the *Committee on Young People's Societies* presented a report of their findings. Part of the report included a vigorous program of action that challenged the youth of the church to an intensive program of Christian service. Some of their suggestions included:

1. Our young people should visit and pray in homes, holding services for the sick and shut-ins; and take part in hospital, jail, and street services.
2. Our young people employed in shops and factories should make an earnest effort to obtain permission from the foreman to hold noon services.
3. Our young people should find some slum mission and try to secure permission to hold one service a week.
4. Our young people should assist in every way possible in revivals, being willing to serve as ushers, distribute handbills. And attending to minor details.
5. Our young people should feel some financial responsibility in regard to a fund to be used for home missions.¹¹

The *Committee on Young People's Societies* also suggested that the *N.Y.P.S.* function at the district and general levels including the following recommendations for organization:

¹¹ Committee On Young People's Societies Report, *Journal of the General Assembly*, (1915) : 66.

1. In order that our young people may be one with us, in heart and mind, we suggest that wherever practicable, one of them should be elected by each church as one of its delegates to the District Assembly.
2. Each District should prayerfully consider the advisability of letting the young people have some representation in the General Assembly by the election from among them of at least one delegate from the District.
3. We recommend that each District take under consideration the question of an annual convention to be held by its young people.
4. We ask....that the publishers of the Herald of Holiness give space every week to the interests of the young people's work.¹²

Soon after these recommendations the *N.Y.P.S.* began to function at the district level. Within just a few months following the General Assembly the first District *N.Y.P.S.* Convention was held in September of 1915 on the New York District.¹³

The *N.Y.P.S.* movement would experience an unexpected advancement at the 1915 General Assembly when Dr. R. T. Williams was elected to the General Superintendency. Dr. Williams, elected at the age of 33, had a great interest in youth work and wrote many articles for the *Herald of Holiness*. In this influential role he took the lead in securing proper recognition for youth work and years later became the representative from the Board of General Superintendents to the General *N.Y.P.S.* Council when established, a role that he served for 21 years.

1919

Youth membership at the 1919 General Assembly was reported as being 5,371. Now eight years after the explosive growth of youth, and the continual

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Taylor, *Nazarene Youth In Conquest For Conquest*, 25.

development of ministry at the local and district level, youth work was cited as a contributing factor to the progress of the church.¹⁴

The Quadrennial Address of the General Superintendents included the remarkable progress of the youth work:

“We are delighted at the progress made by our Young People’s Societies. A large increase in the number of local societies is recorded and hundreds of our young people have been organized into active bands of workers, thereby greatly assisting the pastors, also putting new life into the churches, resulting in increased spirituality among all classes. The work of the Young People’s Society has also been a means of training for Christian service, as well as a means of grace. The hope of our future is in our young people; therefore, we cannot place too much emphasis upon the importance of saving them and placing upon them the responsibility of our work.”¹⁵

Another major advancement of the *N.Y.P.S.* would occur when a committee was appointed by the Board of General Superintendents to organize a General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention. Five leaders were appointed to serve on the committee: Rev. G. Howard Rowe, New York; Rev. Donnell J. Smith, California; Rev. H. B. Macrory, Ohio; Miss Iva Hilyard, Chicago; and Mrs. C. H. Griswold, San Antonio.¹⁶

September 19, 1923 was established as the date for this first General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention. The committee extended a blanket invitation to all who could attend this historic gathering. Any person who attended the General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention would be considered a delegate. The invitation did not include an

¹⁴ Ibid., 29.

¹⁵ Report of the General Superintendents, *Journal of the General Assembly*, (1919) : 68.

¹⁶ Taylor, *Nazarene Youth In Conquest For Christ*, 33.

age limit for the participants; there was no ceiling on the number of participants allowed from any one district.¹⁷

As this committee of five prepared for the first General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention the world of youth ministry in the Church of the Nazarene would experience another exciting advancement.

1923

Youth membership at the 1923 General Assembly was reported as being 12,768. The first General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention convened on September 19, 1923 in Kansas City, Missouri with 72 delegates present.¹⁸

Not all of the delegates in attendance were in support of the continued development of the *N.Y.P.S.* movement as some of the remarks were reminiscent of the 1907 report from the *Committee on Young People*. Four major concerns were articulated:

1. Several persons registered complaints about the whole matter of organized young people's work.
2. Some contended that such an organization would lead the church into worldliness and destroy its vital doctrines.
3. Others insisted that such an organized body within the church body would eclipse the church itself.
4. The fear of an attempt on the part of the leaders of this group to usurp authority.¹⁹

¹⁷ Ibid., 34.

¹⁸ Ibid., 35.

¹⁹ Ibid., 37.

Ultimately this group of 72 delegates would overcome these concerns and go on to lay the groundwork for the *N.Y.P.S.* organization.

The youth ministry would become more organized and structured when the delegates adopted constitutions for local, district, and general organizations of the *N.Y.P.S.*. Also, General Officers and a General Executive Committee were elected to give leadership to this movement between General Conventions.

Donnell J. Smith, one of the five on the General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention planning committee, and pastor of the San Francisco, California First Church, was elected as the first General *N.Y.P.S.* President. D. Shelby Corlett, pastor of the Upland, California Church, was elected as the first General *N.Y.P.S.* Executive Secretary. Corlett continued in his pastoral assignment while serving unpaid as the General *N.Y.P.S.* Executive Secretary due to no budget support.

This immediate major financial obstacle of having no general budget support for the *N.Y.P.S.* organization had to be overcome. This financial need was addressed by establishing a 10 cent per member per year due. With the *N.Y.P.S.* membership being 12,768, a total of \$1,276.80 would be generated if every member paid his or her due. A meager beginning, but now the general *N.Y.P.S.* had financial support.

This decision was not embraced throughout the church; however, as D. Shelby Corlett would later write, “one large district took action in District Advisory Board

meeting requesting us to cease to solicit funds on their district, and the secretary of that Advisory Board formally notified us of their action.”²⁰

Another significant advancement of the *N.Y.P.S.* movement occurred when D. Shelby Corlett, two years after being elected as General N.Y.P.S. Executive Secretary, was requested to resign his pastoral assignment in Portland, Oregon on April 16, 1925 to enter the field full time to promote the interests of the General Nazarene Young People’s Society.

D. Shelby Corlett accepted this invitation from the General Church. Now with full time leadership, the *N.Y.P.S.* was poised for faster growth and development.

Just eight months following the request for Corlett to serve full time, the *N.Y.P.S. Journal* was launched in January 1926 as a quarterly resource for youth workers. Due to high demand it became monthly just one year later in January 1927. This medium of promotion brought great attention to the work of the *N.Y.P.S.* By 1928 the subscription total had risen to 4500.²¹

1928

Youth membership at the 1928 General Assembly was reported as being 27,279. The second General Convention of the Nazarene Young People’s Society convened June 11-13, 1928 at the Warren Avenue Church of the Nazarene in

²⁰ Ibid., 85.

²¹ Ibid., 111.

Columbus, Ohio. “*Deepening Our Devotion to God*” was adopted as a quadrennial theme.

Signs of a developing General *N.Y.P.S.* organization were evident when an official *N.Y.P.S.* emblem was adopted during the General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention for use on stationary and official papers.

D. Shelby Corlett, stated in his first report to the delegates of the 1928 General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention:

*“At the Sixth General Assembly we were brought into existence, and for the first time this great department of the church received general recognition. We were thrust out with a great task before us, much like a ship to sail an uncharted sea. We found ourselves confronted with one of the greatest opportunities in the Church of the Nazarene, an open field of possibilities, an undeveloped territory, but one filled with greatest importance in its relation to the church. No general program had been instituted. No financial provision had been made.”*²²

Now that the *N.Y.P.S.* had established local, district, and general constitutions the delegates of the second General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention would begin to meet in committees to strengthen this work. Listed below are four of the recommendations presented from committee work adopted by the delegates:

1. The Report from the Committee on Evangelism recommended that each church hold a pre-prayer service at 6:00PM prior to the regular devotional exercises of the *N.Y.P.S.*.
2. *N.Y.P.S.* membership was established for two classes: Active and Associate. Active members were young people between the ages of 13 and 19 who were also members of the Church of the Nazarene. Associate members were young people between the ages of 13 and 19 who were not members of the Church of the Nazarene.

²² D. Shelby Corlett, *N.Y.P.S.* Executive Secretary’s Report, *Proceedings of the Second Convention of the Nazarene Young People’s Society* (1928) : 10.

3. A Junior Nazarene Young People's Society was created for boys and girls between the ages of 7 and 12.

4. A pledge was created for Active N.Y.P.S. Members that read as follows:

*"Realizing my duty to God and His Church I promise by His grace to seek the New Testament standard of heart purity; to strive always to live consistently for my Master; to make it the rule of my life to read the Bible and pray daily; to attend faithfully all services of the N.Y.P.S.; and to take an active part in service as opportunity is afforded me."*²³

The financial obstacle remained a challenge for the N.Y.P.S. work. Up until now the N.Y.P.S. had existed on the 10 cent per year per member due established in the first General N.Y.P.S. Convention of 1923. Now three years later, another plan was created to generate the necessary increase in funding support for the growing N.Y.P.S. work. To meet these growing financial needs, each member was requested to quadruple their commitment and give 40 cents per year to support the general N.Y.P.S. work.²⁴

Youth Ministry programming ideas began to be developed and promoted. An example of this was when the Idaho-Oregon N.Y.P.S. began the summer camping movement in 1930. The report to the District Assembly following included these remarks,

*"The first N.Y.P.S. Camp and Institute at Payette Lakes was a real blessing and with proper supervision, this should grow each year in spiritual benefit to our young people."*²⁵

²³ Ibid., 17-24.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Ibid.

The General Assembly of 1928 challenged the *N.Y.P.S.* to foster the work of General Home Missions. In keeping with this proposal the General *N.Y.P.S.* Executive Committee agreed to a goal of \$100,000 during the quadrennium for home missions. Since the *N.Y.P.S.* had a membership of only 25,000 this would mean the average of a dollar per member per year. Accompanying this over-all program was the suggestion that a “*Penny a Day Plan*” be used as the method of raising money.²⁶ Many local societies responded to this call.

Four special programs were created to give publicity to this challenge to raise \$100,000 for General Home Missions:

1. “A Fireside Conference” was built around the theme of General Home Missions.
2. “The Invisible Partner” emphasized stewardship principles.
3. “The Quest of Life” provided a study in foreign missions.
4. “The Conversion of the Smith Family” which communicated the privileges and obligations of tithing.²⁷

Now, just five years into existence, the general *N.Y.P.S.* was tasked with generating funds for existence as well as generating funds for the general church. There are no official records of the amount received through this effort of raising money for General Home Missions. It was estimated that \$10,000 a year came in. This was viewed as an excellent achievement for this young organization with such great financial challenges.

1932

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid.

Youth membership at the 1932 General Assembly was reported as being 40,647. The third General Nazarene Young People's Convention convened at the First Church of the Nazarene in Wichita, Kansas, June 9, 1932. The idea of having a quadrennial theme had been successful during the previous quadrennium, leading to the establishment of another. "*Each One Win One*" was adopted as the quadrennial theme.

The slogan of "*Each One Win One*" brought about a great emphasis on personal evangelism throughout the quadrennium. The Committee on Evangelism of the General Convention made a number of valuable recommendations. Some of the plans included the following:

1. That the General Council provide special studies on personal evangelism for the entire society and special groups to study.
2. That our young people be challenged to devote some stated time each week to this work.
3. That the month of February, 1933, be special "Personal Evangelism" month in an effort to sell the program to the local societies.²⁸

As a result of this emphasis D. Shelby Corlett had several tracts and booklets available for February 1933 in a packet entitled, "*Studies for Personal Workers*." Also, a handbook for personal workers was prepared entitled "*Win Them*." Every February of the quadrennium was designated as the *N.Y.P.S.* personal evangelism month.

²⁸ Committee on Evangelism Report, *Proceedings of the Third General Convention of the Nazarene Young People's Society* (1932) : 45.

For the first time the general *N.Y.P.S.* leadership would undergo change as Donnell J. Smith resigned after serving as General *N.Y.P.S.* President for nine years and part of the general *N.Y.P.S.* movement for thirteen years. G.B. Williamson was elected at the 1932 General Convention to serve as the second General *N.Y.P.S.* President.

Now with established local, district, and general constitutions the *N.Y.P.S.* movement would turn from an internal developmental mode to an outward focus to impact the world. Two outward focused resolutions were adopted by the delegates of this *N.Y.P.S.* Convention that would establish responses to social issues in the USA:

1. To “join heartily with every organization which is working for the overthrow and removal of the iniquitous liquor traffic from the nations of the earth.”
2. To “go on record as being unalterably opposed to the use of tobacco in any of its forms because of its damaging influence on the physical, moral, and spiritual natures of man.”²⁹

Having adopted a pledge for the Active *N.Y.P.S.* Member in the 1928 General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention, a pledge was presented and adopted for the Associate *N.Y.P.S.* Member which read as follows:

*“Desiring to become affiliated with the N.Y.P.S. as an associate member, I accept the moral standards of the Church of the Nazarene as my rule for conduct, and, I promise to attend faithfully the services of the society, to do my best to advance its interests and to take part in its activities as opportunity is afforded me.”*³⁰

²⁹ Ibid., 11.

³⁰ Ibid., 24.

The delegates of the *N.Y.P.S.* Convention established an age limit for the elected members of the *N.Y.P.S.* Executive Committee. This decision now required that of the five members elected at large, four of them had to be Active Members of the *N.Y.P.S.*, and under forty years of age at the time of their election.

The delegates of the *N.Y.P.S.* Convention submitted two resolutions to the General Assembly calling for representation on the General Board and in the General Assembly. These two resolutions were approved a few days later by the General Assembly.³¹

The first decision resulted in one *N.Y.P.S.* representative serving on the General Board. The process for selecting this one representative was established by the delegates of the General Assembly and consisted of the delegates of the *N.Y.P.S.* Convention nominating two members to the General Assembly. The delegates of the General Assembly would then elect the representative.

The second decision resulted in the *N.Y.P.S.* Executive Secretary becoming an ex-officio delegate to the General Assembly. D. Shelby Corlett would now become the first *N.Y.P.S.* delegate to the General Assembly nine years into his assignment.

³¹ *Proceedings of the Third General Convention of the Nazarene Young People's Society* (1932) : 46.

N.Y.P.S. began programming during this era with a new program idea entitled “*Hi-N.Y.*” This was started as a ministry model that a local church could provide for the high school age group.

The General Church challenged the *N.Y.P.S.* again to make a sacrifice offering for missions. The *N.Y.P.S.* leadership accepted this challenge and established Easter Sunday 1935 as the date to receive this sacrificial offering. Every district responded with an offering. This idea would be continued and would eventually become a denomination wide Easter offering for missions. A tradition started by obedient young people.

1936

Youth membership at the 1936 General Assembly was reported as being 57,535. The fourth General Convention of the Nazarene Young People’s Society convened June 18-20, 1936 at the Kansas City Power and Light Building in Kansas City, Missouri. “*Deeper and Farther With Christ*” was adopted as the quadrennial theme.

The delegates of the General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention responded to the “Deeper and Farther With Christ” theme by calling for an emphasis on Christian literature, Christian training, and Christian education. As a result, several projects were started including a general reading program for young people with the goal of building Christian character through directed reading and special study. One of

the booklets created was entitled, “*Book Friends – New and Old*” which included several ways to start and administer district and local reading programs. It also included a recommended reading list of books for young people.³²

Corlett noted in his report to the General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention that the *N.Y.P.S.* provided more material for missionary study than any other group or organization in the church.³³

Corlett also noted in his report the impact the depression in the USA had on the *N.Y.P.S.*:

*“Due to the strenuous financial conditions existing because of the depression, bank failures, and decreased receipts for General Budget purposes we were not able to issue the propaganda, pamphlets, etc. needed.”*³⁴

Concluding thirteen years of service as the General *N.Y.P.S.* Executive Secretary (first two years as volunteer) D. Shelby Corlett stated in his last report to the delegates of the *N.Y.P.S.* Convention,

*“In years past there has been in some quarters a decided trend toward independent action with a proneness to ignore the General *N.Y.P.S.* program, but this attitude has disappeared almost entirely.”*³⁵

During his thirteen years of leadership, D. Shelby Corlett was successful in creating a general *N.Y.P.S.* movement that was embraced by the local church. S.

³² S. T. Ludwig, *N.Y.P.S.* Executive Secretary’s Report to the General Assembly, *Journal of the General Assembly* (1940) : 27.

³³ D. Shelby Corlett, *N.Y.P.S.* Executive Secretary’s Report to the General Assembly, *Journal of the General Assembly* (1928) : 20.

³⁴ *Ibid.*, 22.

³⁵ *Ibid.*, 17.

T. Ludwig was elected at the General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention to replace Corlett as the *N.Y.P.S.* Executive Secretary.

The voice of the church outside the USA was being heard and recognized at the general *N.Y.P.S.* level as the need for resources in languages beyond English was expressed. This resulted in a call to translate the *Young People's Journal* into Spanish.

The General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention established Committee on Memorials submitted a request that the Convention memorialize the General Assembly to make clear the attitude of the church toward war and the promotion of peace.

Other ideas would be implemented during this quadrennium to strengthen the *N.Y.P.S.* such as a Leadership Training Course that was started to train young people to lead in the *N.Y.P.S.*. Included were basic materials needed for *N.Y.P.S.* leaders.

The General Council also implemented a "Standard of Excellence" program as a strategy to measure the progress and efficiency of the local *N.Y.P.S.*. This included twenty items of measurement by which the local society could analyze and judge itself." Five of these items of measurement included:

1. A fully organized society as outlined by the *N.Y.P.S.* Constitution.
2. An average attendance equal to at least seventy-five percent of the enrolled membership.

3. Ten percent gain in active membership.
4. Participation in at least one project sponsored by the General Council.
5. Assuming and raising a definite portion of the general and district budgets of the local church.³⁶

Finally, certificates of honor were created to recognize each local *N.Y.P.S.* which met the stated requirements. This strategy helped to focus the work of the *N.Y.P.S.* toward common goals.

1940

Youth membership at the 1940 General Assembly was reported as being 66,891. The fifth General Convention of the Nazarene Young People's Society convened at the Municipal Auditorium in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma June 13-15, 1940.

"Tarry Until – Then Go" was adopted as the quadrennial theme.

S. T. Ludwig, in his first report as the General *N.Y.P.S.* Executive Secretary stated to the delegates of the General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention,

*"We are living in ominous days – a time when liberty is at a discount. The future looks uncertain and threatening. The sinister forces of malice and hate are enveloping mankind. We do not know what another day may bring forth. Nevertheless, in days like these we are determined that there shall be no "blackout" of spiritual life and power among us."*³⁷

The delegates of the 1940 General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention adopted the following two resolutions :

³⁶ S. T. Ludwig, *N.Y.P.S.* Executive Secretary's Report to the General Assembly, *Journal of the General Assembly* (1940) : 27.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, 31.

1. The Committee on Memorials called upon the General Assembly to establish a central Theological Seminary for the advance training of our young people.
2. Called for geographical representation on the General Council instead of members at large by requiring the inclusion of representation from outside the United States. Now, the General Council would include one representative from each of the six educational zones in the United States, one from Canada, and one from the British Isles.³⁸

The general leadership of *N.Y.P.S.* would go through major change as M. Kimber Moulton was elected as the third *N.Y.P.S.* President at the 1940 General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention replacing G. B. Williamson who had served in the assignment for eight years.

Also, John Peters was elected as the third General *N.Y.P.S.* Executive Secretary in 1942 following the resignation of S.T. Ludwig who had served for six years. Peters would only serve one year in this assignment though and S. T. Ludwig would return in 1943 to serve another year. In 1944 Lauriston J. DuBois would become the fourth General *N.Y.P.S.* Executive Secretary.

The General *N.Y.P.S.* Council established a “Young People’s Day” on September 22, 1940, calling for each local church to recognize the interests of young people and to emphasize the youth’s responsibility to the church. The first two years were so successful that “Young People’s Day” became a week long emphasis known as “Youth Week” in 1942. The purpose of the 1942 “Youth Week” was outlined in the August 1942, *Young People’s Journal* as follows:

³⁸ *Proceedings of the Fifth General Convention of the Nazarene Young People’s Society* (1940) : 44.

*“First, members of the church should face anew the problem: what are we doing to save and establish our young people? Second, every Nazarene young person should face the question: What am I doing to make my church more effective for Christ and the community?”*³⁹

“Youth Week” would continue on as an annual week of recognition and challenge to the young people of the church.

The General *N.Y.P.S.* Council also sponsored twenty five special rallies in the fall of 1941 designed to strengthen the relationship between general, district, and local levels of the *N.Y.P.S.*. These rallies were organized around the theme, “Tarry Ye Go Ye Win Ye” with a General Council member speaking at each rally. This project also resulted in regional conferences being held on each USA educational zone including the General *N.Y.P.S.* Council members, the district presidents within the zone, and district youth leaders. John Peters served as the featured speaker.⁴⁰

Again, the *N.Y.P.S.* members responded to financial needs by receiving a *Social Service* offering three years of the quadrennium to support the International Red Cross organization. The total amount received was not recorded.

1944

³⁹ Taylor, *Nazarene Youth In Conquest For Christ*, 91.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, 91-92.

Youth membership at the 1944 General Assembly was reported as being 67,616.

The sixth General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention convened in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

“*Giving Christ To The Nations*” was adopted as the quadrennial theme.

Lauriston DuBois’ opening words to the delegates of the 1944 General *N.Y.P.S.*

Convention made clear the impact of World War II:

*“As we meet in this quadrennial gathering, we are in the midst of one of the most crucial periods of world history. Titanic forces are in a life and death struggle in this global war, the outcome of which may determine for years to come the fate of the free peoples of the world. It is at once obvious that we as Nazarene Youth must be painfully aware of what is now happening. In fact, it is the youth of the world which must heavily bear the brunt of this world struggle. It is therefore, fitting that we should thus meet in the midst of the world’s darkest hour, not simply to review the past, but to plan wisely and sacrificially for the future.”*⁴¹

In response to the impact of World War II, *N.Y.P.S.* received offerings totaling about \$10,000 during the first half of the quadrennium to help the Nazarene Publishing House send free literature to the men and women in the service.⁴²

The “Giving Christ To The Nations” theme resulted in the delegates of the General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention considering the needs outside of the USA. The General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention established committee on World Evangelism challenged the members of *N.Y.P.S.* to give three special offerings.

1. “Give Christ To The Nations” was to be received on October 1, 1944 to help open the work in Alaska. The goal of \$10,000 was set. Though this was a large goal, a total of over \$20,000 was received!

⁴¹ Lauriston DuBois, *N.Y.P.S.* Executive Secretary’s Report to the General Assembly, *Journal of the General Assembly* (1948) : 276.

⁴² *Ibid.*, 276.

2. "Give Christ To The Nations" was to be given throughout the quadrennium to help open the work in Australia and New Zealand. A goal of \$50,000 was set. However, the success of the Alaska Offering resulted in the General Council amending the time frame to a one year offering rather than a quadrennial offering. With this change, the offering was received on September 30, 1945 with over \$40,000. Before the quadrennium was over the goal was increased to \$60,000. It is believed that the \$60,000 goal was eventually reached.
3. "United China Relief" offering was received in 1944.⁴³

The *N.Y.P.S.* had generated over \$60,000 in two years for the work outside the USA! Through sacrificial giving, young Nazarenes were truly "Giving Christ To The Nations."

To ensure youthful leadership, the delegates of the *N.Y.P.S.* General Convention instituted a requirement that the Executive Secretary and the President be under the age of 40 at the time of election.⁴⁴

The delegates of the *N.Y.P.S.* Convention re-organized the age groupings using each letter of Nazarene Young People's Society name: The names and age brackets were as follows: Navigators, ages 25-40; Yokemates, ages 18-24; Pioneers, 15-17; and Sentinels, 12-14.⁴⁵

After twenty years of existence, the very successful *Young People's Journal* underwent a change in format and frequency. It would now become a quarterly

⁴³ Taylor, *Nazarene Youth In Conquest For Christ*, 94-95.

⁴⁴ Ibid., 45.

⁴⁵ Ibid., 49.

magazine devoted entirely to the interests of the societies, containing suggestions to leaders and providing topics for the weekly youth services.

In October 1946 the *Young People's Journal* was changed again. A new magazine, *Conquest*, was added containing some of the elements previously included in the *Young People's Journal*. This new magazine would need 25,000 subscriptions to remain viable.⁴⁶

1948

Youth membership at the 1948 General Assembly was reported as being 69,034. The seventh General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention convened in St. Louis, Missouri. *"I Am A Debtor"* was adopted as the quadrennial theme.

Mendell Taylor was elected in the 1948 General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention as the fourth General *N.Y.P.S.* President replacing M. Kimber Moulton who had served eight years.

After evaluating the *N.Y.P.S.* members, Lauriston J. Dubois, the new General *N.Y.P.S.* Executive Secretary reported,

*"the young people of our church are basically spiritual and are earnestly seeking God's standard of experience and life and God's place of service. As a group they are not worldly; they are not all "going to the devil." They are a major factor in every revival that has come to my attention. They are on the front line of every spiritual challenge."*⁴⁷

⁴⁶ DuBois, *N.Y.P.S. Executive Secretary's Report to the General Assembly (1948)* : 288.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, 290.

The need for additional printed resources was addressed by the creation of a new bulletin for district or local *N.Y.P.S.* leaders known as *N.Y.P.S.-O-News*. This was published at irregular intervals as needed with information to help district and local *N.Y.P.S.* leaders understand their responsibilities. This became foundational material for the establishment of *N.Y.P.S.* ministries in newly started churches.⁴⁸

Secondly, *Teen Topics* was added to the youth periodicals. This was a loose-leaf supply of suggestions for devotional services adapted to teen-age interest and ability. It was to supplement the *Journal*, being geared for use by teen-agers. At the time of the 1948 General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention sales had reached 2,160.⁴⁹

A report was presented at the General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention on the sales of the *Conquest* magazine created during the previous quadrennium. At the time of the 1948 General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention 15,000 subscriptions were sold.⁵⁰ These subscriptions would need to nearly double to achieve the 25,000 needed to stay afloat.

N.Y.P.S. also developed programmatically as the *Lamplighter's League* was created to support the work of personal evangelism. It was designed to be a grassroots type of ministry rather than a top down mandate from the General

⁴⁸ Ibid., 296.

⁴⁹ Ibid., 297.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

*N.Y.P.S.*⁵¹ Therefore, little records were kept to reflect the impact of the *Lamplighter's League*.

Of course offerings remained an important element of the *N.Y.P.S.* It was reported that during the first year of the quadrennium the *N.Y.P.S.* raised \$11,000 to support the Hurler Nazarene College in Glasgow, Scotland.⁵²

In the last three years of the quadrennium the young people were challenged to deny themselves and give offerings for missions that would go directly to the General Budget. As a result, \$79,577 was given.⁵³

1952

Youth membership at the 1952 General Assembly was reported as being 80,594. The eighth General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention convened in Kansas City, Missouri. “*By My Spirit*” was adopted as the quadrennial theme.

Leadership change came again as Ponder Gilliland was elected as the fifth General *N.Y.P.S.* President during the 1952 Convention replacing Mendell Taylor who had served four years.

The delegates of the 1952 Convention established two objectives for *N.Y.P.S.*: First, *evangelism*; to call young people to be soul winners. Second, *training*;

⁵¹ Ibid., 296.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Ibid.

preparing youth to be effective Nazarene churchmen.⁵⁴ This twofold emphasis resulted in an increased emphasis on the *Lamplighter's League* and the *Crusade For Souls* and training materials in the *Young People's Journal* and *Teen Topics*.

The interest in printed resources continued as *Teen Topics* reached a subscription of 4,164, and the *Young People's Journal* subscription was at 8,771. Now, nearly ten years after being created, the *Conquest* magazine reached nearly 30,000 subscriptions, which was 5,000 more than the amount needed.⁵⁵ *Conquest* was a financial success.

There were two mission offering projects that were supported during the quadrennium.

The first was a project to raise money to help launch Bible Colleges on two of the new home mission fields, Australia and South Africa (European). Just short of \$35,000 came in for the project.

The second was a project to raise money for a radio outlet in New York City. A total of \$21,386 came in to keep "Showers of Blessing" on the air for approximately two years.⁵⁶

⁵⁴ Lauriston DuBois, N.Y.P.S. Executive Secretary's Report to the General Assembly, *Journal of the General Assembly* (1956) : 295.

⁵⁵ Ibid., 293.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

1956

Youth membership at the 1956 General Assembly was reported as being 89,249.

The ninth General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention convened in Kansas City, Missouri. “*We Are His Witnesses*” was adopted as the quadrennial theme.

Lauriston J. DuBois reported to the delegates of the 1956 General *N.Y.P.S.*

Convention:

*“while we do not have a plan of detailed reports of district activities and projects, it is my opinion that our district organizations are the best organized and functioning the most efficiently of any period in our history.”*⁵⁷

Eugene Stowe was elected during the 1956 *N.Y.P.S.* Convention as the sixth General *N.Y.P.S.* President replacing Ponder Gilliland who had served four years. Ponder Gilliland continued his general leadership; however when he was elected to serve as the sixth General *N.Y.P.S.* Executive Secretary replacing Lauriston DuBois who had served for twelve years.

Four annual emphases were implemented throughout the quadrennium:

1. We Ought To Obey God
2. Workmen With The Word
3. We Cannot But Speak
4. Witnessing To Win⁵⁸

⁵⁷ Ibid., 294.

⁵⁸ Ponder Gilliland, Executive Secretary’s Report to the General Assembly, *Journal of the General Assembly* (1960) : 302.

Interest in printed periodicals continued as subscriptions to *Conquest* would reach 42,000. The *Junior Topics*, *Teen Topics*, and *Young Adult Topics* reached a subscription level of 23,300.⁵⁹

The N.Y.P.S. members would begin a new offering initiative to support the American Bible Society. About \$20,000 per year was received in Bible Society offerings.

Also, an offering was received to purchase a parsonage in West Germany for the Jerry Johnson family. A goal of \$15,000 was set, \$27,000 was given!

1958

The first International Institute was held in the Colorado Rockies in July 1958 including 515 teenagers and 305 youth leaders. This event was designed to gather the young people from throughout the world for a week of training and inspiration. Mr Ruesch, the top man at Estes Park where the event was held would write about the group:

*“we have had hundreds of conferences here over the last twenty years, but we have never had on quite like this. It has made an unusual impact on our organization. We have never seen our staff so impressed, so moved.”*⁶⁰

1960

Youth membership at the 1960 General Assembly was reported as being 139,525. The youth membership had now exceeded 100,000, 37 years after the

⁵⁹ Paul Skiles, Executive Secretary’s Report To The General Assembly, *Journal of the General Assembly* (1960) : 418.

⁶⁰ Ibid., 416.

first General Convention held in 1923. The tenth General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention convened in Kansas City, Missouri. “*His*” was adopted as the quadrennial theme.

James Snow was elected as the seventh General *N.Y.P.S.* President during the 1960 Convention. Then in 1961, Paul Skiles would be elected to serve as *N.Y.P.S.* Executive Secretary replacing Ponder Gilliland who had served four years.

Printed resources continued gaining momentum as the *Conquest* subscription total had reached 42,970,; *Teen Topics* subscription total reached 7,543; *Young Adult Topics* subscriptions had reached 8,765; *Junior Topics* subscriptions had reached 5,287; and the *Junior Topics Action Packets* subscriptions reached 12,354.⁶¹

N.Y.P.S. members continued support of the American Bible Society by giving \$107,600 to the “God’s Word For A new Age” distribution program. The junior *N.Y.P.S.* members also participated in an offering to open the work in Samoa. \$37,352 was given!

In November of 1963 young people participated in the church-wide Gospel of John distribution program. *N.Y.P.S.* had a goal of 500,000 which was 25% of the total church goal. 420,000 were given out!⁶²

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² Ibid.

1964

Youth membership at the 1964 General Assembly was reported as being 150,155 in the USA and 23,000 on Mission Districts for a total of 171,500 *N.Y.P.S.* members. The eleventh General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention convened in Portland, Oregon. “*Into The Word and Unto The World*” was adopted as the quadrennial theme.

The delegates to the General Convention celebrated the growth and development of the *N.Y.P.S.* as Paul Skiles reported that “*N.Y.P.S.* had now established residency on all six of the populated continents of the world, plus many islands of the seas.”⁶³

John Hancock was elected during the 1964 General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention to serve as the eighth General *N.Y.P.S.* President.

Many periodicals continued to increase in subscriptions as the *Conquest* subscription total had now reached 52,700, *Teen Topics* subscription total reached 10,938, *Junior Topics* subscriptions had reached 6,124, and *Junior Topics Action Packets* subscriptions reached 14,835. The *Young Adult Topics* subscriptions was 6,270; however, a quadrennial decrease of 2,495.⁶⁴

⁶³ Paul Skiles, *Proceedings of the Eleventh General Convention of the Nazarene Young People's Society*, (1964) : 3.

⁶⁴ Skiles, Executive Secretary's Report To The General Assembly, (1964) : 418.

The *N.Y.P.S.* received offerings once again to support the American Bible Society with \$106,000 given over the four years.⁶⁵

The camping and retreat strategies were alive and well throughout the church.

Paul Skiles stated in his report to the General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention,

*“there is no greater youth evangelistic opportunity open to the church than camps and retreats. ‘Operation Opportunity’ as we call it . . . and for good reason since it is by the youth camp trail that we invade the hearts and lives of thousands of young people with the message of redemption and the call unto holiness.”*⁶⁶

In July of 1966 the third *International Institute* was held at Estes Park, Colorado with 1200 young people and 300 adult leaders.⁶⁷

Several new programs would be started during this quadrennium such as the *Nazarene Evangelistic Ambassadors* started in 1964 through a partnership with the Foreign Missions department. This ministry involved 14 representatives from the colleges and seminary serving in Mexico, Guatemala, Trinidad, Puerto Rico, British Guiana, and Nicaragua.⁶⁸ This would be the beginnings of a general church mobilization strategy to provide young people with opportunity to serve in mission experiences.

Also, the Bible Quizzing program was launched during the 1964 General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention. The books studied were Matthew, Romans, Philippians,

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ Ibid., 415.

⁶⁷ Ibid., 455.

⁶⁸ Ibid., 456.

Timothy, John, and Acts. This program was very well received as 8,000 books were sold in the first year. The first international Bible Quiz competition was held two years later at Estes Park in July of 1966. By the end of the quadrennium regional quiz competitions were being held on each of the USA educational zones.⁶⁹

A personal witness and soul-winning emphasis known as *IMPACT* was introduced providing materials for teens and young adults. *IMPACT* stood for IMmediate Personal ACTion for Christ.⁷⁰ This would lead to the establishment of district *IMPACT* teams that would travel around the district ministering through local churches.

In 1967 the *N.Y.P.S.* and the World Missions Department collaborated on a project resulting in conducting *Youth and Missions Conferences* in 17 major USA cities. The *Nazarene Evangelistic Ambassador* program started in 1964 would be renamed *YOUTH IN MISSION*.⁷¹

Finally, the *N.Y.P.S.* was called upon to provide a new ministry to Nazarenes in Armed Services. Consequently, seven overseas retreats were held by *N.Y.P.S.* leaders for servicemen. Other servicemen were visited by the Youth Department staff. In total, 20,000 servicemen were ministered to. On October 21, 1967, an

⁶⁹ Ibid., 454.

⁷⁰ Ibid., 419.

⁷¹ Ibid., 457.

honor roll was placed in the foyer of the General Board building and dedicated to the memory of the 14 known casualties in the Vietnam War.⁷²

1968

Youth membership at the 1968 General Assembly was reported as being 168,422. The twelfth General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention convened in Kansas City, Missouri. “*Alive Unto God*” was adopted as the quadrennial theme.

Paul Skiles in his report to the General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention referenced the cultural changes occurring:

*“call it what you like . . . ‘generation gap,’ ‘communication crisis,’ or whatever . . . today’s young people look at the world, the Church, us, and themselves in their own way. It’s sometimes disturbing. Sometimes reassuring. Often penetrating. Always searching.”*⁷³

James Bond was elected as the ninth General *N.Y.P.S.* President in 1969.

The make up of the General *N.Y.P.S.* Council would change as the 1968 General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention called for a European representative to be added. The General Council would include a representative from outside the USA for the first time.⁷⁴

⁷² Ibid., 454.

⁷³ Ibid., 453.

⁷⁴ Gordon Wetmore, General Secretary Report to the N.Y.P.S. Convention, *Proceedings of the Twelfth Convention of the Nazarene Young People’s Society*, (1968) : 51.

The addition of programs and events offered by the general *N.Y.P.S.* brought the need to improve the *N.Y.P.S.* organization to continue meeting the needs of young people throughout the Church of the Nazarene. The delegates to the 1968 General Assembly responded to this need by creating a Department of Youth within the General Board. The intent was to provide four permanent administrative means:⁷⁵

1. The concept of youth involvement in the church's evangelistic mission could be strengthened.
2. The various roles of youth in the life of the church could be coordinated.
3. New specialized youth programs could be developed.
4. The youth organization (*N.Y.P.S.*) programs and ministry could be made an integral part of the general church government.

The *N.Y.P.S.* organization continued to mature and develop. Gordon Wetmore, General Secretary, stated in his report to the General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention, "the general staff has reached a new level of efficiency in directing the youth ministries of our church."⁷⁶

During this quadrennium a quarterly resource known as *Total Youth Program Service* was created for local *N.Y.P.S.* leaders. The *Junior Topics*, *Junior Topics Action Packet*, and *Young Adult Discussion Outlines* were all continued. The Latin Publications Division of the Nazarene Publishing House would begin to offer the Spanish *Conquista* magazine for youth.⁷⁷

⁷⁵Ibid., 425.

⁷⁶ Wetmore, General Secretary Report to the N.Y.P.S. Convention, *Proceedings of the Twelfth Convention of the Nazarene Young People's Society*, (1968) : 2.

⁷⁷ Ibid., 4-5.

Not much more is reported about the printed resources during this quadrennium as they seemed to have become common place. The strong emphasis on providing printed resources was now being equaled by the emphasis on strengthening existing programs and introducing several new ones.

Bible Quizzing sales had reached 28,000 as it had become a part of every district ministry. For the first time, a Bible Quiz tournament would be held during the General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention.⁷⁸

The General Council wrestled with the absence of sufficient young adult ministries. One of the results of this discussion was a ministry to Nazarene University Students created in January of 1971 resulting in the periodical *ETC.* which was designed to support the rising interest in Campus Ministries as a result of several small conferences and three major conferences held in Columbus, Ohio (1969), Stillwater, Oklahoma (1969), and Tempe, Arizona (1972).⁷⁹

By the end of the quadrennium, the *IMPACT* strategy would include over 200 teen and young adult local and district *IMPACT* teams.⁸⁰

Workshop on Witnessing materials originally created by Norm Shoemaker for the 1970 International Institute was mass produced to resource young people to learn the fundamental principles of witnessing. It was written with four guidelines:

⁷⁸ Skiles, Executive Secretary's Report To The General Assembly (1968) : 454.

⁷⁹ Gordon Wetmore, General Secretary's Report to the N.Y.P.S. Convention, (1968) : 8-9.

⁸⁰ Ibid., 4.

1. a varied format of learning techniques
2. actual involvement of participants in sharing situations
3. planned participation in an IMPACT project
4. flexible format permitting its use in various program opportunities such as camps, retreats, NTF, VBS, Youth Week, etc.⁸¹

A group known as *Lost and Found* was created with 11 participants traveling the USA in 1970 hosting events known as “Youth Quakes.” These were four day youth outreach campaigns. In 1971 another *Lost and Found* team was added.⁸²

Operation Pioneer was created consisting of a children’s and youth outreach team trained in Vacation Bible School operation. This group went to six Home Mission churches in 1971.⁸³

The *Six Workers* was created in 1971 consisting of six college men who used their muscle and sweat to build the invisible church while they built, repaired, and improved structures.⁸⁴

In July of 1970 the fourth International Institute was held in Estes Park, Colorado involving 2,035 teens and leaders. The theme was “Let The Whole World Know.” Two major musicals were introduced at the International Institute, beginning the wide use of youth musicals. These were “Life” and “This Same Jesus.” *N.Y.P.S.* began to work with the Nazarene Publishing House to produce youth musicals. Some of the early youth musicals were, “Love,” “Young World,” “Don’t Be A

⁸¹ Ibid.

⁸² Ibid.

⁸³ Ibid.

⁸⁴ Ibid.

Loser,” “Great To Be Alive,” “One Life To Live,” and “Amazing Grace and other Songs of the Lost and Found.”⁸⁵

The *N.Y.P.S.* gave once again to the American Bible Society raising \$147,300 over the quadrennium.⁸⁶

1972

Youth membership at the 1972 General Assembly was reported as being 220,806. The youth membership exceeded 200,000 for the first time in the history of the Church of the Nazarene. For the first time the official youth membership statistics of the USA/Canada were reported separate from the youth membership of the world areas. The youth membership of the USA/Canada was 123,485. The youth membership of all other world areas was 97,321. The thirteenth General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention convened in Miami Beach, Florida. “*Jesus The Hope*” was adopted as the quadrennial theme.

Paul Skiles, General *N.Y.P.S.* Executive Secretary began his report to The General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention by stating:

*“our generation will be remembered for how we responded to what appears to be the most aggressive youth movement in the history of mankind.”*⁸⁷

Once again a major transition in general leadership would take place as Talmadge Johnson was elected as General *N.Y.P.S.* President. Paul Skiles

⁸⁵ Ibid., 5.

⁸⁶ Ibid., 6.

⁸⁷ Ibid., 1.

resigned as Executive Secretary following thirteen years of service. Only D.Shelby Corlett had served as long. Melvin McCullough was elected in 1974 as the eighth *N.Y.P.S.* Executive Secretary.

Printed resources continued with 56,543 *Conquest* subscriptions, 1,448 *Total Youth Program* Service Packets, 3,862 *Junior Topics* subscriptions, 13,941 *Junior Topics* Action Packets, 11,284 *Etcetera* subscriptions, 896 *Young Adult Discussion Outlines*, and 3,560 *Conquista* subscriptions.⁸⁸

Bible Quizzing continued explosive growth as 16,000 Bible Quizzing study books were being purchased per year.⁸⁹ A strategic move to support this growth was bringing Eddy Hall onto the youth department staff. Eddy had founded and published a variety of quiz materials through *Quiz Specialties*. This addition would result in the *Quiz Specialties* products being sold through the Nazarene Publishing House.

The International Institute name was changed to Nazarene World Youth Conference. The 1974 event held in the Swiss Alps drew 2,356 attendees from 42 nations over two events held two consecutive weeks. Tina Dickey, a teen from Birmingham, Michigan sent in this response to the general *N.Y.P.S.* office:

"I just returned from one of the greatest experiences of my life. . . . One night I woke up from my sleep and went into the prayer room with some friends to read

⁸⁸ Melvin McCullough, Executive Secretary Report to the General Assembly, *Journal Of The General Assembly*, (1976) : 489.

⁸⁹ Ibid., 489-490.

*my Bible. Before long, five other people came praising the Lord. Later on more and more came – 20 people, 50 people, and eventually over 100 people from different countries, speaking different languages, praising the Lord. Truly, 'He is Lord.'*⁹⁰

The ministry to military personnel by *N.Y.P.S.* continued through literature and correspondence. Five retreats were held for military personnel and their families.

McCullough commented in his report to the delegates of the General Convention:

*"These retreats are greatly strengthened b the presence and work of key civilian church leaders in the areas. This avenue of ministry is one of our most rewarding means of outreach, and is received with great enthusiasm by those who are often isolated by their military assignment."*⁹¹

Calling young people to give through offerings continued as the Nazarene Junior Fellowship raised \$38,199 throughout the quadrennium for the extension seminary in Ecuador. Also, \$183,070 was received for the American Bible Society offering.⁹²

1976

Youth membership at the 1976 General Assembly was reported as being 241,173. The youth membership of the USA/Canada was 132,704. The youth membership of all other world areas was 108,469. The fourteenth General *N.Y.P.S.* Convention convened in Dallas, Texas in June of 1976. "*Jesus Is Lord*" was adopted as the quadrennial theme.

⁹⁰ Ibid., 492.

⁹¹ Ibid., 493.

⁹² Ibid., 488.

In his report to the General N.Y.P.S. Convention, Executive Secretary, Mel McCullough stated:

*“A significant thrust in the ministry of the Church of the Nazarene has been the denomination’s concern and ability to capture the imagination and call for the dedication of youth. In this time of radical change and testing, the church is more committed to such a ministry than ever.”*⁹³

In 1977 Holland Lewis became the eleventh General NYI President. In the following year of 1978, Gary Henecke became the ninth General NYI Director replacing Melvin McCullough who had served for three years.

The delegates of the General N.Y.P.S. Convention changed the name from The Nazarene Young People’s Society (N.Y.P.S.) to Nazarene Youth International (NYI).⁹⁴ Other names submitted by delegates and voted on were: Nazarene Youth Ministry, Nazarene Youth Ministries International, and Nazarene Youth Fellowship.

Also, the age focus of NYI was expanded to include all those 12 to 40 years of age. Recognizing the need for variation of the age focus due to cultural diversity, the General Council was empowered to revise the age range in other world areas.⁹⁵

Another change in focus was the establishment of three age divisions for the work of NYI: Early Youth, Senior Youth, and Career Youth.

⁹³ Ibid., 486.

⁹⁴ *Minutes of the Fourteenth General Convention of the Nazarene Young People’s Society*, (1976) : 10.

⁹⁵ Ibid.

There were three primary tasks identified for NYI:

1. Bring our young people to a personal encounter with Christ.
2. Help them discover the significance of growing toward maturity as disciples of Christ by Bible study, prayer, and Christian fellowship.
3. Equip our youth to be involved in the total evangelistic mission of the Church.⁹⁶

A major organizational change would result in the NYI department being placed within the Christian Life Department (now known as Sunday School Ministries).

In 1976 the *Conquest* magazine was renamed *Bread* and featured a new format. The *Junior Topics* became *HELPS* (Handy Elementary Leader's Packet Service) which was a quarterly resource packet for children's ministries. The *TYPS* programmer was renamed *Source*. The *Bread* subscriptions stood at 34,980, *Etcetera* at 4,200, and *Source* 1,900.⁹⁷

The Department of Youth continued to sponsor Servicemen's retreats as part of the serviceman commission. However, this ministry would be transferred in 1979 to the Department of Education and the Ministry.

Another Nazarene World Youth Conference was held in Estes Park, Colorado in 1978 with 2,600 participants from 21 nations.⁹⁸

⁹⁶ McCullough, Executive Secretary's Report to the General Assembly (1976) : 487.

⁹⁷ Gary Henecke, Executive Secretary's Report to the General Assembly, *Journal of the General Assembly* (1980) : 487.

⁹⁸ Ibid.

The Board of General Superintendents placed all of the Summer Ministries into the Youth Department. NYI now had seven Summer Ministries including: *International Student Ministries* (outside North America), *Intersect* (North American Inner City), *Living Word* (Drama), *Acts 29* (Discipling Teams), *Contact* (Children's Ministries), *Discovery* (Music Teams), and *A.I.M.* (Athletes In Mission).⁹⁹

Support for the American Bible Society offering continued as \$201,614.12 was received over the quadrennium.

1980

Youth membership at the 1980 General Assembly was reported as being 145,911. The youth membership of the USA/Canada was 105,482. The youth membership of all other world areas was 40,429. The fifteenth General NYI Convention (first one to be called NYI rather than N.Y.P.S.) convened in Kansas City, Missouri. "*Follow The Son* " was adopted as the quadrennial theme.

Gary Henecke, Executive Director of NYI, stated in his report the General Convention:

*"A variety of formats have been tried through the years to find fresh approaches in the evangelism task. Like John Wesley, a freedom to use the techniques of a new age must be carefully married into our commitment to primitive Christianity. (1) Re-energizing small groups, (2) calling for the recovery of youth get-togethers, (3) pursuing tools to grow in grace and worship our Lord, have all become our guidelines"*¹⁰⁰

⁹⁹ Ibid., 489.

¹⁰⁰ Ibid., 486.

The role of professional youth ministers was on the rise. Henecke noted in his report to the General Convention that youth ministers had now become the second largest ministerial category in the Church of the Nazarene.¹⁰¹

Daniel Ketchum was elected in the 1980 Convention as the twelfth General NYI President. Two years later in 1982, Larry Leonard became the tenth NYI Director replacing Gary Henecke who had served for four years.

The magazine *Etcetera* was last published in August of 1980. A new magazine was created in its place for college students entitled *ONE*. *ONE* magazine was discontinued in July 1984 due to low sales and increasing financial pressures.¹⁰²

NYI responded to the need for an event involving young adults by hosting a first ever *Greenlake '82* college and career aged holiness retreat held in Greenlake, Wisconsin with 200 participants.¹⁰³

September 1, 1982 to August 31, 1983 was designated as "The Year of the Young" in the Church of the Nazarene. The two-fold purpose of this special emphasis was to provide dignity for and give emphasis to the importance of

¹⁰¹ Ibid.

¹⁰² Philip Riley, Director of Christian Life and Sunday School Report, *Journal of the General Assembly*, (1985) : 615.

¹⁰³ Ibid., 618.

children and youth in the local church and to focus on ministry to young people in the denomination.¹⁰⁴

In 1983 support materials for *Youth Week* were created for the first time. This resource packet included program ideas, recruitment suggestions, and involvement inducers.¹⁰⁵

The World Youth Congress was held in Oaxtepec, Mexico in June 1983 with over 2000 teens and sponsors in attendance. Over 28 nations were represented. At the conclusion of the event the participants gave an offering of \$7,500 to the seminary in Mexico.¹⁰⁶

1985

Youth membership at the 1985 General Assembly was reported as being 235,141. The youth membership of the USA/Canada was 169,602. The youth membership of all other world areas was 65,539. The sixteenth General NYI Convention was convened Anaheim, California. “*Share His Spirit*” was adopted as the quadrennial theme.

W.J. Stevens was elected in the 1985 General NYI Convention as the thirteenth General NYI President. In 1986 Gary Sivewright became the eleventh General NYI Ministries Director, replacing Larry Leonard who served four years. Up until

¹⁰⁴ Ibid., 619.

¹⁰⁵ Ibid., 618.

¹⁰⁶ Ibid.

this time Sivewright had been serving on the NYI staff as Teen Program Coordinator, Editor of *Bread* magazine, and editor of *Teens Today*.

Bread magazine became 32 pages in length along with a four-color cover. The subscriptions had reached 27,000. In 1986 *Bread* was awarded the Award of Excellence by the Evangelical Press Association, making it the number one Christian youth magazine in the USA.¹⁰⁷

The Bible Quizzing cycle was expanded from a six year cycle to an eight year cycle to coincide with the change made by the World Bible Quiz Association.

Three advantages came with this expansion:¹⁰⁸

1. More books of the New Testament would be included.
2. More churches of other denominations could quiz together giving churches more opportunity to participate.
3. This change would adopt the NIV which would increase the sales of the *Discovery Series* small group Bible study materials.¹⁰⁹

The first General Invitational Bible Quiz was held in the summer of 1988 at MidAmerca Nazarene College. This would become a yearly event different from the other general quiz events that only involved regional teams. This quiz was opened to local church teams.¹¹⁰

¹⁰⁷ Ibid., 569.

¹⁰⁸ Ibid., 615.

¹⁰⁹ Ibid., 570.

¹¹⁰ Philip Riley, Director of Christian Life and Sunday School Report, *Journal of the General Assembly*, (1989) : 570.

Nazarene Youth Congress '87 was held in July of 1987 on the campus of Maryland University with 4,000 teens and youth leaders in attendance.¹¹¹

Two new resources were created. The first was a new curriculum known as *TOTAL* which provided a comprehensive program for mid-week youth ministry. *TOTAL* included 40 Bible Studies, 18 evangelistic rallies, 10 worship service outlines, a book of “how-tos” in starting a youth ministry, and a quarterly resource mailing. *TOTAL* sold over 1000 units in its first year.¹¹²

The second resource was a handbook created in 1985 to assist the youth camp director in all the duties and responsibilities of directing a youth camp. This would become an annual resource.

The American Bible Society offering was continued; however, the amount contributed by NYI was not identified separately from the whole.

1989

Youth membership at the 1989 General Assembly was reported as being 250,785. The youth membership of the USA/Canada was 154,194. The youth membership of all other world areas was 96,591. The seventeenth General NYI Convention convened in Indianapolis, Indiana. “*Dare To Run*” was adopted as the quadrennial theme.

¹¹¹ Ibid., 572.

¹¹² Ibid., 569.

In the Christian Life and Sunday School Division report to the 22nd General Assembly of the Church of the Nazarene the Director Phil Riley stated, “There is probably no denomination that can boast of a more dedicated and energetic staff than the Church of the Nazarene. Youth ministry is the number one priority.”¹¹³

Rick Power was elected in the 1989 General NYI Convention as the fourteenth General NYI President. Fred Fullerton became the twelfth General NYI Ministries Director in 1991 following Gary Sivewright who had served for five years.

Bread magazine was discontinued in October of 1992 after subscriptions had hit an all time low of 12,000 subscriptions. However, a second volume of *TOTAL* was released with a combined sales total of nearly 4,000.¹¹⁴

The *Teens Today* (Sunday School take home paper for youth) was awarded the Evangelical Press Association’s Award of Merit. This placed the magazine in the top four of the country’s Sunday School papers.¹¹⁵

Nazarene Youth Congress was held in July of 1991 in Orlando, Florida with 5000 young people and sponsors in attendance.¹¹⁶

¹¹³ Ibid., 566.

¹¹⁴ Philip Riley, Director of Christian Life and Sunday School Report, *Journal of the General Assembly*, (1993) : 649.

¹¹⁵ Ibid.

¹¹⁶ Ibid., 653.

NYI Ministries, World Mission, and Church Growth hosted two new missions conferences for young adults entitled “San Diego ‘89” and “San Diego ‘91.” Both were held on the campus of Point Loma Nazarene College in San Diego, California. The two conferences combined involved over 700 registrants and staff.¹¹⁷

On November 3, 1991 NYI and NWMS cosponsored a special day entitled, “Youth Mission Commitment Day.” This was designed to encourage junior, senior high students, and young adults to consider a call to full-time Christian service.

The development of annual spring events sponsored by each USA educational institution was getting attention. Phil Riley commented on these events in his report to the General Assembly:

“They are the fastest growing event outside the quadrennial north American youth congress. The purpose is to bring district NYI groups together at their college/university for evangelism, fellowship, training, and fun.”¹¹⁸

After several quadrenniums of supporting the American Bible Society offering, NYI ceased receiving this offering in order to participate in the denominational sponsored “Thrust to the Cities” offering. Over \$80,000 was received in the Seoul, Korea “Thrust to the Cities” offering. Another \$5,000 was raised for the Berlin and Calcutta “Thrust to the Cities” offerings.¹¹⁹

¹¹⁷ Ibid.

¹¹⁸ Ibid.

¹¹⁹ Ibid.

1993

Youth membership at the 1993 General Assembly was reported as being 287,420. The youth membership of the USA/Canada was 160,864. The youth membership of all other world areas was 126,556. The eighteenth General NYI Convention convened in Indianapolis, Indiana. “*Lead The Way*” was adopted as the quadrennial theme.

Jim Williams was elected as the fifteenth General NYI President; however resigned after three years of service. Bruce Oldham was elected to replace Jim in 1996 and became the sixteenth General NYI President.

Another major organizational change would take place as the NYI Department was removed from the Department of Sunday School Ministries to function as an auxiliary ministry.

A “Strategic Plan For Effective Ministry” was adopted for NYI in 1993 outlining six major areas of focus:

1. International Youth Ministry
2. Ethnic/Urban Youth Ministry – North America
3. Leadership Development
4. Youth Ministry in the Local Church
5. Regional College/University Youth Events
6. Major Youth Events.¹²⁰

¹²⁰ Fred Fullerton, NYI Ministries Director Report to the General Assembly, *Journal of the General Assembly*, (1997) : 500.

Also, the delegates to the General Convention would adopt two resolutions that would create an NYI to serve a global church. First, the Commission on the Internationalization of Youth Ministry was established to study the structure, programs, and products of NYI and to present recommendations to the 1997 General NYI Convention in San Antonio, Texas.

Second, a partner region strategy was created in NYI for the purpose of providing encouragement, communication, prayer support, and the exchange of ideas and resources. The groupings were as follows:

- Africa / South Central USA
- Asia Pacific / Southeast USA
- Canada / North Central USA
- Caribbean / Eastern USA
- Eurasia / Southwest and Central USA
- Mexico and Central America / Northwest USA
- South America / East Central USA

The delegates also approved the implementation of the *Timothy Award* which was established to recognize outstanding contributions on the part of individuals in the nurture and development of young people in the local church.¹²¹

A new quarterly video resource entitled, “*High Rez*” was launched in 1993 including timely news, music videos, and ministry ideas. This was discontinued in 1995 due to a lack of sales.¹²²

¹²¹ Ibid., 501.

¹²² Ibid.

The printed resources went through change as the *Teens Today* was replaced by *Crosswalk* as the youth Sunday School take home paper. Also, the *TEAM NYI* Newsletter was created in January of 1997 as a 16 page bimonthly communication piece designed to resource, train, and encourage Nazarene youth workers.¹²³

Finances remained a challenge for the NYI office. An annual Global Youth Evangelism Offering was established to generate funds to add support to the *Youth in Mission* program.¹²⁴

Three specialized consultants were appointed to assist the General NYI Council and the NYI Ministries Director.¹²⁵ Jeff Carr was named as the Ethnic/Urban Youth Ministry consultant to develop models of ministry to assist the church in reaching the rapidly growing numbers of young people of color in North America.

Dave Curtiss was named as the Youth Ministry Education and Training consultant to develop strategies to train professional and lay youth workers. This resulted in the establishment of a youth leader training initiative entitled “TEAM NYI” with a three-fold mission:

1. Train lay youth workers
2. Support the professional youth worker
3. Encourage and serve as an extension of NYI Ministries

¹²³ Ibid., 505.

¹²⁴ Ibid.

¹²⁵ Ibid.

Wes Meisner was named the Campus Ministry consultant to develop strategies to reach students on non-Nazarene campuses.

Other programs and events continued such as the Youth Mission Commitment Day II that took place in 1995, and the *San Diego '94* Missions and Ministry Conference took place on the campus of Point Loma Nazarene University with 170 in attendance.¹²⁶

Nazarene Youth Congress '95 was held in Phoenix, Arizona with over 6000 participants. Dr. Paul Skiles, former director of *N.Y.P.S.*, became the first recipient of the *Timothy Award* at this event.

This quadrennium would usher in the beginnings of national youth ministry strategies such as “True Love Waits” and “See You At The Pole.” NYI Ministries supported and promoted both of these interdenominational programs.

The Mission Offering Project for 1994-1995 was “*China Ministries – Radio Broadcast*,” with \$150,000 raised. The Mission Offering Project for 1996-1997 was “*Words To The World*,” established to create new, culture specific resources for youth workers around the world. Also this project provided funding to translate existing youth ministry resources into French, Spanish, and Portuguese.¹²⁷

¹²⁶ Ibid., 505-507.

¹²⁷ Ibid., 501.

1997

Youth membership at the 1997 General Assembly was reported as being 307,563. The youth membership exceeded 300,000 for the first time in the history of the Church of the Nazarene. The youth membership of the USA/Canada was 155,176. The youth membership of all other world areas was 152,387. The nineteenth General NYI Convention convened in San Antonio, Texas. “*Build A Bridge*” was adopted as the quadrennial theme.

Bruce Oldham was elected to serve another four years as General NYI President during the 1997 General NYI Convention since he had assumed this responsibility mid-quadrennium. Another change would come in 2000 when Gary Hartke was elected as the thirteenth General NYI Director replacing Fred Fullerton who had served nine years.

Two commissions were established during the 1997 General NYI Convention: The first commission was charged with the responsibility of revising the current NYI Constitution and Bylaws according to the guidelines set forth by the convention delegates through various amendments and resolutions. The goal was to present a new Constitution and Bylaws to the 2001 General Convention.

The second commission was done in cooperation with representatives of Pastoral Ministries to study the relationship between the senior pastor and the

youth pastor in the local church setting. The goal was to identify and develop resources to enhance and improve this relationship.

A third commission came out of the General Assembly which resulted in the formation of a commission to study the transference of the core values of the Church of the Nazarene to the next generation.

Also, a new short term mission opportunity strategy entitled “Youthserve” was introduced at the 1997 General NYI Convention. This was introduced to facilitate mission opportunities by connecting interested local church youth groups with organizations interested in hosting a team.

1998 was a memorable year as the youth membership from world areas surpassed the membership of the USA/Canada.

The quadrennial Nazarene Youth Congress was held in Toronto, Canada in 1999 with 9,500 students and leaders in attendance. Attendees represented 30 countries of the world. The “*Next Generation NYI*” offering project was initiated at NYC ’99 USA/Canada in Toronto, Canada for the purpose of assisting in the development of church-based urban youth ministry projects in the cities of Brooklyn, New York, and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. \$50,000 was raised during the NYC for this purpose.¹²⁸

¹²⁸ Gary Hartke, NYI Ministries Director Report to the General Assembly, *Journal of the General Assembly*, (2001) : 687.

The Youth Mission Commitment Day continued in 1999.

2001

Youth membership at the 2001 General Assembly was reported as being 318,672. The youth membership of the USA/Canada was 134,422. The youth membership of all other world areas was 184,250. The twentieth General NYI Convention convened in Indianapolis, Indiana. “*ONE*” was adopted as the quadrennial theme.

Deirdre Brower was elected as the seventeenth General NYI President during the 2001 General NYI Convention. Brower was the first female and non-American to be elected as General NYI President.

The work of the commission established in 1997 to revise the NYI Constitution resulted in the total re-write of the document. This new document was presented to the delegates as, *The Charter and Ministry Plans*.” This document was created in two parts. The first part, *The Charter*, contained information that provided the foundation for youth ministry globally.

The second part, *The Ministry Plans*, was designed to provide a standard local, district, and regional ministry plan. However, instructions were included to enable each level to modify the plans resulting in more effective ministry.

Another addition to the development of a global NYI was the establishment of new leadership positions known as “Regional Youth Coordinators” This added an important support to the work of NYI world-wide. Seven Regional Youth Coordinators were appointed to serve the following areas:

Africa: Monte Cyr

Asia-Pacific: Dave Hane ('01), Larry Bollinger ('01-'03), Paul Coy ('03-present)

Caribbean: Eduardo Donath

Eurasia: Deirdre Brower Latz ('01-'04), Sabine Wielk ('04-present)

Mexico & Central America: German Picavea

South America: Luiz Mesa ('01-'02), Tim McKeithen ('02-present)

United States & Canada: Brent Hardesty ('02-'03), Dave Curtiss ('05-present)

The Nazarene Youth Conference for the USA/Canada was held in Houston, Texas in 2003 with 8200 participants.

2001

Following the 2001 General NYI Convention the NYI office began a radical restructuring to compliment the newly adopted *Charter and Ministry Plans*.

In October 2001 the NYI editorial staff was re-positioned to serve in the *WordAction* department of the Nazarene Publishing House. This allowed the continuation of youth ministry resource development which primarily service the USA, English speaking church. This new youth publishing venture was named Barefoot Ministries with Jeff Edmondson serving as the manager.

The TEAM NYI Newsletter was cancelled in October of 2001 so that NYI could begin a communication strategy that would go beyond the USA and Canada. A web strategy was started in October 2001 with the creation of an English site.

2003

In October 2003 the NYI youth mission staff was re-positioned to serve in the Personnel department of World Mission. This allowed the continuation of ministry experience opportunities for young people primarily from the USA. Joel Tooley was named as the Youth Mission Coordinator.

These two major changes gave NYI the opportunity to create new global ministry positions in the NYI office as well as continue these important ministries for the USA/Canada church.

2004

The NYI Communications strategy continued to develop with the implementation of a Spanish website (mirrored the English website) was added in January 2004.

The newly re-structured NYI Office would begin the focus on global events such Third Wave, as a leadership conference for emerging youth leaders that was held in Quito, Ecuador in January 2004 with 163 young people from 44 countries in attendance.

The story of NYI will continue grow and develop as we seek to call this generation of young people to a dynamic life in Christ. We continue to rely on ordinary people like Lucy P. Knott and R. E. Shaw who allow God to work through them to do great and wonderful things to the glory of God.

Appendix

General N.Y.P.S. / NYI Presidents

#	Name	Years Served	Total Years
1	Donnell J. Smith	1923-1932	9
2	G.B. Williamson	1932-1940	8
3	M. Kimber Moulton	1940-1948	8
4	Mendell Taylor	1948-1952	4
5	Ponder Gilliland	1952-1956	4
6	Eugene Stowe	1956-1960	4
7	James Snow	1960-1964	4
8	John Hancock	1964-1969	5
9	James Bond	1969-1972	3
10	Talmadge Johnson	1972-1977	5
11	Holland Lewis	1977-1980	3
12	Daniel Ketchum	1980-1985	5
13	W.J. (Woodie) Stevens	1985-1989	4
14	Rick Power	1989-1993	4
15	Jim Williams	1993-1996	3
16	Bruce Oldham	1996-2001	5
17	Deirdre Brower Latz	2001-2005	4

General NYI Executive Secretaries / Executive Directors

#	Name	Years Served	Total Years
1	D. Shelby Corlett	1923-1936	13
2	S. T. Ludwig	1936-1942	6
3	John Peters	1942-1943	1
4	S. T. Ludwig	1943-1944	1
5	Lauriston J. DuBois	1944-1956	12
6	Ponder Gilliland	1956-1960	4
7	Paul Skiles	1961-1974	13
8	Melvin McCullough	1974-1977	3
9	Gary Henecke	1978-1982	4
10	Larry Leonard	1982-1986	4
11	Gary Sivewright	1986-1991	5
12	Fred Fullerton	1991-2000	9
13	Gary Hartke	2000-	-

Quadrennial Themes & Convention Locations

#	Theme	Quadrennium	Convention Location
1	n/a	1923-1928	Kansas City, MO
2	Deepening Our Devotion To God	1928-1932	Columbus, OH
3	Each One Win One	1932-1936	Wichita, KS
4	Deeper And Farther With Christ	1936-1940	Kansas City, MO
5	Tarry Until – Then Go	1940-1944	Oklahoma City, OK
6	Giving Christ To The Nations	1944-1948	Minneapolis, MN
7	I Am A Debtor	1948-1952	St. Louis, MO
8	By My Spirit	1952-1956	Kansas City, MO
9	We Are His Witnesses	1956-1960	Kansas City, MO
10	His	1960-1964	Kansas City, MO
11	In The Word And Unto The World	1964-1968	Portland, OR
12	Alive With God	1968-1972	Kansas City, MO
13	Jesus The Hope	1972-1976	Miami Beach, FL
14	Jesus Is Lord	1976-1980	Dallas, TX
15	Follow The Son	1980-1985	Kansas City, MO
16	Share His Spirit	1985-1989	Anaheim, CA
17	Dare To Run	1989-1993	Indianapolis, IN
18	Lead The Way	1993-1997	Indianapolis, IN
19	Build A Bridge	1997-2001	San Antonio, TX
20	One	2001-2005	Indianapolis, IN

Youth Membership Statistics

Year	US/Canada	World Areas	Total	Comments
1907				
1908			523	
1909				No official statistics
1910				No official statistics
1911			1,491	First appointment of Statistical Secretary
1912			1,848	+357 (20% gain)
1913			2,218	+370 (17% gain)
1914			2,923	+705 (24% gain)
1915			3,162	+239 (8% gain)
1916			4,226	+1064 (25% gain)
1917			5,137	+911 (18% gain)
1918			5,025	-112 (.02% loss)
1919			5,371	+346 (.06% gain)
1920			6,762	+1391 (21% gain)
1921			8,661	+1899 (22% gain)
1922			10,864	+2203 (20% gain)
1923			12,768	+1904 (15% gain)
1924			15,189	+2421 (16% gain)
1925			17,898	+2709 (15% gain)
1926			21,846	+3948 (18% gain)
1927			25,821	+3975 (15% gain)
1928			27,279	+1458 (5% gain)
1929			26,289	-990 (3% loss)
1930			28,839	+2550 (9% gain)
1931			37,138	+8299 (22% gain)
1932			40,647	+3509 (9% gain)
1933			48,533	+7886 (16% gain)
1934			53,654	+5121 (10% gain)
1935			56,964	+3310 (6% gain)
1936			57,535	+571 (1% gain)
1937			56,326	-1209 (2% loss)
1938			60,338	+4012 (7% gain)
1939			64,108	+3770 (6% gain)
1940			66,891	+2783 (4% gain)
1941			66,347	-544 (.8% loss)
1942			67,125	+778 (1% gain)
1943			65,760	-1365 (2% loss)
1944			67,616	+1856 (3% gain)
1945			59,569	-8047 (14% loss)
1946			63,727	+4158 (7% gain)
1947			65,726	+1999 (3% gain)
1948			69,034	+3308 (5% gain)
1949			71,978	+2944 (4% gain)
1950			75,249	+3271 (4% gain)
1951			78,450	+3201 (4% gain)
1952			80,594	+2144 (3% gain)
1953			81,327	+733 (.9% loss)
1954			84,539	+3212 (4% gain)
1955			88,523	+3984 (5% gain)

1956			89,249	+726 (.8% gain)
1957			90,294	+1045 (1% gain)
1958			93,069	+2775 (3% gain)
1959			97,080	+4011 (4% gain)
1960			139,525	42,445 (30% gain) (Youth membership exceeds 100,000)
1961			132,787	-6738 (5% loss)
1962			138,805	+6018 (4% gain)
1963			148,587	+9782 (6.6% gain)
1964			150,155	+1568 (1% gain)
1965			155,577	+6970 (4% gain)
1966			158,269	+2692 (1.7% gain)
1967			163,390	+5121 (3% gain)
1968			168,422	+50332 (3% gain)
1969			167,698	-724
1970	109,372	56,572	165,944	-1754
1971	119,156	60,110	179,266	+13322
1972	123,485	97,321	220,806	+41540 Youth membership exceeds 200,000
1973	122,241	99,134	221,375	+569
1974	125,050	104,950	230,000	+8625
1975	132,925	104,622	244,547	+14,547
1976	132,704	108,469	241,173	-3374
1977	89,017	49,244	138,261	-102912
1978	79,335	47,041	126,376	-11885
1979	104,227	46,407	150,634	+24258
1980	105,482	40,429	145,911	-4723
1981	161,532	43,541	205,073	+59162
1982	163,281	50,255	213,536	+8463
1983	170,578	54,736	225,314	+11778
1984	170,345	58,207	228,552	+3238
1985	169,602	65,539	235,141	+6589
1986	150,758	73,932	224,690	-10451
1987	164,101	79,635	243,736	+19046
1988	159,161	88,696	247,857	+4121
1989	154,194	96,591	250,785	+2928
1990	146,798	99,704	246,502	-4283
1991	151,042	106,085	257,127	+10625
1992	160,099	115,937	276,036	+18909
1993	160,864	126,556	287,420	+11384
1994	156,731	127,003	283,734	-3686
1995	154,221	135,765	289,986	+6252
1996	154,035	145,434	299,469	+9483
1997	155,176	152,387	307,563	+8094 Youth membership exceeds 300,000
1998	155,029	157,645	312,674	+5111
1999	143,050	165,419	308,469	-4205
2000	142,134	177,018	319,152	+10683
2001	134,422	184,250	318,672	-480
2002	137,032	193,693	330,725	+12053
2003	135,902	194,799	330,701	-24
2004	136,780	200,170	336,950	+6249

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