

District NYI President's Report 2024



Dear Southern Florida District NYI,

I am excited to give my NYI President's report on the inspiring growth and development within our Southern Florida NYI over the past year. I am proud to announce that we have turned the corner, mending the disconnection of COVID-19, and our district youth ministry is flourishing once again. This past year has been marked by a journey of profound spiritual enrichment, vibrant community engagement, and transformative experiences.

I believe the foundation of the district youth ministry's success lies in the impactful summer camps we have been a part of over the past few years. Numerous young

hearts have encountered the life-changing love of Christ. Through dynamic worship provided by Trevecca Nazarene University, relevant teachings from amazing Pastors in our district, and a genuine fellowship. Our youth were encouraged to deepen their faith in the Lord and grow. As is written in **1 Timothy 4:12, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity."** This scripture reverberated throughout our students of SoFlo NYI. They have demonstrated remarkable maturity and dedication, and we're excited by their growth and passion for Christ.

Our first District Top Nazarene Talent (TNT) event since COVID-19, was the beginning of something new that is happening in our district. Our students celebrated the diverse gifts and talents within their young community. This event provided a platform for our young people to showcase their creativity and passion in various art forms. As I was once told, "**You are never too young to lead, and you are never too old to learn.**" Our youth enthusiastically embraced their leadership potential, inspiring one another and the wider body of Christ with their talents.

If you recall our previous years' struggle to make it to TNT @ TNU, you'll be excited to hear that this year's participation in TNT at Trevecca Nazarene University marked a significant milestone for SoFlo NYI! Welcoming over 1700 students to the campus, this event marked the first year Southern Florida NYI was part of this incredible gathering in our recent history. Over 30 students and adults were ignited with enthusiasm, forming and beginning connections to our denomination and experiencing the transformative power of community. As Thomas Rainer aptly stated, "**The local church is God's answer to the community problem.**" This

underscores the importance of fostering connections and community bonds, which TNT@TNU strives to facilitate.

Nazarene Youth Conference (NYC2023) is one of those events our students and leaders look forward to with the greatest anticipation. Happening only once in a lifetime for most. NYC 2023 provided an unparalleled opportunity for our youth to engage in worship and service alongside over 10,000 peers in Tampa Bay. This four-day event served as a powerful catalyst for spiritual growth, meaningful relationships, and impactful outreach in the local community as well as lifelong friendships. As Simmon Sinek emphasizes, ***"Connection is why we're here; it is what gives purpose and meaning to our lives."*** It is the connection to the Body of Christ that gives us purpose. Through these gatherings, our youth found a deeper sense of purpose, belonging, and connection within the larger Nazarene community. This event also serves as a great time for our HS students to seek the Lord's will in their own futures. The stories you hear of lives changed and from these students afterward are nothing short of amazing. If you know a student who was able to attend NYC and you haven't had a chance to ask them about it, I urge you to do so!

Looking ahead, our vision for NYI is grounded in nurturing a community where our students are supported and empowered to live out their faith in Christ boldly. Together, we are committed to exploring innovative ways to minister to and with the youth of Southern Florida, recognizing their part in the body of Christ and our responsibility to nurture their gifts and talents for His use and purpose.

It has been an honor to help lead the Youth of Southern Florida, I am filled with gratitude for the remarkable work that God is doing in and through the Southern Florida NYI. I want to thank my amazing team members who have served alongside me this year and my church who have shared their pastor with the district over the past year. Last but surely not least I want to give the biggest THANK YOU to my amazing wife and kids! They have dealt with the meetings, and travel and have done it in stride. Thank you for being my support as I have led this past year. May we continue to support and uplift our youth, trusting in God's guidance and blessings as we journey together in faith.

Respectfully Submitted

Pastor Jose Orama