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## Used by Him

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## Used by Him

*O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.* — Psalm 34:8 KJV

BY RAQUEL GOMEZ

These small, yet powerful words printed above seemed to echo throughout the room as I answered Ron Whitehead's questions. After weeks of careful planning and praying, there I stood before a crowd of 400 young people who were eager to learn new ways to work for the Lord. Despite a flurry of emotions running through my mind, somehow an amazing peace quieted them.

After leading the Benton Harbor Habaneros Pathfinder club for three years, never did I once fathom I would stand before a crowd to tell them about starting a club themselves. In quoting the psalmist, I wanted to instill the greatest lesson I learned through doing ministry — experiencing what the Lord can do in the lives of others as well as your own. Being involved in a community-based Pathfinder club, God slowly showed me that it didn't matter how good a leader I thought I was; it was He who would, ultimately, come through for me at the end of the day.

He came through when I first stepped foot into the recreational center, when my staff and I went to the streets in search of children, when we lacked money to start a club, when we needed to purchase uniforms, and even when we wanted to attend the camporee at Camp Au Sable. God has proved to me He is so good, and I feel humbled by the chance He has given me to taste that.

The Lake Union Conference Youth Evangelism Congress was a blessing in and of itself. Although I was a presenter, I was again reminded of the goodness of the Lord. The very fact that so many youth were willing to take time out of their schedules simply to talk about ways they could spread the Word was simply awe-inspiring. Each presenter had such zeal for what they proclaimed, and it was clear that



Raquel Gomez

only a love for God could be the reason they stood on the stage. Even more remarkable was the number of people who approached me in an effort to begin their own community-based Pathfinder club. The Lord has so many ways to remind His children that He is with us and cares for each one. What I initially thought was a chance to share how the Lord can work wonders became the inspiration for many other youth to serve Him.

Yes, there have been trials, obstacles and reasons to fall on my knees in search of answers from Him, but there also have been moments when all I can do is praise Him. The Lord doesn't call everyone to be a Master Guide, a counselor or general staff member. He calls us to spread the Word, to *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen* (Matthew 28:19, 20 KJV). God blessed at the Youth Congress, but there is still more in store for those who labor for Him. He gives everyone an equal chance to taste and see that He is good; all we have to do is be willing to be used by Him.

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Raquel Gomez is in her third year at Andrews University. She is studying elementary education and hopes to teach in the same community where she has been pathfinding the last three years. A native of Los Angeles, Raquel's greatest aspiration is to bring Jesus to impoverished communities and to the youth who often go unnoticed.