

Papua New Guinean Youth Rise and Shine

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PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea — The future is bright for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Papua New Guinea, according to senior Church leader, Elder Dirk Smibert.

Speaking to around 200 young adults at a three-day convention in Port Moresby this weekend, he said that the young people "looked wonderful," and that "they would lead the Church here in the years ahead."

Over the past weekend the youngsters participated in a dance, workshops, sports afternoon, talent show and worship services. They also spent time on Saturday morning at the 'Four Mile' bus stop, cleaning up one of Port Moresby's busiest places.

As the convention came to a close Sunday afternoon, the youth were treated to a visit from Papua New Guinea's Minister for Community Development, Dame Carol Kidu.

Church leaders presented Dame Carol with the first ever 'Sir Buri Kidu Standing for Something Award.' The honour recognized her years of service to the people of Papua New Guinea.

Dame Carol paid tribute to her late husband, after whom the Latter-day Saints' award has been named. She also said that many others deserved this award as "we are most effective when we work collectively."

Nineteen-year-old Tony George thanked Dame Carol for her work in the area of providing care to people with heart problems. It was through the Sir Buri Kidu Heart Institute, that she founded after her late husband passed away in 1994, that both Tony and his sister received life-saving treatment for their respective heart conditions.

The Latter-day Saints' young single adult convention was the first of its kind in Papua New Guinea and was organized by a committee made up of young Church members, advised by New Zealand missionary couple, Taylor and Cairo Tarawhiti.

"Everyone loved being together," said one of the young adult leaders, Habe Yua. "There is already talk about next year's convention."

Young members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints worldwide participate in conventions like this one, which are organized to nurture friendships, faith and the confidence to develop knowledge and talents.

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Photos below are of Elder Dirk Smibert and Dame Carol Kidu and young Church members

