

YOUTH PLAN LOS ANGELES AREA WORLD PEACE PRAYER MEETING

It all started after our March 16 meeting: Lilia Williams and I were talking about how cool it would be if the junior high and high school divisions could be in charge of a world peace prayer meeting. After our youth division leaders and men's and women's division leaders okayed it, Lilia and I got together with many of our members in May to get ideas about what kind of meeting to have. In June, we went on a home-visit campaign for the whole month toward the meeting. Then in July, we really started to turn up the heat by having planning meetings once a week and rehearsals.

Our men's and women's division members asked how they could help out and support us. All we could say was that we needed help with rides and promotion of the Aug. 8 meeting.

The most difficult part was the skit: We wanted to make it real to the point of showing people what the junior high and high school division members go through every day. In the skit, a young man avoids a violent confrontation by chanting with his parents, calling a youth division leader for encouragement, and then refusing to buy a gun. It ends with the Los Angeles Area youth making their own Victory Over Violence pledge:

- We will stop violence against ourselves and stand up for all people when we witness any forms of violence.
- Our vision is to see that the world stop promoting violence in cartoons, videos, music and the media. By everyone taking action in our environment, we can stop the violence and increase the peace.
- We hope to have all cultural differences settled through dialogue and not war! We will work together to create a society without violence, making it possible to create world peace.
- We, the youth of Los Angeles Area, vow to dedicate our lives to ending violence in the 21st century.

—HARRY TOLLIVER, JR.