

2009 TALENT COMPETITION SELECTIONS

General Guidelines

- Pastors and Youth Directors are fully responsible for verifying the date of birth of each contestant from their respective churches. They should personally verify the entry made in the form provided by PYFA. The PYFA talent contest Program Committee reserves the right to request proof for date of birth of any contestant any time before or after the contest.
- A contestant must be 25 years or younger to participate in the Talent Competitions, excluding Group Song.

Age Groups

Kindergarten	January 1, 2004 and Younger
Primary	January 1, 2001 - December 31, 2003
Middler	January 1, 1999 - December 31, 2000
Juniors	January 1, 1996 - December 31, 1998
Teens	January 1, 1993 - December 31, 1995
High Teens	January 1, 1989 - December 31, 1992
Seniors	January 1, 1984 - December 31, 1988

- The names of all contestants must be forwarded to the PYFA secretary on or before the deadline that will be set by the Executive Committee at the Combined Committee Meeting. No entries and or modifications will be accepted after this date.
- All contestants are obliged to fully abide by the guidelines for all the contests. Any violation of the same will result in disqualification of the candidate.
- All contestants must dress and conduct themselves appropriately, as pleasing unto the Lord.
- A contestant can participate in four items, excluding Group Song.
- A maximum of two contestants from each church will be permitted to participate in each item, with the exception of Instrumental music.

Items

Memory Verse	All Age Groups
Bible Quiz	All Age Groups
Solo	All Age Groups
Speech	Juniors and Up
Essay	Teens and Up
Instrumental Music	Up to Juniors, Juniors & Teens, High Teens & Seniors
Group Song with Instruments	One Group Per Church
Group Song without Instruments	One Group Per Church

- First, Second, and Third prizes will be awarded for the winners of all competition provided there are three or more participants registered for the given contest. Should any contest fail to meet the required minimum of three contestants registered, the same will be canceled. Contestants will be notified at least one week prior to the contest of the cancellation. All contests that meet the required minimum registered will be conducted regardless of the actual amount of contestants that show up the day of the contest and prizes will be awarded accordingly.
- A Championship trophy as well as first and second runner up trophies will be awarded to the churches which accumulate the most number of points. Points will be generated utilizing a 5-3-1 point grading system where first prize will receive 5 points, second prize will receive 3 points and third prize will receive 1 point.
- There will be a President's Award of \$200 presented to the contestant who wins four First prizes. The Kindergarten (KG) group will only be required to win three First prizes to qualify for the President's Award.
- Decisions made by the judges will be final. However, any dispute arising from the decision taken by the judges must be referred to the Program Committee who in turn will issue a ruling on the issue.
- **Only churches that have paid the membership fees as established at the Combined Committee Meeting of the calendar year will be permitted to participate in the talent contests. All membership fees must be paid by the due date.**
- The guidelines will not be altered during or after the competition, under any circumstances unless approved by two thirds the Executive Committee. Should any change be made prior to the competition, the participating churches will be notified of the same in writing, before the deadline to submit names. These guidelines may be amended, added to or replaced at any time by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Executive Committee provided that the notice of the proposed change shall have been given in the notice of the meeting.

## Guidelines For Individual Items

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### Memory Verses

Book Of Psalms (New International Version)	
Kindergarten - Primary	Chapters 1 – 55
Middlers – Juniors	Chapters 56 – 104
Teens - High Teens - Seniors	Chapters 105 – 150

- Kindergarten (reference NOT required) and Primary groups are required to recite the verses from the memory verse packets prepared and handed out to churches by PYFA. Middler and up are required to write the verses from the set of verses handed out by PYFA.
- Primary group is required to recite with reference. Middler and up are required to write the reference. However, if you are writing from the same book or chapter, the same (book or chapter) need not be repeated after it is written once.
- Kindergarten and Primary competition will be held individually or collectively. Fifteen seconds waiting period will be allowed between verses.
- Missing words and wrong reference will be counted as wrong.
- No abbreviations for words are allowed.
- Correct spelling should be followed at all times. The following point deduction will be utilized using 5 spelling mistake increments:

- 1 – 5 overall spelling mistakes = 1 point overall deduction from final score
- 6 – 10 overall spelling mistakes = 2 point overall deduction from final score
- 11 – 15 overall spelling mistakes = 3 point overall deduction from final score, etc.

- All writing should be legible and the Executive Officials reserves the right to mark Memory Verses incorrect if they cannot read what is written.
- Contestants who are writing must write a minimum of 25 verses from the memory verse packets. If a contestant fails to write the minimum, such contestant will be disqualified.
- **Time limit for writing is one hour.**

## Bible Quiz

BO: Books	
Kindergarten - Primary	Book of Genesis
Middlers – Juniors	Gospel of Luke and Book of Acts
Teens - High Teens - Seniors	Book of Romans and Hebrews

- The quiz will be oral for Kindergarten and Primary whereas it will be written for Middler and up.
- The books for the Bible Quiz for all age groups will be determined at the Combined Committee Meeting and all member churches will be notified of books.
- All Bible Quiz questions will be requested from member churches and will **be selected by the Program Committee prior to the event.**
- All answers should be legible and the Executive Officials reserves the right to mark incorrect anything they cannot read.
- **Time limit for writing will be Thirty minutes.**

## Essay Writing

- The essay will be a subject chosen from the Bible chosen by the Program Committee prior to the event
- Contestants should substantiate their viewpoints with Biblical references
- Essays can be written in English, Hindi, or Malayalam. Only one language can be used in any given essay
- All essays should be legible and the Executive Officials reserves the right to disqualify any essays if they cannot read what is written.
- Contestant will be scored based on content; specifically, knowledge of the topic and its relation to the Bible and writing style.
- Contestants are allowed to bring only one Bible, which must be bound and cannot be electronic in anyway.
- **Time limit for the contest is One hour.**

## Solo

- Contests will be held separately for Boys and Girls. However, only a maximum of two contestants from each church regardless of gender will be permitted to compete.

- Only Christian Songs in English, Malayalam, or Hindi can be sung with the exception of Christian Rap, which will be disqualified.
- Contestants will be scored on weighted categories of Delivery, Appearance, and Memorization of Song. Delivery (which includes Ability of Singing) will be weighted at 6 points, Appearance will be weighted at 3 points, and Memorization of Song will be weighted at 1 point. Appearance is defined as business casual – minimum
- Maximum time allowed is Three minutes. Time Taken above the allocated maximum will be deducted as per the Tabulation Guidelines.

## Speech

Topic for Juniors speech: ***Be filled with the Holy Spirit***"

**Keynote Verses: John 7:37 – 38** <sup>37</sup>... "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. <sup>38</sup>Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."

- All other groups, subjects will be given only Ten minutes prior to the contest.
- Contestants will be scored on weighted categories of Content, Delivery, and Appearance. Content (which includes Accuracy and Substance) will be weighted at 5 points, Delivery will be weighted at 3 points, and Appearance will be weighted at 2 points. Appearance is defined as business casual – minimum.
- A warning bell will be given at the end of the Fourth minute, signaling the contestant that the speech should be concluded at the sounding of the bell which will be given exactly 60 seconds later. In other words, every contestant has five minutes to deliver the speech. Time taken above the allocated maximum will be deducted
- English and Malayalam are the only languages that can be used for the speech competition.

## Instrumental Music

- The following four items comprise of Instrumental Music: Keyboard, Strings, Percussion Wind.
- Groups are broken down as following, specifically for Instrumental Music ONLY: Middlers & Under, Juniors & Teens, High Teens & Seniors.
- For clarification purposes specific to this Guideline, Percussion instruments do not consist of any noise generated vocally, clapping, stomping, or snapping the fingers.
- A contestant will be allowed a maximum of 3 minutes to setup. The time keeper will inform the contestant when 2 minutes have expired. The clock will automatically start at the end of the 3 minute setup time regardless if the contestant is ready or not. Any additional time taken above the allocated maximum will be deducted as per the Tabulation Guidelines, Article III Section 4.
- No vocal accompaniments are allowed.
- No pre-recorded musical accompaniments or built-in rhythms/beats are allowed.
- Only Christian songs are to be played (exception of Instrumental Music Percussion).
- Maximum time allowed is Three minutes for all items. Time taken above the allocated maximum will be deducted as per the Tabulation Guidelines.
- A member church may only send one person per group for a maximum of 3 contestants overall per each church for each item. If a member church does not have 3 separate contestants to fill an item, they may elect to send a contestant that is already participating in a group for that specific item provided that they participate in a higher age group. Be reminded that the maximum number of individual items that one contestant can take part in is four (4).

## Group Song With & Without Instrument

Competition Name	English	Malayalam	Hindi
Group Song With Instruments	1. Everlasting God	1. Yesu Mahonnathane	1. Mukthi Dilaye yeshu nam
	2. Hosanna		
	3. Filled With Your Glory	2. Yesuvin Namam	2. Bharplooru jeevan there liye
	4. Better Than Life		
	5. Glorified	3. Sree Yesu Nahmum	3. Lakkom mem mera vo priya

Competition Name	English	Malayalam	Hindi
Group Song Without Instruments	1. Son of Man	1. Sudhar Sthuthikum	Same As Above
	2. Blessed Be Your Name		
	3. Wonderful, Merciful Savior	2. Azhalerum Jeevitha Maruvil	
	4. You are Holy (Prince of Peace)		
	5. When I think about the Lord	3. Karunanidhiye	

- There will be no age limit restriction or limitation on the maximum number of participants in Group Song With and Without Instrumental Music. However a minimum of 2 people are needed for each group per each category.
- Two groups are permitted from each church, one for Group Song With Instrumental Music and one for Group Song Without Instrumental Music.
- English, Malayalam, and Hindi are the only languages that can be used for both competitions.
- Secular Music of any kind will not be allowed. Christian Rap/Rock/Alternative music will not be allowed.
- Each member church will then select a song from the published list to be sung for Group Song With Instrumental Music and one song for Group Song Without Instrumental Music. No other songs can be sung during the competition except from the pre-determined list. The selection list will be as follows:
- Member churches are reminded that styles of rap/rock/alternative music are not allowed when performing the songs during the competitions.
- Instruments are defined as any item that is categorized in this Guideline as Instrumental Music Wind, Instrumental Music Keyboard, Instrumental Music Strings and Instrumental Music Percussion.
- Groups will be scored based upon appearance, poise, singing ability, creativity and musical ability.
- Groups will be called in alphabetical order and reverse alphabetical order, based on Church Name. For example, if groups are called in alphabetical order for Group Song with Instruments, then they will be called in reverse alphabetical order for Group Song without Instruments. This will eliminate the same church from going first for both competitions.
- Maximum time allowed for each group is five (5) minutes. Time taken above the allocated maximum will be deducted as per the Tabulation Guidelines, Article III Section 4.
- Groups are allowed 5 minutes to setup. After 4 minutes are over a verbal notification will be given by the time keeper to the groups that they have 1 minute left to be ready. If the group finishes prior to the set preparation time, they are to inform the time keeper that they are ready to proceed. If the group is not ready after the 5 minute preparation time has expired, the clock will start immediately for the song. Groups will then be penalized for any time they go beyond the maximum time allocated to sing the song.

## *Prize Conferral*

- All trophies and prizes given in connection with the PYFA competitions shall be sponsored and funded by PYFA. Trophies will be given for individuals as well as the Churches who scored the most points (Championship), the second most points (First Runner-up), and the third most points (Second Runner-up) overall during the competitions. New Church trophies will be given on a yearly basis unless PYFA adapts a rolling trophies system.