

TIDINGS

Southern



OCTOBER 2019

CHOSEN:

CAMPOREE SOUVENIR ISSUE

PATHFINDER
CAMPOREES MAKE A
DIFFERENCE

REACHING
PATHFINDERS
THROUGH
JOURNALISM

VOLUNTEERS AT
OSHKOSH

ADVENTHEALTH
PARTICIPATES IN
INTERNATIONAL
PATHFINDER
CAMPOREE

Are Little Things Important?



Bob Merrills
Former Chaplain of
Georgia-Cumberland
Conference
Singles Ministries

Guest Editorial

As a former paratrooper of the 101st Airborne Division of the U.S. Army, I know that little things do matter. It came home to me while packing a buddy's footlocker to send home to his family because his main parachute didn't open and he'd failed to open his reserve chute — a "little thing" that took his life. Are there little things in our lives that we do or don't do that could make a difference for Heaven?

Being part of the Southern Union Year of Evangelism and having spent 40 years in literature evangelism, I was thrilled when I visited several Camp Meetings this past summer and saw the interest in evangelism. I heard some beautiful soul-winning stories about how God is using people to make a difference in people's lives. I'm learning that the root of evangelism is love.

Having served as chaplain for the Georgia-Cumberland singles ministries, I was happy when I heard about a church couple who reached out to a man whose wife had left him. He was so broken that he was talking of leaving the church. So, the church couple started hosting a social every Saturday night at their home for him. Among the guests were his sister and son, who were not attending church. As the socials continued, the man formed a relationship with a wonderful woman. And, his sister said she is grateful for the friendship that she, her brother, and her son were shown at the socials. The hosting couple told me that it's important to wrap everyone, especially the hurting, in God's love — a little thing, but big for Heaven.

I know there are persons who have lost mates to death and divorce, and appear to be doing fine. If they are fine, they probably have a good walk with the Lord and family or friends nearby. But, what about those who don't have those relationships for whatever reason? In volume 6 of the *Testimonies*, page 21, it says: "God has placed among us ... the unfortunate ... the suffering. They are Christ's legacy to His Church ... to be cared for In this way God takes away the dross and purifies the Gold, giving us that culture of heart and character which we need." Are we doctors and nurses in God's hospital of life, or are we just spectators?

God is trying to help us to see His hurting children. They're not perfect, but He's asking us to show them His love. I'm praying that people of any culture, race, or need will feel like a Methodist pastor did when an Adventist walked into the room: "Now there's someone who loves Jesus!" His love says that I love you more than I love myself.

In a world where you can be anything, why not be the love of Christ in shoes in your church? I know singles who would be excited if invited to a family event like Christmas, Thanksgiving, game night, or a Sabbath gathering. Try inviting someone you don't know. If there's one thing I've heard from single people, it is that they're lonely. Showing them love is a little thing, but one that I believe they will remember for a long time. ①

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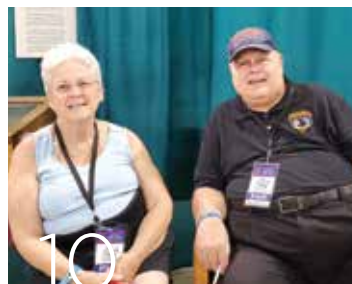
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COVER PHOTO: Angelo Grasso, pastor of the Gainesville, Florida, Church, baptizes 12-year-old Oscar LaRocca. LaRocca was one the 1,311 Pathfinders baptized during the 2019 Chosen Camporee.

PHOTO CREDIT: R. Steven Norman III





CHOSEN

#MyChosenStory

R. STEVEN NORMAN III

CHOSEN: OSHKOSH 2019 CAMPOREE

BY RACHEL BEAVER AND DENIQUA JOSEPH

The 2019 International Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, was a spirit-filled week of fun and fellowship for Pathfinders around the world. The theme for the week, “Chosen,” was centered on the story of David and Goliath and taught Pathfinders that we are all chosen by God to serve Him, and live according to His will for our lives.

More than 56,000 Pathfinders attended Camporee. Of those, 11,000 were from the Southern Union, making it the largest union there. Southern Union clubs traveled hundreds of miles to at-

tend. Many clubs had to plan and fundraise for their trip years in advance, but their hard work was worth it when they finally arrived in Wisconsin. For some it took a day, for others it was a week-long trip across the country before reaching Oshkosh. One group, Bike For Life from North Carolina, even rode their bicycles all the way from North Carolina.

“We would wake up around 4:30 to 5:00 a.m., and ride to our next destination,” said Cameron Zinke, a member of the Bike For Life group. “We also had brochures that explained who we were and what we were doing, and links for Bible studies.”

Setting of Spiritual Community

The International Camporee gives Pathfinders a rare and unique opportunity to worship God with people from all over the world.

“Here [at Oshkosh], hundreds of people of the same faith are all brought together to enjoy each other’s company,” said Lance Jones from Florida Conference. “It is almost like a glimpse of what Heaven will be like.”

Damian Chandler, keynote speaker this year, is currently the senior pastor of the Capitol City Church in Sacramento, California. From the very first night,



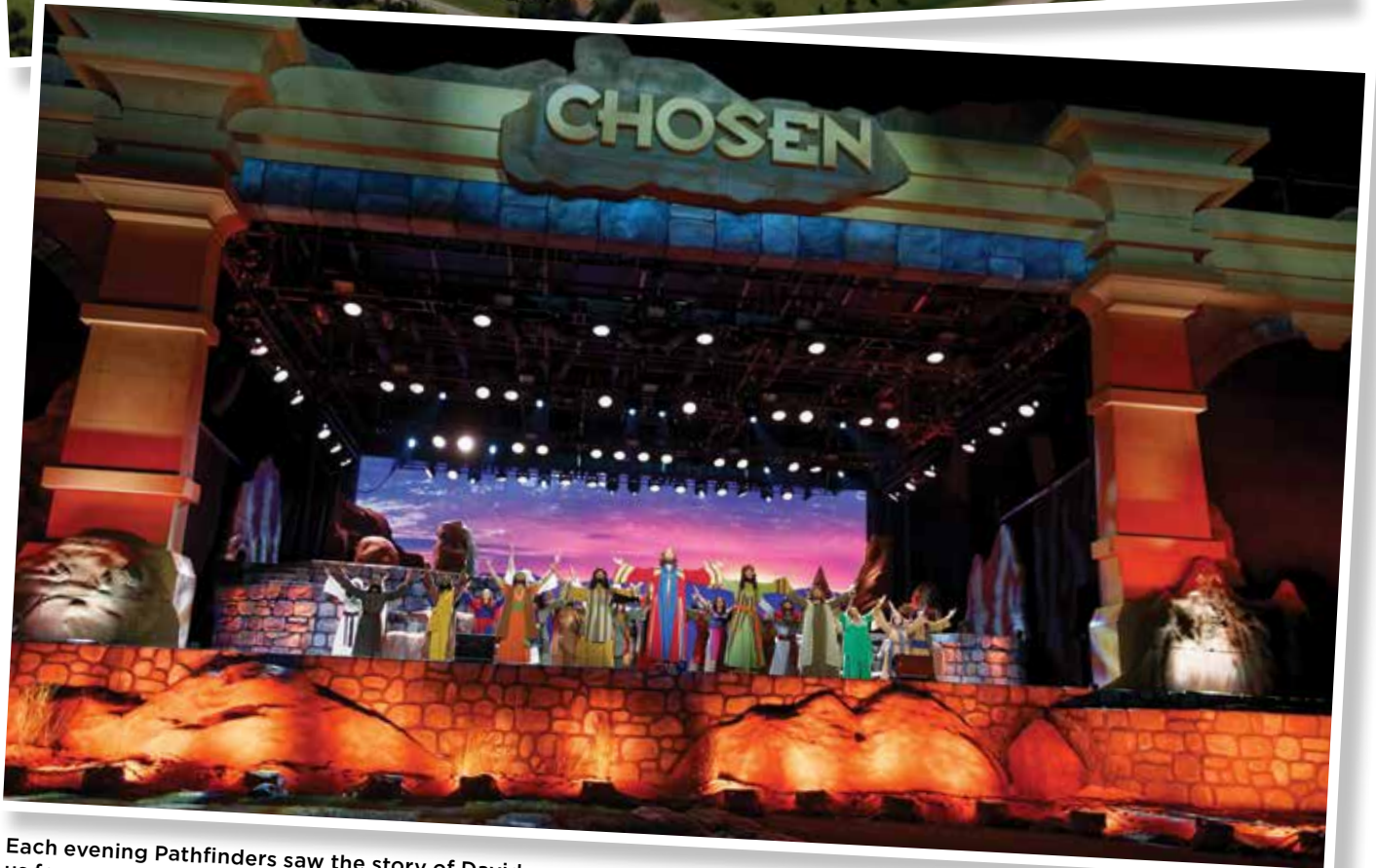
COURTNEY HEROD

Ron C. Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., president of the Southern Union, and his wife, Yolanda, hold a #MyChosenStory placard while visiting the Southern Union camping area. You may see many pictures from the Camporee by searching for #MyChosenStory on Facebook or Instagram.



R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Ken Rogers, Southern Union youth ministries director, leads the parade on the final day of Camporee. Scores of Southern Union clubs and their international guests participated in the parade.



Each evening Pathfinders saw the story of David enacted, and learned how even when we make mistakes, God has chosen us for a reason, and we should embrace His calling.

Chandler piqued the Pathfinders' interest.

"Pastor Chandler came on stage and gave a powerful message," said Amarah Dawkins-Powell from Florida Conference. "He spoke of God seeing you even when you feel lost and meaningless. Though you may feel as though you serve no purpose, God has a purpose for you. He never fails to keep His promises, and will never leave your side. In the midst of confusion and chaos, God still has His hands on you and is watching over you. When he finished speaking, everyone rose to their feet and began to cheer. I found myself doing the same."

"Looking at Pastor Chandler, in my mind I knew that this guy was going to say the best thing I'd ever heard in one of these camps," said Daniel Valle from South Central Conference. "He said 'there is always going to be a giant in your life. Maybe it will be now or it may come another day, but all you have to

know is that there is a giant coming in your life.' I thought about what the giant in my life was and how I really wanted to fight this giant just like David."

The drama production following the sermon was widely loved by both children and staff. The character of David was played by Jason Moore, a nursing student at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee. The play taught Pathfinders the story of David and how even when we make mistakes, God has chosen us for a reason, and we should embrace His calling.

The evening meetings touched the hearts of so many Pathfinders in different ways. For some, the story of David's struggles resonated with their own experiences. For others, they were just happy to be a part of something so big.

The theme song for the Camporee was composed by Roger, 19, and Ariel, 18, Lantigua of the Bowman Hills Church

in Cleveland, Tennessee. The Spanish version was adapted by Raquel Martinez-Acevedo, and sung by Pathfinders from the Kendall Spanish and Westchester Spanish churches in Miami, Florida. Martinez-Acevedo has prepared the Spanish version for the last three Camporees.

"My favorite part of Oshkosh has always been the evening meetings," said Amy Cote from Georgia-Cumberland Conference. "There is something about seeing your favorite Bible stories being brought to life that gives them a whole new meaning. The actors become your role models, you cheer as Goliath is brought to the ground or when David is anointed to be the next king of Israel, and you sympathize with David as his brothers ruthlessly tease him about smelling like sheep and simply being different."

For Savannah Salter, a Pathfinder from the Bowman Hills club, the first evening meeting stirred her emotions



COURTNEY HEROD

Damian Chandler, pastor, preached inspiring messages to crowds of 50,000 or more Pathfinders during the evening services. Many youth embraced Christ and were inspired by the lessons Chandler drew from the story of David and Goliath.



COURTNEY HEROD

Robert Henley, innovation coordinator for the Florida Conference Department of Education, assisted Pathfinders working on a robotics honor.

in thinking about her journey from the 2014 International Camporee to 2019.

"I've been through a lot in the past five years, and my life has changed so much," said Salter. "That being said, on Tuesday night when the evening programs started, it finally sunk in that I was back. When the announcer said 'Camporee 2019 is officially open,' I started crying happy tears because of the journey I've been on to get back to that moment. For the rest of the evening I was brimming with emotions."

Many Southern Union Pathfinders made the decision for baptism at Camporee. Friends, family, and brothers and sisters in Christ witnessed as individuals of all ages demonstrated their profession

of faith. Everyone cheered in support of their fellow Pathfinders' baptisms.

"It was a beautiful moment for the candidates and us, the witnesses, watching people give themselves to God," said Lance Litzenberger.

Something new that was incorporated into this year's experience was the anointing tent. Every day, Pathfinders were selected by their club leaders to be anointed. Once selected, they would meet at the Prayer Tent for 10- to 15-minute services that were held every 30 minutes until 5 p.m. The selected Pathfinders also received a special anointing pin after the service.

Never a Dull Moment

There were also countless honors and activities for the Pathfinders to enrich themselves. Many interesting honors were offered, including Dutch oven cooking, plastic stitching, drawing, and dinosaurs. The event also had no shortage of activities both on and off site. Campers hopped on busses to take trips to off-site activities such as the YMCA, the mall, a basketball tournament, and water parks. There were also countless on-site activities like zip-lining, a petting zoo, horseback riding, and flight simulation. The flight simulator inspired Rudi Russel to become a pilot when she grows up.

The drum corp and drill competitions



A group of Pathfinders poured out their hearts to God during the evening meeting.



The South Central Conference Pathfinders participated in the parade on the final Sabbath of the Chosen International Pathfinder Camporee.

COURTNEY HEROD



William Winston (right), president of the South Atlantic Conference, spoke with a Pathfinder who is interested in becoming a pastor during the NexGen pastor get together.



Florida Conference administrators Allan Machado, D.Min. (center), president; Elisa Rahming, treasurer; and Tim Goff, executive secretary, were among the Conference leaders who visited the Pathfinders and volunteers from the Conference.

MYLON MEDLEY

R. STEVEN NORMAN III

were full of talented Pathfinders who had been preparing for this competition for months.

“I was especially excited to perform in the drilling and marching competition,” said Xiana Reeze from the Emmanuel Wildcats Pathfinder Club. “I was very nervous because it felt like one million people were watching me, but I trusted in God and did my very best. As we waited for our names to be called, we felt discouraged for a second, but then over the loudspeaker we heard ‘Emmanuel Wildcats, first place!’ I felt a rush of joy run through my body.”

“We competed in the freestyle and drum corp categories on Thursday in the Southern and Southwestern unions’ competitions,” said Mekeida Olivia Ervin

from Madison Mission Pathfinder Club. We were surprised when they called our names for the 1st place trophy! Everybody including our Pathfinder leaders started to scream! It was an experience that we will never forget.”

But even outside of the competition, the streets were often filled with the sound of drums making their way across the camp. One group from the McDonald Road Church in McDonald, Tennessee, paraded down the street drumming on the bottoms of plastic buckets held together by duct tape and rope.

Pin trading is also a popular Oshkosh tradition. Many Pathfinders started with none and traded their way up to a sash full of pins from all over the world. They walked the streets for hours in hopes of striking the perfect deal and getting a rare pin or completing a set.

“Seeing the shiny new pin being handed to you after a long endeavor from your camp is one of the most rewarding activities held in the International Camporee,” said Sabina Rojas-Fanco from Carolina Conference.

“Pin trading at Oshkosh is a way of life,” said Tierza Saint-Hilaire from Florida. “If you had none, then you had to get some because pin trading is half of the Oshkosh experience.”

As popular as pin trading is, Ken Rogers, youth director for the Southern Union,

did something a little differently this year. In lieu of a pin, Southern Union Pathfinders were given a special Oshkosh 2019 scarf.

Campers left Oshkosh to return home with smiles on their faces and precious memories tucked away, and an excitement to return for Oshkosh 2024. There is something that Christians of all ages can learn about David. Everyone makes mistakes, but everyone still has a purpose and a calling from God. In His eyes, we are all chosen.

Attendee Ghadi Nshimiyamana, from Kentucky-Tennessee, shared his wisdom on the message from the Camporee, and encourages us to have hope for the future: “I was very excited to see young people who were also eager to spread the message of Christ. Jesus can choose you; it doesn’t matter if you are a child or an adult. If you pray for something, do not ever stop until something happens. May God have mercy on you and God be with you. Jesus is coming soon. Be ready!” ❶



The Westchester Spanish Church Pathfinder Drum Corps won First Place in the Dream Competitions.

R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Rachel Beaver and Deniqua Joseph

Rachel Beaver is a senior public relations major in the School of Journalism and Communication at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee. Deniqua Joseph is a senior communications and public relations major at Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama.

PATHFINDER CAMPOOREES

Make A Difference

BY ALLAN R. WILLIAMSON

Oh, We are the Pathfinders strong,
The servants of God are we, Faithful
as we march along, In truth
and purity. A message to tell to the world,
A truth that will set us free, King Jesus
the Savior's coming back for you and me."
Harry Bergh, who composed the Pathfinder
song, said "God gave me the tune, because
I am not a musician and I have never writ-
ten a song before or since!" There are now
millions of Pathfinders singing this powerful
song at club meetings, Conference Pathfind-
er Camporees, Union Pathfinder Camporees,
and the International Pathfinder Camporee
in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

The Pathfinder Club is a very important
organization of the Seventh-day Adventist
Church. Statistics tell us that most young
people make a decision for Christ before the
age of 12. That is why it is so important that
we reach children and young people with the
message of Jesus' love while they are young.
Ecclesiastes 12:1 says, "Remember now thy
Creator in the days of thy youth." Pathfinders
and summer youth camps are powerful evan-
gelistic opportunities to help make strong
commitments to Jesus and His church.

Pathfinder Camporees have become very
popular through the years: pin trading, all
types of outdoor skill activities, honor class-
es to earn that special Adventist Youth honor
badge to wear on your sash, and campfire
programs that feature joyful song services
and inspirational Christ-centered messages.

In the early 1980s, Pathfinder Camporees
on both the conference and union level be-
came very popular. Ideas and conversation
began to center upon the possibility of orga-
nizing a North American Division (NAD)
Pathfinder Camporee. The search process
began with hope for a centralized location.
Camp Hale in Leadville, Colorado, became a
leading candidate. Camp Hale, between Red
Cliff and Leadville in the beautiful Eagle



Donna and Ron Streeter sit at the Pathfinder Museum. Ron is the retired Pathfinder and youth director for the Columbia Union Conference. He directed the Friendship Pathfinder Camporee in 1989.

Valley in Colorado, was a U.S. Army training facility constructed in 1942 for what became the 10th Mountain Division. It was located at an elevation of 9,200 feet above sea level. Soldiers were trained in mountain climbing, Alpine and Nordic skiing, cold weather survival, as well as various weapons. An elite ski corps was a national effort. The division was the only one of its size in the U.S. military to receive intense specialized training for fighting in mountainous and arctic conditions.

Camp Hale became the location for the first ever North American Division Pathfinder Camporee, on July 31, 1985. Pathfinders filled up the mountainous valley at Camp Hale. Being the first NAD Camporee, it took quite a bit of organizing to pull it off. The questions of water supply, sanitation, transportation, and first aid were all major components that needed to be addressed before the Camporee could take place. It was a beautiful location and a very successful Pathfinder Camporee! Special

thanks is given to Norm Middag, Pathfinder director for the NAD, and Les Pitton, youth director for the NAD, for their vision and leadership. Leo Ranzolin, world Pathfinder director at the General Conference, was also a great supporter of the historic Pathfinder Camporee at Camp Hale. Dick Duerksen was a tremendous help in dealing with all the important logistics. “We Are His Hands” became an instant favorite Camporee theme song, and has been a popular choice for many Camporees. Decisions for baptism and renewed dedication were made for Christ in the beautiful mountain setting.

After a successful Camp Hale, Pathfinders and Pathfinder staff were hoping for another NAD Pathfinder Camporee, but cost and budget limitations became a factor in delaying the planning. After much discussion, some of the conference and union Pathfinder directors came up with the idea of an invitational Pathfinder Camporee sponsored by their union or conference. The first person to step up was Ron Streeter, Pathfinder director of the Columbia Union Conference.

In 1989, Streeter hosted the “Friendship Camporee” at Agape Campground in Shirleysburg, Pennsylvania. The main stage was a replica of Noah’s Ark. Some 12,000 Pathfinders were in attendance. “We Are His Colors” was the theme song and the message, and the music was enjoyed by the Pathfinders.

In 1994, Ron Whitehead, Pathfinder director of the Rocky Mountain Conference, hosted the “Dare to Care” International Pathfinder Camporee in Denver, Colorado, with 12,232 Pathfinders from 23 different countries. The campground at Bandimere Speedway was a commercial drag-racing track located in Morrison, Colorado, just outside of Denver. The evening meetings were held at the historic Red Rocks Amphitheater 10 miles west of Denver. This was a beautiful, majestic location for viewing the programs each evening.

These two invitational Camporees were very successful, but there still was a movement

for the NAD to host another Camporee like Camp Hale. The cost and budget limitations were still a concern. Ron Whitehead was elected director for the Center of Youth Evangelism (CYE) at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. CYE, in partnership with Andrews University, volunteered to sponsor the next NAD Pathfinder Camporee in 1999. Their offer was accepted with youth directors from the Division, union, and conference represented on the Camporee Committee.

The next big decision would be the location of the Camporee. Chuck Case was Pathfinder director for the Lake Union Conference for many years. He told the Pathfinder

to remember, because Desmond Doss was invested with my Master Guide scarf. All the supplies for his investiture were present except the Master Guide scarf, so I had the privilege of giving him my scarf.

The 2004 “Faith on Fire” Camporee was also held in Oshkosh, for the second time on the EAA campgrounds. Camporee director Ron Whitehead, Lake Union Conference youth director as well as executive director of CYE, would continue to direct the future International Pathfinder Camporees. At Faith on Fire, 31,000 Pathfinders were in attendance from 83 countries. The Camporee spiritual highlights were the 10,000 community service participants and 296 baptisms.

The evening Bible story of Joseph was inspirational and highlighted his “Faith on Fire”! This Camporee was nicknamed the “Winter Camporee” because the first four days had record low temperatures.

The 2009 “Courage to Stand” Camporee was held on the EAA campgrounds, with 36,000 Pathfinders who received a message of encouragement as the story of Esther was presented each evening. Pathfinders were inspired to have the “Courage to Stand” when challenges face them. Five hundred and eighteen Pathfinders committed their lives through baptism and personal commitment to Jesus.

The 2014 “Forever Faithful” Camporee was held during a fourth visit to the EAA campgrounds. More than 50,000 Pathfinders from more than 65 countries came together for a week of fun activities, fellowship, and spiritual enrichment. Each evening, the Pathfinders enjoyed the Bible story of Daniel who was “Forever Faithful.” More than 600 Pathfinders were baptized at the Camporee, and more than 2,000 Pathfinders went home to study for baptism.

Pathfinder Camporees do make a difference! “Trust in the Lord with all your heart ... and He shall direct your paths,” Proverbs 3:5, 6. 🙏

Allan R. Williamson is retired
Pathfinder/youth ministries director for
the Southern Union Conference.



Committee about the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) property located in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. After much prayer and discussion, and meetings with the officials from EAA, it was decided to hold the 1999 International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh.

“Discover the Power” would be the theme of the Camporee. More than 22,000 were in attendance, 53 countries were represented, and 150 individuals were baptized. We saw the protection of our heavenly Father by splitting a major storm to go around the campground! Desmond T. Doss, the only Seventh-day Adventist to win the Congressional Medal of Honor, was one of the spiritual celebrity guests. He was also invested as a Master Guide in a special ceremony. This will always be a special moment for me

Reaching Pathfinders Through JOURNALISM

BY JACOB FISHER

In this modern world ripe with the over-saturation of media messages, it was time for a radical new solution that would bridge the generational divide, and teach young Southern Union Pathfinders about the rich world of storytelling. This year at the International Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, such a program was initiated, and the voices from hundreds of Pathfinders could be heard. From the southernmost tip of Florida, to the rolling pastures of Kentucky, Southern Union Pathfinders now tell their Oshkosh 2019 stories to their friends, families, and churches back home.

The inception of this new undertaking began at the World of Coca-Cola, of all places. The editorial team of the *Southern Tidings* was visiting the factory for an inspirational boost to methods of powerful outreach with the Gospel. Mental notes were taken and strategies memorized, and when the group retired to a nearby restaurant, R. Steven Norman III, *Tidings* editor, listened to new ideas that would launch the *Tidings* into a new frontier. It was brought up that Coca-Cola was utilizing trading pins, and that they were actually the organization that housed and managed the trading pins for the Olympics. As Norman put it, “When I thought about utilizing Pathfinder trading pins in an attempt to reach young people ... it was as if a brain tornado went off with a revolutionary idea!” Idea after idea was volleyed across the table, and eventually the pieces were put in place for a week-long program that would reward Southern Union Pathfinders for engaging with the *Southern Tidings* both on social media and in print.

The idea relied upon a team of hard-working journalism students working in





R. STEVEN NORMAN III

concert with the *Southern Tidings* and the Southern Union. Once word spread that an exclusive limited edition pin was being offered, Pathfinders were anxious to get hold of it. However, it would not just be given away or bought, but earned through writing a news story about an experience surrounding the 2019 International Camporee.

Before fingers hit the keyboard, interested Pathfinders were given a quick tutorial on the ins and outs of writing a good news story. From the freedom of the press to the ethics surrounding plagiarism, the Pathfinders carried their newfound knowledge to computers and took on the task of writing their very own Oshkosh *Southern Tidings* news story.

These stories range from first-time impressions of the Camporee to endeavors of cross-country bus trips. Each story possesses its own personality, stemming from diverse Pathfinders coming from multiple walks of life. On top of this enriching experience, Pathfinders were also encouraged to share their story visually through social media. Using #MyChosenStory in their posts, campers were given the opportunity to appear on a jumbo screen overlooking one of the main intersections at the campsite.

Rachel Beaver, senior public relation

major at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee, and instructor for this new program, expands on how the week of working with Pathfinders impacted her: “It was interesting seeing the reaction to journalism information I loved watching them take the information and just run with it” Beaver continues, “Because this was about Oshkosh, I got to witness the event through the eyes of hundreds of different and creative people.”

Club leaders and Pathfinders alike reacted positively to the exploratory program that rewarded story writing with a shiny new pin. Lorrie Ilchuck, a club leader from the Georgia-Cumberland Conference, responded to this new initiative, “I think it’s great for the kids to write a story ... it helps them get their thoughts together about what they enjoyed, and it also gives feedback to their conferences in the hopes that they will keep this traditional Camporee going.”

The notion of having to write for a pin may have surprised some Pathfinders, but Ruthie Austin, a young camper from the same club as Ilchuck, giggled as she summed it up perfectly: “It was actually more fun than I thought it was going to be!” That was one of the goals of this pro-

gram, to present the career of journalism as fun and rewarding — not as a joke or as an outlet which only spreads lies, but as an outlet for truth and integrity.

Because these Pathfinders have engaged with the *Southern Tidings* in this way, they can claim that they have written for the *Tidings*, and that in turn ignites a spark in them to carry the Gospel message further. In this effort the *Tidings* hopes to encapsulate multiple generations of Pathfinders and years of attending different International Camporees. Norman sums it up perfectly, saying, “Young and old will be able to gather around this magazine and find their identities, then come together in the spirit of Pathfinders.”

If the Gospel message and journalism are expected to thrive in the modern age, steps like this must be taken in all aspects of the Church. A unified effort to reach the young people of the Church will not only save lives for the Kingdom, but welcome the second coming of Christ. 🙏

Jacob Fisher is a senior digital broadcast journalism major in the School of Journalism and Communication at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee.

VOLUNTEERS

Make Camporees Possible

BY JOHN SWAFFORD



JOY CAVINS

Geraldine Bernard is a 77-year-old Pathfinder counselor and volunteer from the South Central Conference. She has been in Pathfinder leadership for 60 years.



Lyle Petry, a volunteer at Camporee, with his wife, Ann, who volunteered for more than two weeks, and drove the Southern Union's equipment to and from Camporee.

The 925 volunteers from the North American Division were an integral part of the 56,000 Pathfinders and staff who attended Chosen International Pathfinder Camporee from August 12-17, 2019, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. This largest of Camporees takes place every five years.

Many volunteers plan ahead to prepare for their particular role at the Camporee. Some applied for vacation

time or otherwise set aside this time to participate. They understand that Camporees give young people the opportunity to meet Pathfinders from 92 countries, to strengthen their relationship with God and realize their value to their Church.

Volunteers come from all over, traveling many miles. They come with experience from many walks of life to contribute their time, talent, and skills. A volunteer purchases a ticket; submits

an application and background form; arranges for their transportation, lodging, and meals; and then prepares to serve five to eight hours daily in their role. Most volunteers must pay for all expenses incurred related to the Camporee.

Some must arrive a week or two weeks before the Camporee to prepare for their duties, and remain following the Camporee to close up. Volunteer opportunities include serving at registration, on- and



R. STEVEN NORMAN III



R. STEVEN NORMAN III



R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Areli Velazquez (left) and Elizabeth Ordaz wash breakfast dishes before preparing dinner for the Pioneros Pathfinder Club from Memphis, Tennessee.

off-site communications, assisting with medical and safety officials, and working closely with facilities and services coordinators. Others help coordinate and oversee on campus activities such as teaching honors, and off campus activities like visiting an active farm or coordinate off campus community service projects.

Volunteers make a huge impact on the Camporee, and are an example to youth and young adults to dedicate themselves

to service. Without volunteers, many areas of service would not be possible, for the volunteers plan and operate certain parts of the Camporee.

Ken Rogers, youth director of the Southern Union, says, "Heartfelt appreciation to the wonderful team of volunteers who graciously serve our Pathfinders! Whether as a counselor, leader, cook and kitchen crew member, transportation driver, nurse, march and drill

instructor, honor teacher, or other support staff roles, you are of utmost value to the Pathfinder organization. Quite simply, without your active participation and support, our young people would not enjoy the blessings of Pathfinder ministry. Your faithfulness is recognized and valued." 🙏

John Swafford is the retired Georgia-Cumberland Conference youth director.

Making Connections with SCARVES AND PINS

BY JOSEPH HYDE

At previous International Pathfinder Camporees, the Southern Union youth ministries department has given a pin to every Southern Union Pathfinder who attended. But, that's not what they did this time.

"We wanted to do something different," said Ken Rogers, Southern Union youth ministries director.

While visiting camporees in Europe, Rogers noticed each conference had their own "friendship scarves" that Pathfinders can trade. From here, the idea for a Southern Union scarf was born.

The idea for the Southern Union scarf was that Pathfinders could either trade it or use it to collect signatures from people around the world. "It was fun to look out among the crowd and spot the Southern Union scarves," said Lyle Petry, a volunteer at the Camporee.

The scarf wasn't just something to wear. While meandering through the busy, well-worn roads of the campgrounds, Pathfinders would often be seen displaying their pin collection proudly attached to their scarf.

One of the pins rarely traded was the limited edition *Southern Tidings* pin. Pathfinders were proud they had earned this pin by meeting a few requirements.

Southern Union Pathfinders, ages 10 to 18, were asked to write a 100-plus word story about their experience at the 2019 Chosen International Pathfinder Camporee. When they completed their story, they received the pin. Their story was then posted on the *Southern Tidings* website, and a selection of these stories are featured in the Pathfinder Memories section of this *Southern Tidings*.

Each day campers had the opportunity to enter the Southern Union tent and tell their story of the Camporee. From stories about broken down buses to ancient padlocks, they became a reminder of God's faithfulness in written word.



DON KIM

Melanie Ayala shows off her Southern Union scarf. Ayala is part of the Atlanta First Hispanic Church Constellation Pathfinder Club in Tucker, Georgia.



R. STEVEN NORMAN III



R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Southern Tidings trading pin

The pin helped to introduce the *Southern Tidings* to campers. "Before the pin, I hadn't heard of the *Southern Tidings*," said Tiezza Saint-Hilaire, a Pathfinder camper.

Parents were even impressed by how *Southern Tidings* was encouraging campers to be good writers. "It's more than about getting a pin," said Thomas Owangay, a parent who brought campers to participate. Being able to share their story with others gave them "a lifetime-changing experience," said Owangay.

The campers enjoyed both new features that were given to them this year. The pin was produced to serve two purposes. The

first was "to connect young readers to the Southern Union," said R. Steven Norman III, *Southern Tidings* editor. The second, and most important, was to inspire the next generation to become journalists for the cause of Christ. The scarf was made to get campers to meet new people from all over the world, which, after all, is one of the great benefits of attending a Camporee like Chosen. ①

Joseph Hyde is a senior mass communication major with a concentration in photography at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee.

fun facts camporee

INTERNATIONAL CLUBS PRESENT

- Angola
- Anguilla
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Argentina
- Australia
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belarus
- Belgium
- Belize
- Bermuda
- Bhutan
- Brazil
- Cambodia
- Cameroon
- Canada
- Cayman Islands
- Chile
- China
- Colombia
- Congo
- Congo, the Democratic Republic of the
- Costa Rica
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Cuba
- Denmark
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- Fiji
- France
- Germany
- Ghana
- Guam
- Guatemala
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Hong Kong
- India
- Indonesia
- Ireland
- Italy
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Kenya
- Korea, Republic of
- Kuwait
- Latvia
- Lebanon
- Malawi
- Martinique
- Mexico
- Micronesia, Federated States of
- Moldova, Republic of
- Mongolia
- Mozambique
- Myanmar
- Namibia
- Nepal
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Nigeria
- Palau
- Panama
- Papua New Guinea
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- Portugal
- Puerto Rico
- Qatar
- Romania
- Russian Federation
- Rwanda
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Martin (French part)
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Serbia
- Singapore
- Sint Maarten (Dutch part)
- Slovenia
- South Africa
- Spain
- Switzerland
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Taiwan, Republic of China
- Tanzania, United Republic of
- Thailand
- Tonga
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom
- United States
- United States Minor Outlying Islands
- Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of
- Virgin Islands, British
- Virgin Islands, U.S.
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

Number of Baptisms:

1,311 Pathfinders were baptized during the 5 days of the Chosen International Camporee. Watch the baptism broadcasts www.hopetv.org/camporee/



COURTNEY HEROD

International clubs from 104 countries provided opportunities for Pathfinders to see and meet other Pathfinders from around the world.

Oldest Master Guide at Camporee:

William (Bill) Zehm, who turned 92 in June, was the oldest Master Guide.

World's Busiest Walmart:

The Oshkosh Walmart becomes the world's busiest while Camporee is underway. One day sales total at Walmart was more than one million dollars!

Human Cross Shape:

13,310 attendees participated in creating the largest human cross shape. Each person wore a blue paper hoodie as they were funneled into the roped-off shape in front of the Chosen stage. The number to beat was 13,266, set in March 2011 in the Philippines.

Largest Pathfinder Neckerchief and Woggle:

The largest scarf and slide (called neckerchief and woggle) measuring 300 feet by 150 feet was created by Pathfinders and church members in the Texas and Arkansas-Louisiana conferences church members. The scarf and slide were hoisted up on a giant frame near the Chosen stage on August 16, 2019.

Hosted International Pathfinder Guests:

More than 100 International Pathfinder clubs were hosted at the Chosen Camporee. Thirty-six international clubs were hosted by clubs in the Southern Union: Carolina (2), Florida (9), Georgia-Cumberland (11), Kentucky-Tennessee (1), South Atlantic (2), South Central (1), and South-eastern (10).

Total Offering Amount:

\$68,533 was raised through Sabbath offerings for Bible & Buck, Adventist World Aviation, and Pathfinder Evangelism in Cuba.

First Tickets Sold:

The first ticket for the 2024 Believe the Promise International Camporee was purchased by Joseph L. from the Roseville Church in California. The second ticket was sold six seconds later to Lisa R. from the Yucaipa Church in California. The first 2,500 tickets purchased will also include a special Believe the Promise souvenir pin, and back stage tour at the 2024 Camporee.

Some Fast Statistics:

- Total number of people at the Camporee from the Southern Union was more than 10,580.
- Pathfinders made more than 5,000 Disaster Response Supply Buckets at Camporee for ACSDR.
- More than 1,000 Pathfinders participated in the NextGen Program which nurtures young people who have a calling to pastoral ministry.
- The Night Time Program was translated in six different languages.
- 76 buses were used to shuttle Pathfinders to various activities and service projects.
- 6,000 Pathfinders engaged in outreach during Camporee, and provided 30,000-plus community services hours.
- 4,000 special issues of the *Guide* magazine were handed out to the Oshkosh community.
- 795 shower heads were available for showers at Camporee. ①

ADVENTHEALTH PARTICIPATES *in International Pathfinder Camporee*

BY INGRID HERNANDEZ

AdventHealth board members, leaders, and employees were among the 56,000 attendees gathered at the Chosen International Pathfinder Camporee, an event for which the national, faith-based health system was a major sponsor.

"I had a great time visiting the camporee myself, and interacting with the kids," said Terry Shaw, AdventHealth president/CEO. "AdventHealth is committed to investing in the next generation, and that's why we participate in sponsorship opportunities like this that encourage whole, healthy living."

During the camporee, Shaw and other AdventHealth attendees were able to sample international foods, attend the nightly worship programs, and trade their AdventHealth pins. AdventHealth created four designs specifically for the event: an "I care for you like my Friend" heart, a female doctor with an AdventHealth logo, an AdventHealth helicopter, and an AdventHealth #40 NASCAR racecar.

For the health system, the event served as an opportunity to help youth begin to see them as a potential employer and a partner on their health journey.

"It's a great blessing to have AdventHealth support an event like this," said Cory Reeves, chief financial officer for the southeast region of AdventHealth. "It shares with the kids our mission,

and encourages them to be a part of our organization and to extend our mission further in the future."

As the largest Pathfinder-related event, the International Pathfinders Camporee's goals are to inspire the children to develop a closer relationship with God; form new friendships and strengthen old ones; and adopt the values of Christian service, leadership, and discipline. These goals aspire to move them closer to the kind of wholistic life that AdventHealth promotes.

"AdventHealth is a special and unique organization that understands and values young people," said Ron Whitehead,

camporee executive director and youth ministries director for the Lake Union Conference in Berrien Springs, Michigan. "They want young people to make major contributions to their communities, and to make better choices about what they put in their bodies, minds, and spirits. Our partnership is such a beautiful match, and we were just honored to have AdventHealth as the primary sponsor of this year's International Pathfinder Camporee." 📌

Ingrid Hernández is AdventHealth's senior communications specialist for corporate communications.



A group of Pathfinders gather to trade pins near the AdventHealth tent.



Pathfinders trade pins with Terry Shaw, AdventHealth president/CEO, at the International Camporee.



The AdventHealth president/CEO, Terry Shaw, and his wife, Paula, enjoy the opening night program.

The Pathfinder Memories section are news articles written by Pathfinders, ages 10 to 18, about their 2019 Camporee experience. Hundreds of Pathfinders wrote stories, and for the October print edition of the Southern Tidings, the following articles were selected for inclusion. Many other articles may be found at SouthernTidings.com/camporee. Each Pathfinder who participated received a Southern Tidings trading pin.

Grand Theft Faith

We, the Spartanburg Spanish Pathfinder Club, had the highest hopes and greatest excitement to travel to the 2019 Oshkosh International Camporee. However, these hopes were devastated on June 27, 2019, as we received a notification from our church's security system that our trailer was stolen. The trailer contained all of our camping supplies, including tents, chairs, kitchen utensils, and more. It was difficult to break the news to our Pathfinders, and as our director did, a grave face came upon our club as the realization of not being able to attend the camporee overwhelmed everyone. Our club immediately kneeled to pray emotionally to God, asking Him to help provide for us, as we had faith that we would as long as we stayed strong.

A week after the robbery, our director received a phone call from the local Spartanburg police. "It was a clear response

from God," said Veronica Martinez, director of the club. The trailer was found, but empty on the inside. Our hope was restored, and suddenly attending the Oshkosh Camporee was a real possibility again. That same day, the Spartanburg Pathfinder Club generously donated enough funds for us to buy brand new camping

supplies, so that our dream of attending the Camporee could be made a reality once again. Although our trailer was slightly dirty and beaten, our faith and happiness were strong, coming directly from the Lord to shine brighter than any newly washed car. ❶

BY JHONNY VILLAMIL



R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Reunited at Oshkosh

Think of your first best friend — the memories, fun times, and silly moments. Now imagine being separated from them for eight years! That's what happened to me unfortunately. I met my first best friend when I was 7 years old. We attended the same church and we hung out all the time.

When we were 10 years old, his dad, a pastor, got a job opportunity in Ohio, and his family moved away. I was devastated. We kept in touch still, but we were never able to hang out much after he moved.

As the years went by, we both made new friends and he would tell me how fun Ohio was. Although we didn't speak every day, we still considered each other best friends.

In January, he paid a visit to Huntsville, where I'm from, and we caught up on everything! When I found out he was coming to Oshkosh this year, I knew I had to go. Fast forward to Monday, August 12, 2019: I knew his club was here but I couldn't find it. To make matters worse, my phone service was terrible, so we had no way to communicate. I was headed to the bath-

room in the evening when a familiar voice approached me, and I turned around and it was him! After eight years we had finally reunited, and I couldn't have been happier. We both exchanged our crazy bus stories about traveling here, and we met at his camp ground and chilled. I'm ecstatic that I came, and even happier I got to reunite with my first best friend. ❷

BY MORRIS MCPHERSON

It's Okay to Ask

I wiped the sweat from my forehead as I stared at the mess that would be my tent. It was an easy task, but still frustrating. I knew I always have trouble with tents, but I always thought I would get it right every time we set up camp. And, I almost always needed to add at least two extra people to help my friend and me. Eventually, we would get it set up, and I could then take it from there.

This became a pattern throughout the Camporee. I would want to do or get something, like an honor or pin, and would have no idea where to get what-

ever it was. So, logically, I would ask for help. Every day, it would be a different situation, and sometimes it would be within my own club. For example, my club went to a food bank to do community service. I went to use the bathroom, and, unfortunately, they explained what we would be doing right after I left. When I returned, everyone was preparing to work. Confused, I walked up to my dad and (surprise!) asked for help.

In life, we are going to need help. We may think we can do anything, and we can, but in order to get there, we need

help. God has chosen each and every one of us to be a part of His army to fight against the devil and his forces of darkness, but once in a while we get knocked down. We lose faith, we doubt God and sin against Him. Whenever we get to that point, it's okay to ask for His help to get back up again and keep fighting. We can ask for His help with anything we need. He'll listen. He'll help in one way or another. All we have to do is ask. ❶

BY CARYS JOHNSON



R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Scary Times, Big Changes

So many people around the world wait for this special day to arrive, especially since it only occurs every five years. I was talking to the director of our club, Ruth, and she was telling us how it all went down, and I thought her story was really good and I should tell others about it.

This was her first year as director, and when she was appointed she was very scared and nervous about it all. When they told her about Oshkosh, she was

overwhelmed and didn't really know how she was going to get us all here, especially because we weren't really planning to attend.

As time went on, we received a lot of help from our church, and we also made food to sell to others. The ride here was stressful, and we arrived very late, but thanks to the other campers, we settled in quickly.

On the first day, when our director arrived at the stage and saw all the flags,

some happy tears came down her cheeks to see how many people around the world come here to be together to learn more about God. She also said that when she heard all the different Pathfinders pray in their own language, her heart was filled with different emotions and more tears came down. She is so happy to be here and can't wait for the next one! ❶

BY LESLY DIAZ

City of Pathfinders

As a Pathfinder, I never wanted to go to Oshkosh. My old Pathfinder director took the Pathfinder club everywhere but Oshkosh. Due to not having enough money and our Pathfinder club missing school, Oshkosh was never spoken of again.

After a new director arrived, he brought new interests with him — including the topic of Oshkosh. He had never been to Oshkosh and wanted to go. After discussing it again, Oshkosh became a priority. All the Pathfinders wanted to go. Everyone started thinking about

how they would get the money, how they would get off from school, or even if it was going to be fun. After many months my church finally scrambled together enough money for the Pathfinders to go. Everyone was packed, and we started the trip to Oshkosh.

Wow! The tents, the people, the colors, and the different nationalities were amazing. My hometown of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, has a population of 47,000, but The Chosen Camporee of 2019, had more than 50,000 people from all around the world.

What a schedule, I thought — campfire cooking, tent sleeping, honors of every description, activities of your choice, and exciting worship services. The most exciting of all was trading pins with people from the U.S. and foreign countries.

I had three generations to attend Oshkosh 2019, my grandmother, mother, and me. It was the best time of my life. I will be ready and happy to attend the next Oshkosh Camporee. 📍

BY CHARITY JARMAN



R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Pin Trading

Seeing the shiny new pin being handed to you after a long endeavor from your camp is one of the most rewarding activities held in The International Pathfinder Camporee. The friends made through the process is one of the bonuses to meet new people and to learn about their cultures.

Walking along an unplanned route, I met

a young Korean girl. She was not able to speak English, but communicated with me through pointing at her pin, and the pin on my sash that peaked her interest. I smiled and gladly handed her the first trade she made. She was excited and ran to her mom who applauded her on her accomplishment. It is an amazing experience being able to communicate in some way to a per-

son who lives across the world from you.

Taking a seat under the shade of a tree after a day of rock climbing, parkouring, and laughing, the sparkling of a pin never misses a trader's eyes; and, in no time, a soon-to-be friend greeted me and asked about my little trinket. 📍

BY SABINA ROJAS-FRANCO



The Experience

I zoned back in. I slowly started to remember where I was ... the International Oshkosh Camporee. The wonderful sound of laughing, and the sweet smell of funnel cakes filled the air. I was looking for a place to eat; there were so many choices from different ethnicities and cultures. I looked around to see how everybody was doing. Africans, Asians, Europeans, Australians, Americans (both Northern and Southern) were all gathered in one place for one specific purpose — to praise God.

“Hey, do you want to pin trade,” an un-

familiar boy asked.

“Sure,” I replied happily.

Oshkosh is the only place to talk to strangers and feel comfortable with it. He pulled out his hefty pin collection and I pulled out mine. It was fun meeting new people and seeing new cultures. Some people lived where I could only dream to go. We ended up not trading. No hard feelings about it, but I got to learn about a new culture without having to go to their country.

Pin trading at Oshkosh is a way of life. If you have lot of pins, you get respect

from everyone. If you had none, then you had to get some because pin trading is half of the Oshkosh experience.

If you ever go to Oshkosh, be sure to have fun. Let God flow through you, and let yourself get closer to Him. More than 1,000 people were baptized, and it was amazing. God truly blessed this Camporee, and He will continue for many, many more Oshkosh Camporees to come. ❶

BY TIERZA SAINT-HILAIRE

I Was Chosen

When I was thinking about going to Oshkosh, so many things crossed my mind. For instance, will I have fun? Wait, I'll miss a whole week of school? I don't want to leave my mom. Will it be worth it? These questions were hard indeed. I didn't know the answers then, but now I know that it was worth it!

Even though the showers were cold, at least I got a shower. Even though we had to stay in a tent, at least I had some-

where to sleep. Even though it was cold at night, at least I had a blanket to stay warm. Even though I missed my family, I'm glad I still have a family. Just like David was chosen to fight Goliath, I know I'm here for a reason.

God doesn't just bless us, He helps us! Oshkosh made me realize how lucky I am for some of these things, and I realized that if you stop thinking about the negative things, many things will seem much better. After I took a little breather, I re-

alized how nice people can be. From free hugs to a simple, nice compliment, we all are in this world for a reason. (Even though I'm only 12 year old, I know that a little compliment is huge, and trust me, I know — so please do me and someone else a favor and give a compliment.)

We are all chosen for something and this week I was chosen. ❶

BY MYLA CHILLNGO

Pictures of Jesus

There is nothing quite like Pathfinders — the activities, the campouts, the friendships, and the opportunity to see Jesus in my friends and leaders are some things that I never want to lose or forget. I cannot always count on my memory to save the happiest moments for me, so I started to take pictures. Right before this Camporee, I was invited to join my club media team. I was thrilled! So far, I have used up the storage on my phone, run my dad's phone almost dead, and borrowed my friend Alex's camera to take pictures and videos. There are a few things that I have seen while taking pictures of people that I want to share.

I love to take pictures because, for me, it's a way to take a moment and make it last for years to come. Yesterday, I took some pictures of my brother, Noah, and his friends playing on an inflatable chair. The children were trying to bounce each other on the chair by plopping down on it while the rest sat still. I also took some pictures of a little boy named Carter, riding on the shoulders of another boy in my club, named Jonathan. The smile on Carter's face was about the cutest thing I've ever seen. Taking pictures of neat places or people helps me highlight my favorite parts of the trip. One of my fa-

vorite things is to see people happy, so I take pictures of joy.

Even though I have only been at the International Camporee for a couple days, I have seen everything from the happy faces of my friends to the focused looks of the staff. I took a picture of my group leaders planning a route for our group to travel that day. Our leaders, Darrin Bartell and Scott Anderson, work to make sure that everyone gets to have a good experience here at Camporee. I managed to get a few pictures of our kitchen crew.



HANNAH BARTELL

Each person, I know, is probably so tired from cooking lots of food and washing dirty dishes; yet, in my pictures, you see smiles.

I took a picture of my friend, Anaya, sitting under a tree with my other friend, Kamrin. Anaya had been feeling sick and Kamrin had come to sit with her. What my pictures don't show is how many friends came up to ask, "Are you OK?"

I'm not the only one in my family who takes pictures; my dad has sent selfies of us to my mom. Selfies don't show how many times dad has traded a pin with someone, only to give it to me. When I protest, all I get is, "You keep it," or him telling me he won't like it as much as I will.

I have taken pictures of children and adults working together to set up tents, and staff working to make our trip grand, and even of my friends just goofing off. The important thing about these pictures is not that they show the Pathfinders, it is that they show Jesus. The International Camporee is an amazing place to take photos. I've seen Jesus so many times this week, and I'm so glad that I was allowed to catch Him on camera. ①

BY HANNAH BARTELL



HANNAH BARTELL

An Experience to Remember

This was my first time at Oshkosh, there are no words to explain how much fun I had. I'm just ecstatic; it was just perfect. But, it did come with responsibilities because it is an international camp, and it's pretty easy to get lost. I was especially excited to perform in the drilling and marching competitions. I was very nervous because it felt like one million people were watching me.

We were in formation, and then two

seconds later, over the loud speaker, you could hear, "Emmanuel wildcats!" We ran onto the stage with lots of energy, and a look of sharpness on our faces. I was very scared because I thought I was going to mess up, but I just trusted in God and did my best. Before I knew it the competition was over and we jogged to the exit. As we waited for our names to be called, we heard third place, and then second, and we felt discouraged for

a moment. But then, over the loud speaker: "Emmanuel Wildcats, first place." I felt a rush of joy run through my body. At first I was discouraged, but God helped us. Five years from now, we are planning to take home three first-place trophies for Fancy, Basic, and Freestyle. ❶

BY XAIANA REEZE



R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Compassion from Menasha

Good morning campers!" yelled the staff, beckoning us to join the rest of the cold, tired campers. The day was brisk and cool, and the rain from the night before filled the air. Dew drops still fresh, sat waiting for muddy boots to walk through the field of green grass. Today would be one of the most expected days of the week in chilly Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

The Compassion Project

We all huddled together under the can-

opy trying to keep warm. It was a big clump of white shirts with blue logos, and hands ready to help give back to the community. Then it was time to worship. We all sang and talked about the show from the night before. We soon finished our chores and got ready to leave on our trip. We walked and walked, until finally we managed to find our way to the buses and gave our tired feet a short rest. "My feet hurt!" complained everyone. We climbed on and started driving to our destination, a quiet town in Menasha,

Wisconsin. We all hopped off at a nearby park, bigger than any I've ever seen. Then it began — we started to knock on doors and picked up plastic bags filled to the brim with non-perishable foods. We returned to the bus with bursting bags and aching limbs. We dropped off the bags and ran around the park, played games with our friends, and had fun before we hopped back onto the bus and drove back to the Camporee. ❶

BY SADIE ANN BRANTLEY

Chosen to Be Forever Faithful

As a Ranger (eighth-grader) in Pathfinders, I watched the story of Daniel unfold at the 2014 Forever Faithful International Camporee. The first night's play showed Daniel and his friends as teenagers, probably around 17 years old, standing up for God before King Nebuchadnezzar.

That could be me! I thought to myself. What is stopping me from doing that?

I am a born and raised Seventh-day Adventist. My parents are teachers and summer camp staff. I have attended Vacation Bible School, summer camp, and church schools and academies, so the Seventh-day Adventist message of "Jesus is coming soon" has never been new to me. However, it is because of Pathfinders that it became real to me.

On Sabbath of the 2014 Camporee, a 19-year-old Master Guide in my Spring Meadows Club, Emily, invested a four-year TLT (Teen Leadership Training) trainee as a Master Guide. Outside of baptism, that TLT had decided to be "Forever Faithful," and I wanted in on it. I went up to Emily after the Camporee and told her that I wanted to be invested as a Master Guide at the 2019 International Camporee. Little did I know that the path would not be easy.

At the end of my Ranger Pathfinder year, I was inducted into the TLT program, where I would become equipped to direct

a club of my own, if I was ever called to do that, and complete the Master Guide requirements.

I started my freshmen year of high school at Forest Lake Academy and joined Solid Bronze, FLA's hand bell choir. What I didn't know is I would be so busy with school that it would be hard to continue Pathfinders with drill and Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE) as in middle school.

I tried to quit PBE, but Emily wouldn't let me. From that year of PBE, I learned that the Gospel is in every chapter of the Bible. PBE now takes over my devotional life every year from December to February.

The TLT program did become easier the longer I was in it, since I went online my sophomore year. During the summer before my junior year of high school, my family moved to Salem, S.C. Now, I felt alone. Emily and my Spring Meadows Club were 12 hours away, and there were no college or high school students consistently at my new church, but I jumped straight into Pathfinders again in a club of nine members (my brother, sister, and I were three of those). I led PBE and drill once again. My Master Guide card slowly got checked off.

Senior year placed me at Mt. Pisgah Academy. Once again, I joined hand bells and was up to my eyeballs between two

jobs, homework, a college class, a class officer position, and applying for college. Oh, and I decided to go on a mission trip during Spring Break. But, God gave me the strength so that Pathfinders did not get placed on the back burner. I joined the Mt. Pisgah Pathfinders as a fourth-year TLT and led drill. By graduation I had completed nearly everything on my Master Guide card.

Three months later, at the 2019 Chosen International Camporee, I stood before my Mt. Pisgah Club and held my breath as Emily exchanged my TLT scarf for the Master Guide one, and pinned the Master Guide world pin above my other class pins. I did it! No, God did it!

There were so many times when I could have quit, like when I moved to a different conference. There were so many times when I didn't want to read another page of Ellen White. There were so many times when I was simply too tired and overwhelmed to even think that I could make it to Oshkosh and start my freshmen year of college, but God gave me the perseverance to make it through. Like David, He has chosen me for a specific mission, and currently that mission is Pathfinders. All I have to do is remain *forever faithful* to Him. ❶

BY CASEY RAMEY



R. STEVEN NORMAN III



R. STEVEN NORMAN III

My Oshkosh Experience

Since the beginning of 2019, I have been patiently waiting for this summer. I highly anticipated the journey to Oshkosh, and was very curious about what the experience would be like. The journey to get to Oshkosh was a journey indeed. My Pathfinder club came here via a bus, and the trip took about a day and a half. The bus was a bit cramped because we traveled with another church, but we endured.

When we first arrived at Oshkosh, my initial reaction was “Whoa!” I knew that there were going to be a lot of Pathfinders here, but the sheer amount at this camp is astounding. Pathfinders from all over the United States and other countries like Africa, China, Canada, and Jamaica were in attendance too. There are Pathfinders from all around the world! The following day at camp, my club was introduced to one of the spirits of Oshkosh: pin trading. I haven’t done much pin trading myself, unfortu-

nately, but most of my friends have. Pin trading is a great way for you to meet new people, and learn something new about pins as well.

Since I’ve been here, my club has completed a few honors. We’ve done currency from around the world, family ministries, and lighthouses. We also found time to have fun, because that’s what Oshkosh is all about — well, at least one of the things. My friends and I spent some time playing human foosball. It was really fun, and I didn’t expect something like that to be here. I’m not that great at soccer, but since you have to keep your arms in one place in foosball, I found it to be a bit easier.

For me, the best part about this camp has to be the evening service at the main stage. I love everything about it — the atmosphere, the music, the entertainment — but the most important thing of all is Jesus. One of my counselors asked my club what we wanted to accomplish spir-

itually at Oshkosh, and I said that I wanted to figure out the plan that God has for my life. I’m still trying to figure it out, but I’m encouraged by the play put on by the main stage, the story of David, the shepherd boy who was chosen by God. If God can use a little shepherd boy in a mighty way, then I’m confident He can use me too.

And that has been my experience here at Oshkosh so far. I’m excited to see what the rest of this week holds. Even though getting here wasn’t easy and everything about the camp isn’t the best (the showers), I’m still loving every second of it. When I leave to go back to Orlando at the end of the week, I want to have a better understanding and a closer relationship with God. I don’t know if I’ll be coming back to the next Oshkosh in five years, but if I don’t, at least I can say I’ve been to Wisconsin! 📍

BY DANTE ROLLE



ANTHONY WHITE

This group of Bike for Life(rs) from the Carolina Conference Pathfinders started their trip to the Oshkosh International Pathfinder Camporee two weeks prior to the event. On Tuesday morning, August 13, 2019, they arrived at the air field and met with other Pathfinders cheering them through the West (Main) Gate. Pictured are Matthew Thomas (left), Spencer Zinke, Johnny Hickey, Kathy New, David Green, and Braedon Heatherly.

My Translation Ministry

I watched the first program of this year's Oshkosh Camporee from a small monitor in a tent beside the main stage. As David spoke under the stage lights, I translated his words into a headset so that Mandarin speakers in the crowd could understand.

Several years ago I attended Camporees in Spain and Italy where I under-

stood only through the translators, and remember how awful it is to not understand a thing; that's why I volunteered this year. "We often think of translation as a human thing," said the translation coordinator to me, "but remember, the first miracle of the Holy Spirit was the gift of tongues. God is with you and this is a part of His ministry."

Simultaneously translating and listening was pretty rough, and people speak so much faster than I thought they did. "You shouldn't have any problem talking all night, though," says my mother. 🙏

BY HANIA KANTZER

Oshkosh Nighttime Program

I love the story of Esther, which, interestingly enough, is how I learned about Oshkosh and its nighttime program. One day I was looking, as I often do, for a play about Esther, and I stumbled across the 2009 Oshkosh play on the life of Esther. I was hooked! I memorized the play, and then I found the 2014 Daniel play, and later 2004's Joseph play. It was even better than the Esther one, and I was amazed to know they do these Camporees every five years. I had to go to the next one!

At the time I was not even in Pathfinders. Our cousins were already in Pathfinders and told us amazing stories of what they were doing. My brother and I asked our parents, both former Pathfinders, if we

could join. Finally, they let us join. We immediately began to get ready for Oshkosh. Fast forward one year, after fundraisers, packing, and lots of sewing, and we were finally on our way to Oshkosh! I can't really describe the feeling of the realization that my dream was about to come true.

The car ride was interesting. We left Kingsport, Tennessee, at 8 a.m. on Sunday, and arrived on Oshkosh Monday afternoon. When we pulled through the gates of Oshkosh, it was a good thing I had my seat belt on or I would have literally hit the roof. For me it was just so crazy to be in Oshkosh after dreaming of being here for so long.

The activities are great, but for me it's

all about the nighttime program. The first night I was jittery with excitement. I was actually seeing one of the plays from the same stage that has inspired me before. The play is all I have wished and more. The first night we were right behind one of the awesome screen sets on the field. Yesterday we were able to get front row seats. It was incredible!

This week has deepened my dream to participate in the next Oshkosh as one of the staff. I want to say thank you to all the people who make this possible. It has been one of the best experiences of my life! 📌

BY AMELIA MEYERS

Unique Change

Have you ever been baptized in front of thousands of people? I have, and it was an amazing experience at the Oshkosh Camporee. I was struggling in my spiritual life, and there were a lot of changes going on that I did not understand. I really needed an encounter with Jesus, and I found it at Oshkosh.

On Tuesday night at the big worship service, Pastor Chandler was speaking, and he talked about being chosen, and how we all have a purpose in our lives. I needed to hear that, and it really touched me. I decided it was time for a change. I wanted to believe that the pain and hurt I was feeling was going to pass. I begged and questioned God, and through His amazing power that night, I realized that my trouble was going to pass. I really felt God and the Holy Spirit move within me.

I came back to my campsite and talked to my dad, and he said, "Yes! You can get baptized." I was so happy and I felt different.

Now, fast forward to the day I get baptized. Unfortunately, my mother wasn't able to come, though she played a big part in my decision; my parents always taught me the value of being connected to Jesus. I was also sad my friends weren't in the baptism line with me. But, my dad bap-

tized me because he is my pastor, and I was very happy for that.

I am better spiritually and mentally. I love my unique change! 📌

BY SEMOI FRANCOIS



R. STEVEN NORMAN III



COURTNEY HEROD

Color Guard Experience

The first night of Oshkosh was the most exciting night of my life. A few people and I were assigned to do color guard for the first program of the night. We all met backstage around 6 p.m., dressed up in our class A uniform with white gloves and a harness.

Each color guard was going to be assigned to a flag. We would be assigned to the United States, Wisconsin, Pathfinder, Christian, and Camporee flags. After each of us was assigned a flag, we lined up behind the stage, and the stage director showed us where he wanted the color guards to stand. After he showed us where to stand, he told us to wait in the back until it was time for the color guards

to go on to the stage. We all sat there for about 40 minutes. We were shaking because of how nervous we were! Most of us had stage fright, so marching out in front of at least 50,000 people was nerve-racking.

When it was almost time for us to go out to the stage and hold the flags, we began to get excited. When the drums and fireworks started going off, that was our cue to walk onto the stage and walk to the positions where we would stand for 15 minutes. There were sounds of fireworks going off behind us, drums playing, and people screaming, and we stood strong holding the flags proudly. After 15 minutes were up, we marched

off the stage. While we were walking off, there was a long line of pastors and Master Guides. As we went past them, they had their hands up ready to give us high-fives, and tell us how good a job we did on stage and that they were extremely proud of us for doing this for them. As we were putting the flags and gear away, all of us were happy that we got to experience being color guards in front of 50,000 people. ①

BY ELENA LITZENBERGER

The Chance of Your Lifetime

Have you ever met someone and wondered if there is anything at all you have in common with them?

I am the kind of person who looks for similarities when I am making friends. This was my third opportunity to come to Oshkosh, but the first time I have really been old enough to think about how incredible the very concept really is. As I walked down crowded streets, I couldn't stop thinking about the fact that every single one of the people I see here has something in common with me: We are all Pathfinders! Wherever I went, I was able to share this incredible experience

with people who have something in common with me. That just blew my mind.

My favorite part of Oshkosh has always been the evening meetings, the plays in particular. There is something about seeing your favorite Bible stories being brought to life that gives them a whole new meaning. The actors become your role models, and you cheer as Goliath is brought to the ground or David is anointed to be the next king of Israel. You sympathize with David as his brothers ruthlessly tease him about smelling like sheep, and simply being different. My club even managed to get front row

seats one night, and it was the most incredible thing I have ever done at Oshkosh. It puts you on a whole new level with the actors and actresses.

I think that my experiences at Oshkosh have been some of the best memories of my life. Everyone is friendly, willing to talk to you, and eager to trade pins with you. If you ever get the opportunity, come to Oshkosh. You will never regret it. 📌

BY AMY COTE

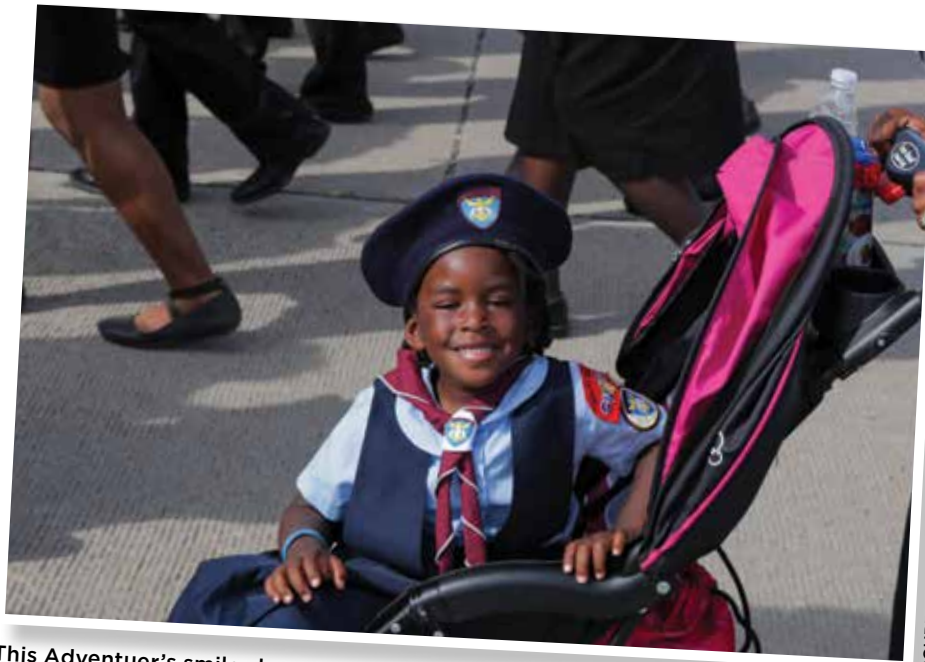
How I Learned to Juggle

Learning to juggle sounded like a lot of fun. When we got to the class, we were given three colorful scarves. The first thing the instructor told us to do was untie our scarves, and throw them in the air and catch them palm down.

After we did that for a little bit, we started to pass them hand to hand. Then we began to use three, which was a whole lot harder. Everyone was having trouble, and scarves were flying everywhere. It was a good thing we were not juggling

knives. At the end of the day I was pretty good at juggling three scarves. Now to try knives! 📌

BY ELLA CHEEKS



COURTNEY HEROD

This Adventurer's smile shows how much she enjoyed being at Camporee.

A Glimpse of Heaven

No matter how many preparations are made, always expect the unexpected. This seems like it deserves to be the motto for this trip so far. While it is only day two, the importance of leaving our affairs in God's hands is making itself more known to us constantly. This trip is still amazing and by no means is undermined by the unseen complications that arise; however, between cancelled Walmart orders and the long search for propane gas, we definitely had a rough start, and that seems to be the tip of the iceberg.

In a last-minute trip to Walmart, our club saw many other Pathfinders outside of the campsite, and conversations were being started everywhere. This may seem small, but life in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, is so hectic and fast-paced that spon-

taneous spurts of conversation are rarely started. Here, hundreds of people of the same faith are all brought together and enjoy each other's company... it is almost like a glimpse of what Heaven will be like.

As a young Pathfinder, apart from my church's club and a couple of surrounding churches, I really have not encountered many young people who practice the same faith. And, even in it, some are not social and are not as willing to get out of their comfort zone. This is why I look forward to Oshkosh, where I can meet new people who believe what I believe.

Being able to communicate with people who share the same worldview as you is important. Proverbs 27:17 reminds us that "Iron sharpens iron." As a Seventh-day Adventist in a secular world, we need to surround ourselves

with like-minded people, and that is what Oshkosh provides. A lot of youth end up leaving the Church as they do not feel connected to other young people, and slowly drift away from their faith. Oshkosh is an important reminder to me, along with many others, that we are not alone. It makes me feel like Seventh-day Adventism is not the minority in terms of religion, and that there are thousands of people from around the world and from different walks of life that go through the same things I do, and are faced with the same dilemmas that I face as well. We all serve the same God in this glimpse of Heaven. ❶

BY LANCE JONES

Journey Through His Words

An average person has his ups and downs in life; sometimes he feels alone and lost. A Seventh-day Adventist adult has a sense of wonder about God just like a child may have a sense of wonder toward the infinite darkness.

I am not a majorly religious person, though my curiosity about God grows larger every year I am alive. I am raised by two Adventist parents who both love and praise God, but I am different. I ignore God and His Word on a daily basis. I even sometimes call it out as fake and full of lies. I am a normal teen going through high school years, living every day like anyone else would, without much thought about religion. Well, that's what I thought.

My mind asks many questions, though, and there is one that I couldn't answer:



R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Does God really exist? Every day I asked myself this question, but got nowhere.

My family and their church group decided to go to the 2019 Oshkosh event. I didn't want to go, but that wasn't an option. I came to Oshkosh with no hope.

After four days of trying to experience the Lord, I found an answer to the question that bugged me for so long! The Lord has a way to unite people from all over

the world to do the same thing. Praise His name! I found something in myself I would have not been able to without His guidance. I can see why people are able to follow Him and His ways, and why people who believe are some of the happiest people on Earth. ❶

BY ELDER HERNANDEZ

Take a Chance

In life, we are granted many opportunities, some of which take us far in life, and others we take advantage of. When I heard about Oshkosh for the first time I didn't want to go at all. I thought, what crazy person decides to camp out in the wilderness for a week straight? A friend of mine had the opportunity to go to Oshkosh back in 2014, and encouraged me to take the time and experience it for myself. So, there I was packing my bags for a week's worth of treachery and despair. The bus ride seemed to have lasted two years rather than two days. Don't even get me started on the restroom stops and constant chatter while I tried to sleep.

It seemed as though I couldn't find a single thing positive about this trip. Then the time came when we finally arrived at the campground. I thought there is absolutely no way that it can last this long. Setting up the tents while the day died in the west, and struggling to light the fire so that the food could be ready for dinner wasn't exactly the highlight of my day at all. Finally, the evening service came around and my club and I arrived early enough to get good seats for the program. It was chilly and the mosquitos seemed to have gotten worse as the time flew by. Suddenly the wait was over, and the lights on the stage began to shine bright. The

name "Chosen" came up on the screen and my attention span seemed to have increased.

A man came on stage and gave a powerful message. He spoke of God seeing you even when you feel lost and meaningless. Though you may feel as though you serve no purpose, God has a purpose for you. He never fails to keep his promise, and He will never leave your side. In the midst of confusion and chaos, God still has His hands on you and is watching over you. When he finished speaking, everyone rose to their feet and began to cheer. I found myself doing the same. I now realized the importance of me going to Oshkosh.

I needed to hear that message so that I

could be reminded of my self-worth. All moments in our lives are either meant for us to love or learn from. Despite my feelings of doubt and misery in the beginning of the trip, I decided that when you have a more positive outlook on the opportunities that you are given in life, you learn something and find a purpose. My mom always told me that whatever you put into life, it will give back to you the same way. Take a chance in life, because you might find something you weren't looking for when you began. ①

BY AMARAH DAWKINS-POWELL



COURTNEY HEROD



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Let's Connect!

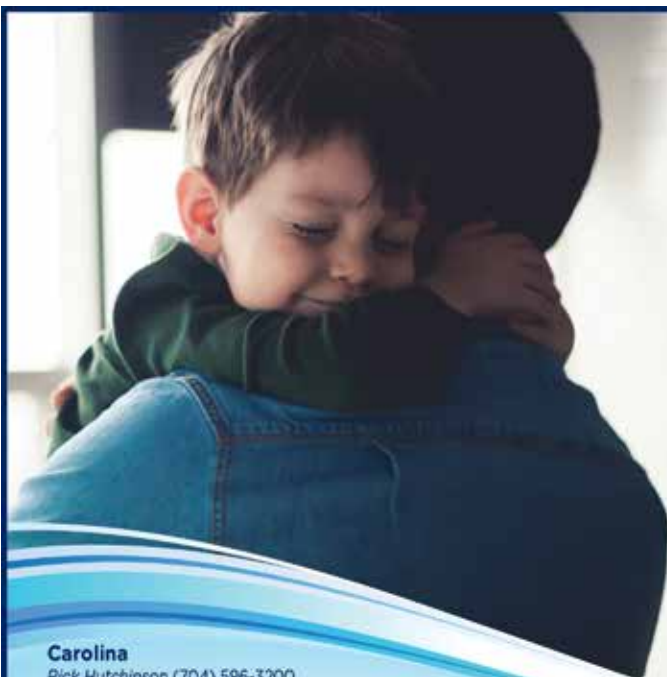
[f awr360](https://www.facebook.com/awr360)

[t awr360](https://www.instagram.com/awr360)

[i awr.360](https://www.youtube.com/awr360)

awr.org/videos

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Have You Appointed Guardians For Your Children?

To our children we are invincible. We are their strength, their provider, and protector.

As parents, we too feel invincible as we work to provide for our children's needs. We protect them from things and people who can hurt them, provide safe environments, the best schools, and we surround them with good people. **What would happen if we were not there?**

In preparing a Will, you can remain invincible to your children should they be left without you. You can guarantee that they will be taken care of by someone you know, and that finances will be there for their future.

► **Contact your local planned giving and trust services representative today to appoint guardians for your children!**

Carolina

Rick Hutchinson (704) 596-3200

Florida

Phil Bond (407) 644-5000

Georgia-Cumberland

Ray Hartwell (706) 629-7951

Gulf States

David Sigamani (334) 272-7493

Kentucky-Tennessee

Silke Hubbard (615) 859-1391

Oakwood University

Lewis Jones (256) 726-7000

South Atlantic

Merkita Mosely (404) 792-0535

South Central

Sonja Crayton (615) 226-6500

Southeastern

Juan Gonzalez (352) 735-3142

Southern Adventist University

Carolyn Liers (423) 236-2818



SUSDAGift.org

CAROLINA

HISPANIC WOMEN'S RETREAT - Oct. 4-6. Dr. A. Handal. NPR.

WOMEN'S RETREAT - Oct. 11-13. L. Ortel. NPR.

LCCM - Oct. 19. Summerville, SC, Church.

COMMUNITY SERVICE RETREAT - Oct. 18-20. NPR.

ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL WORKSHOP - Oct. 25-27. NPR.

FLORIDA

COMPLETE CALENDAR ONLINE - floridaconference.com/events

A BETTER CHOICE / FLORIDA ADVENTIST BOOK CENTER - Altamonte Springs: 407-644-4255. High Springs: 386-454-7956. Shop online: floridaconference.com/abc or order by e-mail: FloridaABC@floridaconference.com

FLORIDA ADVENTIST BOOK CENTER EXPRESS DELIVERY SCHEDULE - Avoid shipping costs by placing an ABC order to be delivered to a scheduled location. Orders must be made by phone or email before noon on the Thursday prior to a scheduled Sunday delivery.

Oct. 13. Daytona Beach, New Smyrna Beach, Titusville, Cocoa, Fort Pierce. (Southeastern Conference: Palm Bay.)

Oct. 20. East Pasco in Zephyrhills, Brooksville, Homosassa, Spring Hill, New Port Richey, Clearwater, St. Petersburg.

Oct. 27. Lady Lake, North Lake, Ocala, Cross City, Perry, Tallahassee.

Nov. 3. Midport, West Palm Beach First, Pompano Beach, Margate, Ambassador in Lauderdale Lakes, Sunrise. (Southeastern Conference: Port St. Lucie, West Palm Beach Ephesus.)

Nov. 17. Winter Haven, Avon Park, Arcadia, Cape Coral, Fort Myers, Lehigh Acres, Naples.

Nov. 24. Inverness, Tampa First, Brandon, West Coast Christian Academy in Bradenton, Sarasota, North Port, Port Charlotte.

Dec. 8. Palm Coast, Palatka, St. Augustine, Orange Cove, Jacksonville First, Jacksonville Southpoint. (Southeastern Conference: Jacksonville Ephesus.)

Dec. 15. Kendall, Miami Temple, Miami Springs, Eden in Miami, Maranatha in Miami Gardens.

LIFE STYLE HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE RETREAT - Oct. 11-14. Camp Kulaqua, 23400 NW 212nd Ave., High Springs. Special guests: Willy "Ghetto Preacher" Ramos, Nicole Stallings, Justin "That Christian Vlogger" and Emily Khoe. Cost: \$200. Details: floridaconference.com/lifestyle

YOUNG AT HEART RETREAT - Oct. 20-

23. Camp Kulaqua, 23400 NW 212nd Ave., High Springs. Fellowship for ages 50+. Cost varies depending on married or unmarried attendee and accommodation choice. Details: campkulaqua.com/kulaqua-s-summer-camp/year-round-programs/young-at-heart

GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

MASTER GUIDES CAMPOREE - Oct. 4-6. Cohutta Springs Ball Field. \$30 per camper. Crandall, GA.

STRONG MEN OF GOD MEN'S RETREAT - Oct. 4-6. Featured speakers include Sherwin Jack, Harold Cunningham, Gary Rustad, and Darrel Anderson. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/strong-men-of-god-retreat-tickets-64604352357>. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

ADVENTURER FAMILY FUN WEEKEND - Oct. 11-13. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.

AFTERNOON RALLY - Oct. 12. Jamestown, TN.

PATHFINDER DRILL INSTRUCTOR WEEKEND - Oct. 18-20. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.

7 BRIDGES MARATHON - Oct. 20. Choose from five different races, and run this Adventist sponsored race. Use promo code CONFERENCE10 to save 10% off registration. Details: <http://sevenbridgesmarathon.com/Chattanooga>, TN.

MARRIAGE RETREAT I—COURAGEOUS HEARTS - Oct. 25-27. Speakers: Grant and Monique Wells. Embark on a weekend designed to help couples restore communication and affection. A few spots left, reserve now. WinShape Retreat, Rome, GA.

ACF (ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP) - Leadership Reboot, Oct. 25, 26.

PATHFINDER TEEN CHALLENGE - Nov. 1-3. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.

MARRIAGE RETREAT II—SPICE IT UP - Nov. 1-3. Speakers: David and Beverly Sedlacek. A refreshing, spiritual, fun, and romantic time of learning for you and your spouse. These fill fast. WinShape Retreat, Rome, GA.

HOMELAND LAY EVANGELISM TRAINING - Nov. 2, 3. An intense training Sabbath from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., with Ralph Ringer, Southern Union Director of Church Growth/Evangelism Training/Jewish Ministries. Register by Oct. 21. \$25 fee include catered Sabbath lunch and supper. Conference Office, Calhoun, GA.

FULLY TRANSFORMED PRAYER MINISTRIES EVENT WITH PAVEL GOIA - Nov. 9. Goia is the editor of Ministry Magazine. This special Sabbath is focused on renewal

ideas for the local church. There is no registration fee, but everyone is asked to bring food for a potluck. Calhoun, GA, Church.

HISPANIC WOMEN WARRIORS OF PRAYER CONVENTION - Nov. 15-17. The keynote speaker is Liz Enid Polanco, with special music by Maribel Soto and Evelyn Nieves. Children under 18 are not allowed at this event. The cost is \$175 per person and that includes a hotel room shared with three other women, three Sabbath meals, and brunch on Sunday. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

SOUTH GEORGIA CAMP MEETING - Nov. 15, 16. The guest speaker will be David Hartman, faculty in the School of Religion at Southern Adventist University, and former pastor and administrator for the Adventist Church. Come enjoy a day of fellowship with lunch and dinner provided. Macon Wimbish Road Church, Macon, GA.

MINISTRIES TRAINING EVENT - Nov. 16, 2:30-8 p.m. A free training event for pastors, teachers, elders, church ministry leaders, and Sabbath School leaders; beginners to adult. A Midterm report will follow at 4 p.m. and supper at 6 p.m.

CONSTITUENT MIDTERM REPORT - Nov. 16, 4 p.m. Hear reports on what is happening in your Conference and ask the administrators questions. This event is for you! Stay for supper at 6 p.m., Macon Wimbish Road Church, Macon, GA.

Register for events on the Conference website, www.gccsda.com.

GULF STATES

EPIC ENCOUNTER - Nov. 1-3. Camp Alamisco. Guest presentations by Engage Ministries from Southern. Meals and accommodations available. www.gscsda.org/youth-ministry-events

POSSIBILITIES MINISTRY - Nov. 2. Community Church, Meridian, MS. How can we best reach and teach those with Aspergers, ADHD, or are on the Autism Spectrum? Come and learn from Larry R. Evans of the General Conference. www.gscsda.org/events.

ELDERS' AND DEACONS' RETREAT - Dec. 13-15. Camp Alamisco. Sung Kwon, director of Adventist Community Services for the North American Division, presents "Burst the Bubble: Finding Your Passion for Community Outreach." www.gscsda.org/events.

TEEN INVITATIONAL: CAVING - Jan. 31. Tumbling Rock Cave, Fackler, AL. www.gscsda.org/youth-ministry-events.

KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE

OUTDOOR EDUCATION - Oct. 9-11. Indian Creek Camp.

BOARD OF EDUCATION - Oct. 17. Conference Office.

COUPLE'S GETAWAY - Nov. 9. Paradise Ranch.

HIGHLAND ACADEMY - Nov. 14. Highland Academy.

ELDERS' CERTIFICATION TRAINING - Nov. 15-17. Indian Creek Camp.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - Dec. 3. Conference Office.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT - Oct. 6. With Laurie Redmer Minner conducting, Southern's Symphony Orchestra will perform at 7:30 p.m. at Collegedale Church. This and many other musical events are also broadcast at southern.edu/streaming.

PREVIEW SOUTHERN - Oct. 10, 11. Students are invited to take a campus tour, discuss majors with professors, sit in on financial aid workshops, and enjoy a fun activity in Chattanooga. For more information, call 1-800-SOUTHERN or email visit@southern.edu.

WIND SYMPHONY CONCERT - Oct. 13. Southern's Wind Symphony with Ken Parsons conducting, will present an evening of music at 7:30 p.m. at Collegedale Church. To learn about more School of Music events, visit southern.edu/music.

HOME COMING - Oct. 24-27. Save the date! Highlights of the weekend include reunions for Die Meistersinger, Evangelistic Resource Center Missions (ERC), and Soul-winning and Leadership Training (SALT). Honor classes include: 1939, '49, '59, '69, '74, '79, '89, '94, '99, and '09. Visit southern.edu/alumni or call 423-236-2830 for additional details.

PREVIEW SOUTHERN - Oct. 31-Nov. 1. Students are invited to take a campus tour, discuss majors with professors, sit in on financial aid workshops, and enjoy a fun activity in Chattanooga. For more information, call 1-800-SOUTHERN or email visit@southern.edu.

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT - Nov. 10. With Laurie Redmer Minner conducting, Southern's Symphony Orchestra will perform at 7:30 p.m. in the Collegedale, TN, Church. This and many other musical events are also broadcast at southern.edu/streaming.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLAINVIEW ADVENTIST ACADEMY, SHEYENNE RIVER ACADEMY, AND DAKOTA ADVENTIST ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEK-END - Oct. 4, 5. Dakota Adventist Academy, 15905 Sheyenne Circle, Bismarck, ND. Come and renew your friendships. Honor Classes: '45, '50, '55, '60, '65, '70, '80, '90, '95, '00,

'05, '10, '15. For more information, call 701-751-6177 ext. 212, or visit our website at www.dakotaadventistacademy.org.

FLETCHER ACADEMY HOMECOMING WEEKEND - Oct. 4-6. FA Campus. Join us as we honor the class years ending in 4's and 9's. The Class of 1969 will mark its 50th Reunion. Special invitation to former Fletcher Academy mission trip participants. Please update your contact information at agibbs@fletcheracademy.com, 828-209-6704. More details at: www.fletcheracademy.com.

GYC SOUTHEAST - "THE WIFE OF JESUS: WEDDING OF AN ETERNITY." - Oct. 9-12. Join young people from across the southeast region, as they study the Church, Jesus' bride, and implications for us as His end-time Church. Dean Cullinane will be the main speaker, with other great breakout session speakers. The conference will take place on the campus of Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, TN. Visit <http://www.gycse.org> for details and to register.

SOCIETY OF ADVENTIST COMMUNICATORS 30TH ANNUAL CONVENTION - Oct. 17-19. **SAVE THE DATE!** Celebrating 30 years of communication excellence! SAC's Tagline: "Purpose. Passion. Partnership." Location: Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Join Seventh-day Adventist communication professionals and university students from all around the North American Division for training, networking, and spiritual renewal opportunities. Additional details for the hotels and more: www.adventistcommunicator.org.

SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE WOMEN'S MINISTRIES CONVENTION - Oct. 24-27. Myrtle Beach, SC. A weekend for great preaching, music, on-the-beach Vesper, praise and testimony, educational workshops,

community outreach, vendor tables, and good ole fellowship with women throughout South Atlantic and beyond. Hotel accommodations will be at Embassy Suites/Queensway Boulevard. All rooms are 2-room suites with adequate amenities and ocean views. Everything starts Friday morning, so make plans to arrive Thursday, so you won't miss anything. Workshop and vendor opportunities are available, but are moving fast. To register for the convention: www.AdventSource.org. To make hotel reservations: <https://tinyurl.com/2019-SDA-Conference>. For more convention information, contact Currine Harris, 404-792-0535, or charris@sacsda.org.

FIRST LITHONIA AND LITHONIA ADVENTIST ACADEMY 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION - Nov. 29-30, Stonecrest, GA (formerly Lithonia). All are invited to this special weekend beginning Friday at 7 p.m. Sabbath activities include Sabbath School, Divine Worship, lunch, and an afternoon and evening program. Come and "Reflect and Rejoice" in God's goodness over the past 30 years. For details: 404-547-4280.

IT IS WRITTEN ANNOUNCES CHILDREN'S APP - It Is Written's My Place With Jesus is excited to introduce a mobile app designed to help children learn about Jesus and the Bible in a fun and interactive way. Players can customize their character, enjoy fun Bible lessons, hang out in the tree house with friends, earn badges for their backpacks, gather collectibles that unlock fun mini-games, and so much more! Explore a world of fun and learning with My Place With Jesus! Download it now free. Available for both Android and iOS devices. Details: Cassie Matchim Hernandez, Development Assistant, 423-62-5827.

SUNSET

	OCT 4	OCT 11	OCT 18	OCT 25	NOV 1	NOV 8
ATLANTA, GA	7:17	7:08	6:59	6:52	6:45	5:39
CHARLESTON, SC	7:00	6:51	6:43	6:35	6:28	5:22
CHARLOTTE, NC	7:02	6:53	6:44	6:35	6:28	5:22
COLLEGEDALE, TN	7:19	7:10	7:01	6:53	6:45	5:39
HUNTSVILLE, AL	6:25	6:16	6:07	5:59	5:52	4:46
JACKSON, MS	6:41	6:32	6:24	6:16	6:10	5:04
LOUISVILLE, KY	7:21	7:10	7:00	6:51	6:43	5:36
MEMPHIS, TN	6:39	6:30	6:21	6:12	6:05	4:59
MIAMI, FL	7:04	6:56	6:50	6:44	6:39	5:34
MONTGOMERY, AL	6:25	6:17	6:08	6:01	5:54	4:49
NASHVILLE, TN	6:26	6:16	6:06	5:58	5:50	4:44
ORLANDO, FL	7:07	6:59	6:52	6:46	6:40	5:35
TAMPA, FL	7:12	7:04	6:57	6:51	6:45	5:40
WILMINGTON, NC	6:51	6:42	6:33	6:25	6:18	5:12

SEE FOR YOURSELF

Students are extraordinarily friendly, professors are exceptionally caring, and the whole campus is focused on Christ.

But don't just trust our word. Arrange your own free visit to Southern's campus, or join one of our special events.

See Southern for yourself.

Upcoming **FREE*** PreviewSouthern events:

October 10-11, 2019

October 31-November 1, 2019

February 17, 2020

March 26-27, 2020

April 24-25, 2020

**Includes free meals and lodging for students interested in attending Southern. Student families are encouraged to visit, too.*



Collegedale, TN

To arrange your visit, call 1.800.SOUTHERN
or go to **southern.edu/visit**.