

# 1

## IN THE BEGINNING

(Pre-1920)



### 1800's

Believe it or not, youth, ages 10-15 have always been an important, contributing part of the movement known as the Seventh-day Adventist Church. At times, that importance has been placed in the shadows, but it has been there none-the-less. We often hear of the exploits of our pioneers, thinking them to be “old folks” simply



**John Andrews with  
daughter Mary**

because the technology of photography was not readily available nor used until most of our founding pioneers were well along in life. The courage, leadership, and dedication shown by leaders such as James and Ellen White, Uriah and his sister Anne Smith, John Loughborough, John Andrews and so many others did not just all-of-a-sudden appear when they were older. Those traits were all there from the time they were still young. An incident in the life of John Andrews will illustrate:

John was about 10 years old; his family had just recently heard and chosen to follow William Miller's preaching. Small groups of “Millerites” gathered Wednesday evenings after the day's hard work in the fields to study their Bibles. John loved to attend these evenings because he had not been able to attend school more

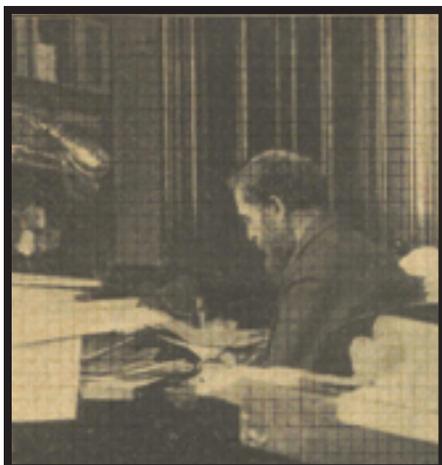
than about 3-4 years. One evening he was on his way to meeting with an older man—Mr. Davis. They came to a small bridge over a stream and were met by a group of bullies. Their leader had a big bull whip and intended to “whip

some sense” into Mr. Davis. When John realized what was happening he immediately stepped between the two men and demanded that if Mr. Davis was to be whipped then he must be whipped first. The bully was ashamed to whip a boy, relented and allowed them on their journey.



Luther Warren age 14-15

In 1879 Luther Warren, a 14—year-old, was part of the team that organized the very first society in the church that dedicated itself to reaching the spiritual needs of fellow youth. For Luther, this was but just a beginning of his leadership role in the church. Later, he was to work in South Dakota and had more “firsts.” His entire life was dedicated to working with the youth of the church. Although never elected as such, he was in many ways the first leader of the church’s youth. His biography is interestingly written in a now-out-of-print book by Sharon Boucher.



W.N. Glenn seated at his editorial desk

As leaders grew older, they realized that the next generation of the younger set needed guidance and encouragement, and so in 1890 the weekly magazine called, *Our Little Friend* made its appearance under the editorship of W. N. Glenn. At first this magazine focused on those ages from 6-12, but later this was split into two groups with a new magazine taking the 10-14 age group—*Junior Guide*—and the *Friend* covering ages 4-9. In 1957 *Primary Treasure* was introduced for ages 6-10 and *Friend* went to ages 0-5.

### 1901-1907

For the first several decades, juniors and early teens were an integral part of the total youth program that was slowly emerging in the church. They were involved in all of the early efforts at organizing youth societies in the various conferences and were considered part of the picture when in 1901 the General Conference voted to establish a specific recognized organization for youth that was temporarily placed under the Sabbath School leadership until such a time as it would be wise to give wings of its own. During these early years, many older members of the church had somehow forgotten what it was like to be a young person, and they resisted any and all efforts to provide activities and outlets for the energy that young people naturally bring to the table. Especially juniors and younger children were supposed to be seen and not heard. They “might be fit for service some time in the future, not now.” Any effort at giving this age group any kind of active role was deemed to be from the devil. Fortunately, there were a few older folks who at key times and in key places would rise and defend the young and provide them with the guidance and oversight to participate and succeed. The official recognition given by the General Conference in 1901 went a long way toward overcoming those initial ill-notions.

Enter Flora Plummer. Ms. Plummer was the Director of the Sabbath School Department for the world church. She was given the responsibility of putting together some kind of effective package of activity that would ignite the youth of the church to service and to a new level of spiritual growth and understanding. Apparently she was more than amply qualified for the job. She lit into her new assignment with such energy and enthusiasm that within but 4 years the new MV Societies (Missionary Volunteers) had sprung up on nearly every continent and many islands of the oceans. (Read more about this in the book, *The AY Story*, or



on-line at [youth.gc.adventist.org](http://youth.gc.adventist.org).) The work expanded so quickly that Luther Warren was brought into the department to focus just on the MV movement.

### 1907-1919

By 1907 it had become clear that the youth work of the church would require a department of its own, so at the mid-term council held in Switzerland that year the General Conference voted to establish the Young People's Department under the leadership of Milton Kern, who had been a teacher at Union College in Nebraska and longtime promoter of youth ministry. More important for junior youth was the naming of Matilda Erickson as his assistant. She spent much of her time developing materials for juniors. During the next few years a number of programs specifically designed to enrich the devotional growth of the younger ages were introduced—programs that are still an integral part today of Pathfinder ministry.

Often questions are raised—“What is meant by the statement in the Pathfinder Law that says ‘Keep the Morning Watch?’” The “*Morning Watch*” is a short daily devotional plan that was first tried in the Central Union (now Mid-America Union) in 1907. It was so successful its very first year that the very next year it became a part of the world youth curriculum. “*Keep the Morning Watch*” simply means to maintain the habit of daily personal devotional reading. Each year the church publishes a devotional book with 365 short Bible-text–based readings for juniors and early teens just for this. One may also find a daily reading on the General Conference youth web page, or one may choose any number of other ways to spend a few minutes each day in spiritual growth and prayer.

The year, 1908, was the first year that a “*Junior Reading Course*” was issued. Our church has always taught what enters our minds is what we become; therefore, it is essential to select with care that which we read. The reading courses select on an annual basis a few of the very best books appropriate to the age of the reader to encourage them to read quality books that will expand their view of the world around them in a wholesome fashion. The Pathfinder classes today still carry this tradition within their requirements.



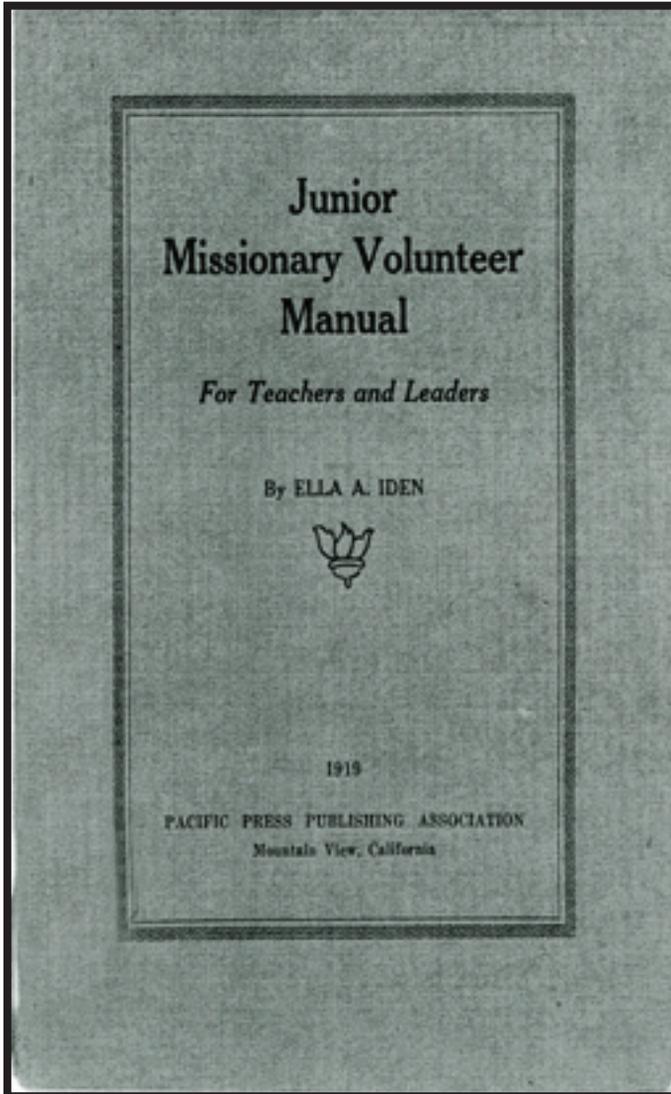
In 1909, a small pamphlet was issued setting the foundations for organizing the first JMV Societies, and reports began to arrive at the world headquarters almost immediately. Many of these Societies were organized in our church schools, where Wednesday mornings became a traditional JMV meeting time. While a further challenge for youth, called the *Standard of Attainment*, was first introduced in 1907, the junior edition first appeared in 1915. This program was to become the forerunner of the Progressive Classes—Pathfinder Classes. It consisted of a set of requirements that covered Bible knowledge, church history, healthful practices and outreach activity.

Today's annual Pathfinder Sabbath began as well in 1907—at first called Young People's Day; it was soon changed to Missionary Volunteer Day.

The *Junior Bible Year*—a plan whereby children could read 365 key chapters of the Bible during the course of a year—was introduced in 1917, and in October of the same year, the *Primary Reading Course* was introduced for those under the age of ten. Ella Iden-Edwards assembled all these early materials and concepts into the first administrative manual for junior work in 1918 and titled it the *Manual on Junior Methods*. Many, many evolutionary stages later we now use the *Pathfinder Administrative Manual*.



A. W. Spaulding, a man who was a true mentor for the youth of his church, was living in Tennessee around 1919 and organized a small group of boys into a little club he called “Mission Scouts.” They went off camping on occasion and were involved in “doing good deeds” in their community. They even put together a pledge and law to live by. While this little club soon died—when Spaulding moved away—the pledge and law caught on and became the pledge and law for the JMV's and only slightly modified, still lives today as the guiding light of the Pathfinder Club. (See more beginning on page 38 of this book.)



First edition to be called the  
Junior Missionary Volunteer Manual 1919



The 1963 Junior Devotional Book by  
Henry Bergh

## 2

# And Then There Was Light (1920-1946)



*1920-1928*

Thus far, we have seen the origins of a number of the elements that today form an integral part of Pathfinder Ministry, even to the level of organized



**Harriet Holt**

weekly events under the title of JMV. The next logical step was to begin experimenting along lines that would provide the remaining activities—outdoor education. A number of local church leaders involved with children began taking them into the out-of-doors on hikes and similar short excursions into God's world; camping soon followed. By 1919, A. W. Spaulding's club in Tennessee had included camping in their repertoire of activities. The following year, at the annual fall council of the General Conference (1920), the Youth Department added a young lady by the name of Mrs. Harriet Holt to its staff. Her specific

assignment was caring for the junior age level in the church. Harriet was a woman who, in spite of her somewhat dainty/stylish appearances, was a fun-

loving, daring, adventuresome and creative sort that enjoyed taking risks and loved the outdoors. She was a perfect combination of talents to begin the next phase of junior-teen ministry in the church.

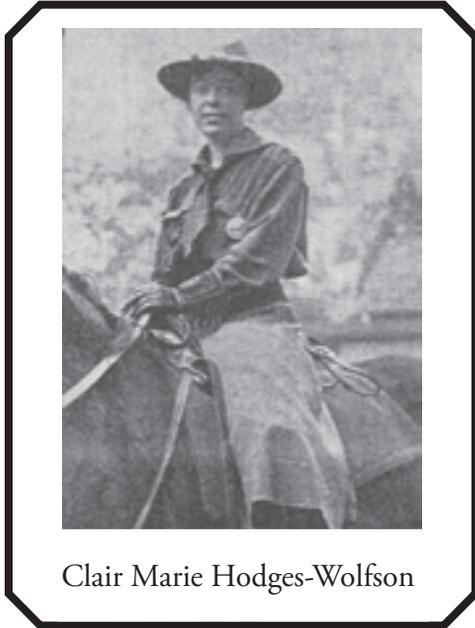
Mrs. Holt immediately began experimenting with a small group of girls by having outdoor activities, handcrafts and outreach events. Her letters tell of canoe trips, camping during storms and other exciting activities. By 1922, she was ready to introduce two programs. The first was to fit into the JMV Societies representing two levels of development she called *Friend* and *Companion*. The second was in leadership training; it was called the *Comrade Band* and included two levels of leadership: the *Comrade* and *Master Comrade*. Among the requirements in this second category was a set of requirements in *Health and Healing* which eventually led to the Honor in the same along with another 15 vocational topics, which were ready for introduction in 1928 by her successor, C. Lester Bond. The first reference that has been found regarding the use of a uniform comes from a committee action taken in 1926 to study a uniform, with Bond being asked to lead out in that study.



Certificate of Completion with two first Pins

Camping and other outdoor skills were being developed during this time. Mrs. Holt writes of visiting some of these early camps. There were several persons who began taking kids out into camping environments for overnights or weekends and even several days. In 1925 W. J. Gilson, Youth Director for the Victoria Conference in Australia held a camp by the Yarra River about

40 miles from Melbourne with 14 boys attending. Then, in 1926, the Youth Director of the East Michigan Conference, Grover Fattic, and several others organized a boy's camp at Town Line Lake, and camping as an integral part of

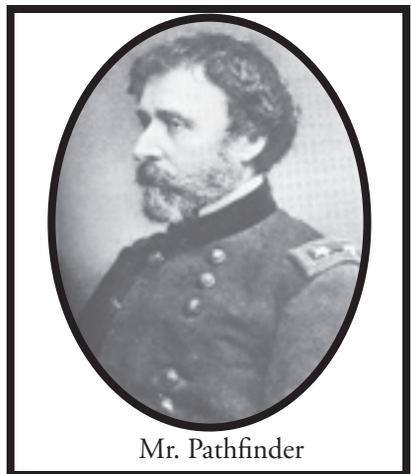


Clair Marie Hodges-Wolfson

youth ministry, became part of history. The next year, Miss Irene Walker a teacher in Michigan, organized a girl's camp with the help of Mrs. Holt. That same summer, Wisconsin held both a boy's and a girl's camp. Almost immediately, conferences began to purchase land so as to have a permanent facility that could be developed in such a way as to enhance campers' experiences. Among the very first, and the only one to continue at the same location ever since, was Wawona Camp in the Central California Conference. A small acreage was purchased in 1929 on what then was just outside of Yosemite

National Park. Clare Marie Hodges-Wolfson, a school teacher and the first woman park ranger in the U. S. National Park System and a Seventh-day Adventist, then donated several acres of her own land adjacent to the camp and became the camp's first naturalist.

It was at one of these early camps (1928) in Southern California that A. W. Spaulding found himself telling a story of the adventures of one of America's early Western explorers known as *Mountain Men*, named John Fremont. He carried the nickname "Pathfinder". The nickname caught on; the camp was dubbed "Pathfinder Camp." It became the name of a local church junior club directed by John



Mr. Pathfinder

McKim. Eventually, it became the name of the club that put all the various pieces together that were developed over the previous couple decades thus transforming the JMV Society into today's Pathfinder Club.

### 1928-1946

C. Lester Bond held the title of Junior Youth Director from 1928 to 1946. Almost immediately upon taking office he introduced the first sixteen "Merits", changed to Vocational Honors, with another 19 added the very next year and today known as *Pathfinder Honors* or *AY Honors*. Bond was a prolific writer; nearly every year a new revised edition of the *Junior Missionary Volunteer Handbook* and the *Master Comrade Manual* came off the press. Every revision that came out included several more new Honors. He also wrote a number of yearly *Junior Devotional Books*. It wasn't all that hard to do in those days. Travel was primarily by steamships and trains. He traveled the world, so had plenty of time available to study and write. It should be mentioned that while Bond was a strong believer in the *JMV Society* he did not support the growing movement during the later years of his office toward the *Pathfinder Club*. That step was given into the hands of the next generation of leaders.

We mentioned above that a man named *John McKim* was running a small club that carried the name *Pathfinder Club*. His church was in Anaheim of the Southeastern California Conference. The club met in his



**The Bond's Camping**

home. Previously, he had been a scoutmaster and felt that the children of his church needed something similar. Recently, scouts had expanded rapidly into the United States from its roots in Britain, and a number of children of Adventist parents had joined the organization. In response to what was happening, Elder M. E. Kern had been asked to write an article. In the February 16<sup>th</sup> issue of the *Review* for 1928, Elder Kern's article appeared. In it he outlined the primary reasons why it was in the best interest of our youth not to join the Scout organization: "In the first place, the most important element in the character building is left out, namely, religion."

Then he goes on to write, "The most powerful influence in a man's life is the first fast friend of the adolescent period. One of the strongest factors in any junior organization is the leader. While there are many very estimable characters in the leadership of these organizations, their influence is such as to lead away from the church. It is an old saying that the friendship of the world is more to be feared than its enemy. The very fact that many of these leaders, who do not understand or believe our message, are men of high moral ideals gives them a greater influence over our boys. It would be most unfortunate for our young people to get the idea that religion is something apart from real life. 'Unless Christ is Lord of all, He is not Lord at all.' McKim, quite likely, read the article, agreed with it, and therefore, devised an alternate plan—a club he and the Martins and Johnstons called *Pathfinders*.

By 1930, Lester and Ione Martin were directing a small club with the help of Dr. Theron and Ethel Johnston in the Johnston's home in the nearby town of Santa Ana, California; and the two clubs would meet together monthly. These clubs worked on the two classes (*Friend* and *Companion*), did honors, had a joint choir, and spent time in witnessing and other such activities. Due to pressure brought on by some of the members of these churches who did not understand the value of what was happening, the clubs eventually disbanded.

Laurence Skinner, a Youth Director in the Pacific Northwest, risked upsetting the status quo and launched some clubs he called "Trailblazers" in 1942. He worked with some manuals that Henry Bergh had developed in Central California to aid in their development and soon had a number of clubs functioning under the overall umbrella of the JMV Society but with a broader scope of activity. The stage was set for the next step.

**First 16 Honors introduced  
in 1928. Can you name  
them all?**



### 3

## Be Fruitful and Multiply (1946---



*1946-1950*

The summer camping program for children had now become a well-established tradition. The JMV Society was also well-developed with a fairly broad range of programming. Yet, there was something missing. A mother came to John Hancock, the new Youth Director in the Southeastern California Conference (1946). She had seen the positive impact summer camp had on her boy and wondered why they couldn't have summer camp kinds of activities functioning year-around. Hancock went to the Riverside Church, and with the leadership of La Sierra College ministerial student, Francis Hunt, as Club Director, he started a club for about 15 boys and girls and gave it the name that had been used earlier in those other churches of the same conference—*Pathfinders*. It didn't take long for the idea to spread to other churches. Lawrence Paulson, at the Glendale church, caught the idea, and soon had a club of 150 members who is considered by the other pioneers of Pathfinder ministry to be one of the greatest club directors of all time. From 1947 forward he was responsible for beginning and directing at least 11 other Pathfinder Clubs. As a volunteer, he led out in staff training seminars nationwide well into retirement. Hancock, who was also an artist, designed a logo—the triangle. He asked his colleague, Henry Bergh, from the Central California Conference to write a song appropriate for such an organization, and the Pathfinder Song was born (1949). John also combined the triangle with an additional design and asked Helen Hobbs to sew it all together, and so the Pathfinder Flag was born.

Henry Bergh is another of those pioneers in this club who preferred to keep a low profile. When asked to write a song he properly protested that he

was neither a musician nor a composer and promptly dismissed the notion. He says, “But along in May of 1949, I was driving to an appointment out on Monterey Peninsula about 70-80 miles (110-130 km) from home. I was thinking about our Pathfinders and how they needed a tune. Then I thought, well, at least I should write some words. So I tried to compose a poem. I thought about the MV Pledge—pure and kind and true, with a message to go to the world. I pulled to the side of the road, took a piece of scrap paper out of my Bible, and began to write:

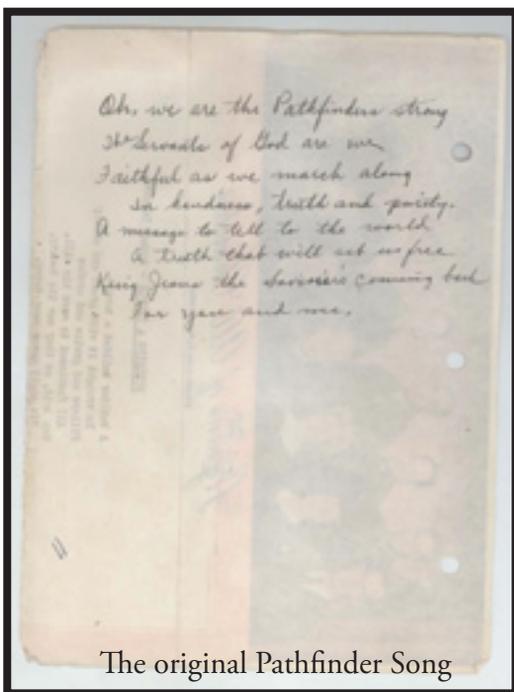
*Oh, we are the Pathfinders  
strong,*

*The servants of God are we*

*Faithful as we march along*

*In kindness, truth, and  
purity...*

“Well, I thought, that’s not bad... I took off again for my Sabbath appointment. On my way home afterwards, I started humming a tune of sorts; then the words began to fit in. I pulled off the road again and jotted down some dots as I hummed the tune over. That evening I asked my wife to try and play this thing for me from the dots on the page. I still wasn’t confident that it was good



The original Pathfinder Song

enough for a Pathfinder Song, so I sent it to Wayne Hooper (a well known church musician and composer) and asked him to edit it. He sent it back and said ‘It’s a good song—go ahead and publish it!’”

Don Palmer, a teacher in Glendale, worked on the nature and outdoor activity curriculum to make it come alive. He was involved for many years in teaching nature and wilderness survival for clubs and at early camporees.

Clark Smith and Harry Garlick wrote the first drill manuals with advice from Henry Bergh that they “be sure and make them kinder and gentler than military manuals.”



Laurence Skinner

In 1946 Laurence Skinner had been called from the Northwest to go to the General Conference in charge of Junior Youth Ministry, replacing C. Lester Bond, who was retiring. One of his first decisions was that it was time for this new club to reach beyond the sphere of the West Coast of the U.S. He contacted J. R. Nelson of the Pacific Union and asked him to get his team together and develop a complete package program that would be useful everywhere. This they did, and after several sessions and piloting projects had a package to present by 1950. It was voted at the General Session (*Skinner thus became the first World Pathfinder Director*) of the church held that year. A couple months later, in

the fall, Elders John Hancock and Lee Carter were called to Washington, where they put the final touches on a *Pathfinder Staff Manual and the little book entitled* “How to Start a Pathfinder Club” which was based on two earlier local editions, one written by Henry Bergh and the other written by Lawrence Paulson. And, it could be said... “The rest is history.”

### *The 1950's*

Over the past four years, beginning in 1946, a carefully constructed foundation had been built. Now Pathfinding would no longer be a North American club or ministry exclusively. It was first brought to Fall Council in 1949 when administrators of the world church gathered to set the agenda for the General Conference Session. Those meetings gave the green light for it to be presented the following year; as soon as it was approved by the world church it became a truly international organization. Other countries immediately took the concept and adapted it to their realities. During the next decade there were many firsts. Some of these were still happening in North America, and many of them were happening now in every other country.

Outside of continental United States, clubs began organizing just as soon as the delegates returned to their fields with the news from the Session. Puerto



*Eliezer Melendez*

Rico may have been the first. A young man actively involved with the local JMV Society, **Eliezer Melendez**, immediately organized a club there. Within just a couple months or so clubs sprouted in Aruba and Mexico... and the race was on!

Following a medieval tradition, some countries celebrate a holiday around the last days of October called *Halloween*. Originally, on that day the poor of the towns would go door-to-door asking for donations of money. There were overtones of witches and goblins and dire consequences if money was not doled out. For most, the modern version consists of children going door to door dressed in outlandish costumes asking for sweets. In 1951

a Mrs. Julius of the Wadena, Minnesota church had an idea. Why not use this holiday to reach out and do some good instead of doing the sweets thing? So she organized the children of her local church school, calling them "Dorcas Scouts." So that the community would understand better what was happening, and they set out to collect food, money, and other useful household articles that then could be given to poor folks in town. An article was run in the local paper ahead of time to prepare the townsfolk—and it worked! After it was all over, the local

paper ran another article recounting the experience ending with the phrase "They enjoyed it!" It immediately became a tradition. Wisconsin picked up the idea the following year,



Durham Trailblazers Pathfinder Club-Canada with their food collection 2005

and Pathfinders now have their annual Halloween can pickup, gathering many thousands of dollars-worth of food and other items, which are then distributed to needy families by the hundreds often just before Christmas.

Already by 1951, there were enough clubs functioning in some conferences that an annual gathering of some kind seemed appropriate. Central California held its first *Pathfinder Fair* on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, Southern California held theirs on the 30<sup>th</sup> and Southeastern California held what they called a Congress on November 4<sup>th</sup>. In the Southern New England Conference the first Camporee on record was held October 9-11, 1953. (See the Junior Guide story on page 75 of this book) The following spring (1954) camporees were held in two conferences in California. Camporees are defined separate from summer camp programs by the fact that camporees are comprised of Pathfinder Clubs run by their own staff coming together to participate in activities that are designed for club involvement and generally run less than one week. Summer camps are generally full weeks when all children (not just Pathfinders) participate in a camping experience under camp staff care that has been selected by the conference Youth Department. Camporees may also be held in a variety of outdoor settings while, summer camps generally are held at the conference-owned camp facility.

The year was 1955; Pedro P. Leon was the Inca Union youth director; D. J. von Pohle was the president of Inca Union Junior College and had just returned from furlough, where he had seen Pathfinder Clubs in action. The two put their heads together and then asked **Nercida de Ruiz**, a secretary at the Union office and a member of the Miraflores church, Lima, Peru, if she would



Nercida received special recognition from Erton Kohler, South American Division Youth Director at the third SAD Camporee, Brazil, 2005

direct what was to be the first Pathfinder Club in South America. Pohle helped her get things going, using the manuals he had brought back with him. “Pathfinders” did not translate well into Spanish, so they chose “*Conquistadores*.” Today, *Conquistadores* account for a major language block in the world of Pathfinding, as the name was soon adopted by all Spanish-speaking countries in the Western Hemisphere.

Until now, there had only been the two original classes for Pathfinders: Friend and Companion. The requirements had gone through several revisions through the decades, but now it was time for a major change. In 1956, the Explorer Class was added, the Guide became the highest level of achievement for Pathfinder Club members, and the Master Guide was presented with two



optional tracks of leadership training—Junior Youth Leadership and Senior Youth Leadership.

Another large number of Honors were introduced, bringing the total now to around 160 of them. (Back in 1951 they realized that *Vocational* no longer really fit, since by now there were many topics included that were not necessarily oriented toward a vocational



training, so that term was dropped and they were referred to as MV Honors).

After the revision of the *Class* concept, leaders noticed that there were always some Pathfinders in nearly every club that were so excited by the program they really needed advanced opportunities for further growth. So, in 1958 each of the four Classes was given an Advanced Level to be represented on the uniform by a special bar-ribbon in the colors of the matching Class.



### *The 1960's*

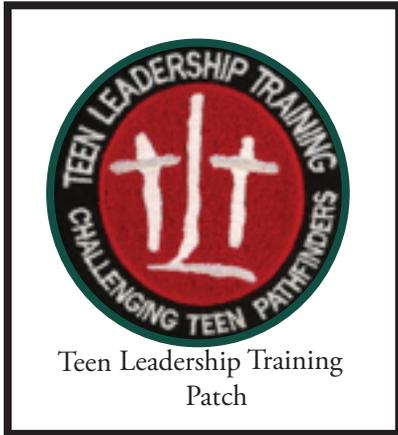
This decade starts with the beginnings of the third major language block in today's Pathfinders—the Portuguese speaking “Desbravadores.” In 1960 John Youngberg was returning to the U.S. on furlough from Chile via Brazil. He had begun Pathfinding in his land of service and now was invited by Elder Wilson Sarli to help him begin the club in South Brazil. The first two clubs to be organized that year were in the town of Ribeirão Preto in the interior of the State of São Paulo and Capão Redondo, a suburb of the city of São Paulo. Ribeirão Preto even records the very first baptism of a Brazilian Pathfinder the very next year—today she is still a Pathfinder leader. At about the same time, through another source of training, a third club was formed in the State of Santa Catarina at Lageado Baixo, a church very near the “pioneer church” where the Advent message first entered Brazil. Far up in the Northeastern parts of Brazil, a young lady, Joselita, got her hands on a small



**Joselita**

8-page mimeographed manual about Pathfinders, got all excited and began her own club that same year. One administrator told her pastor/husband it was not proper for her to be seen doing these kinds of things, while another asked her to go to other churches and help them start. Today, 45 years later, she is still directing a club with some 80 Pathfinders.

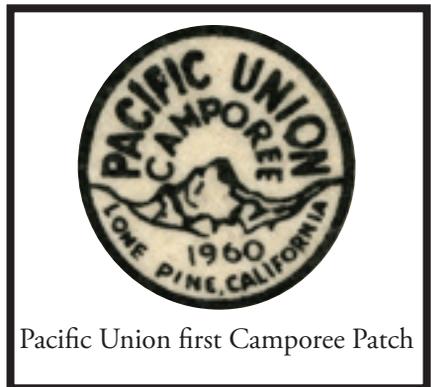
More and more Pathfinders found it interesting to stay in the club after turning 16, but there had been little thought given to that idea by the leadership, assuming that the MV Societies would fill the void. However, by this time, MV Societies in many places consisted of little more than Sabbath afternoon programs with but little to hold the interest of its youth—



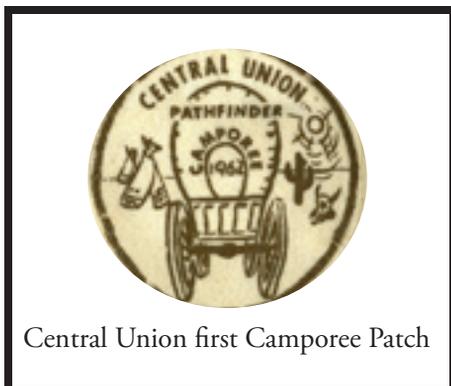
especially those who had been in very active Pathfinder Clubs. So, new ideas were piloted for these die-hard Pathfinders who wouldn't quit. Clubs began incorporating Junior Counselors (16-17 year-olds) in their club units, training under older-aged Counselors; an L.I.T. (Leaders in Training) program was experimented with in some areas. Later there would be a C.I.T. (Counselor in Training) and J.T. program and others until there finally emerged the T.L.T. (Teen Leadership Training) in use today. By 1962, the Pathfinder Staff Training program was

expanded from the original 10 hours to 6 units of 10 hours each. The original Basic Course remained as the first unit, and then an advanced unit in Club Administration was added along with units in Drill and Ceremonies, Field Games, MV Honors, Nature and Camping.

Camporees were being held by local conferences now at least sporadically and spreading around the world. It was time to try the next step, and in 1960, back where it all began,



the Pacific Union held its first Union Camporee at Lone Pine, California in April. The Central Union followed with theirs high up at Glacier View, Colorado in 1962 and soon many Unions were holding periodic camporees. Skinner was in attendance at this one in Colorado, as was Palmer and other pioneers. The Glacier View camporee would also mark the beginning of Pathfinder



Central Union first Camporee Patch

ministry for a young Junior Counselor by the name of Robert Holbrook, who would eventually become the 6<sup>th</sup> World Pathfinder Director. The Southern European Division also took a giant leap at this time: in 1961 they held their first Division Camporee under the leadership of Paul Steiner.

Elder Skinner had led out in the beginning of Pathfinding as it spread around the world. He had been one of the longest-termed Associates in the General Conference Youth Department, and now after 17 years it was time to call it quits. He retired in 1963 and was succeeded by another of the (much younger) founding pioneers, John Hancock. During his years with Pathfinders everything already in place continued to be fine-tuned, Honors kept being added to the ever-lengthening list and Class number 5 was introduced—Pioneer (in 1966 and changed to Ranger in 1970). Hancock was to remain only 7 years and was so well-liked by all youth around the world that in 1970 he was asked to replace retiring Ted Lucas as World Youth Director, where he continued for another 10 years.



First Pioneer Pin

Advanced Pioneer Ribbon Bar

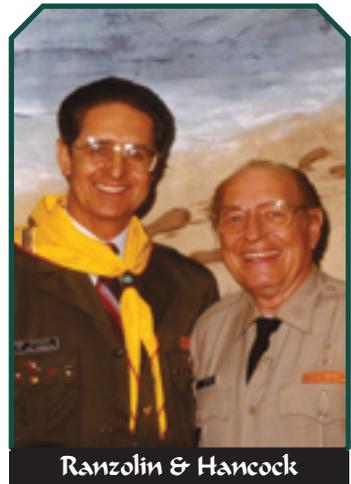
Adventist Camps opened their gates to a new group of kids—blind campers—in 1967 and in turn changed their world forever.



Since National Camps for Blind Children began in 1967 with 23 campers, over 47,000 campers have experienced the joy, affirmation, and challenge they find at these camps. NCBC camp are an integral part of Christian Record Service's goal: to help the blind see Jesus.

### *The 1970's*

Brazilian Pathfinders, in keeping with the very nature of Brazil itself, had grown and matured so much during its first decade that the South Brazil Union Youth Director, Leo Ranzolin was seen as a natural to succeed Hancock as World Pathfinder Director. So the 1970's began with the third, and first non-American, World Pathfinder Director. Leo completed the entire decade (till 1980),



**Ranzolin & Hancock**

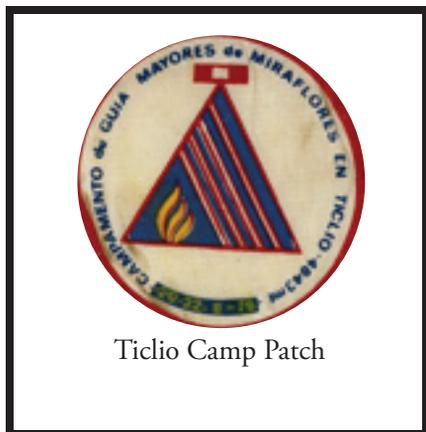
then again succeeded Hancock upon his retirement as World Youth Director. Eventually, Leo would move on to a Vice Presidency of the World Church and retire, but he was always a favorite invitee to any large Pathfinder gathering and never turned down an invitation.

Now, for 10 years, Unions had been holding camporees that were ever getting larger and larger. Of course it was only a natural thought that one day Divisions might begin holding International events of this nature. In 1971 the Northern Europe-West Africa Division (today's Trans-European Division) held their first of these events in Vasterang, Sweden; it was followed the next year by the Euro-African Division in Villach, Austria. The Australasian Division (today's South Pacific Division) was third when in 1975 they held their first Division Camporee in the beautiful spot called Harramundi near Sidney, Australia. By 1977, the two European Divisions were already in the next rounds of their Division Camporees with EUD holding one in Italy and TED holding theirs in Finland. The Southern Asia Division held their first camporee in 1974 in Karnataka under W. J. McHenry and followed it with a second one in 1978 at Bangalore, India under J. S. Singh.



Leo Ranzolin with Pathfinders at the  
1978 South Pacific Division Camporee

In 1976, various groups all over the world celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of camping ministry in the church.

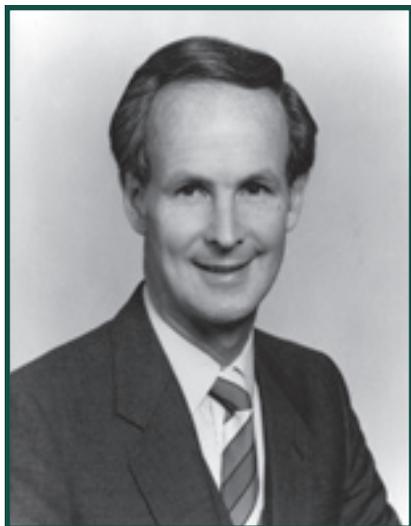


Ticlio Camp Patch

One daring group of 30 would-be Master Guides in Lima, Peru chose to celebrate it by camping just above 4,843 meters (over 16,000 feet) at a place called Ticlio in the high Andes. It was the first time any of the participants had seen snow up close. Learning how to handle altitude sickness as well as learning survival techniques were the major challenges over the course of the event. Serious study was also given to the last few chapters of the book, *Great Controversy*, and how the

events described there might apply to participants “stuck” at those kinds of altitudes.

*Pathfinding* also entered the multi-media world with its first film produced on Pathfinder Drill (1971), filmed by a crew managed by Jan Doward, featuring a club from the Chesapeake Conference.



Mike Stevenson

### 1980's

Mike Stevenson, originally from South Africa, began the new decade as the new World Pathfinder Director, replacing Leo Ranzolin, who became the World Youth Director. The North American Division also reaches a new stage of separation from the General Conference by electing its own first-ever Youth-Pathfinder Director, Les Pitton. (Until this time, North America was always an integral part of the General Conference and

without its own set of leaders.) With Les as an independent leader with his own Division, it was time to begin planning the first North American Division Camporee, which was held at a former military training field in the high country of Colorado—Camp Hale, in 1985. It immediately became the largest such event in Pathfinder history up to that time (over 15,000) with each successive camporee getting only bigger and bigger.



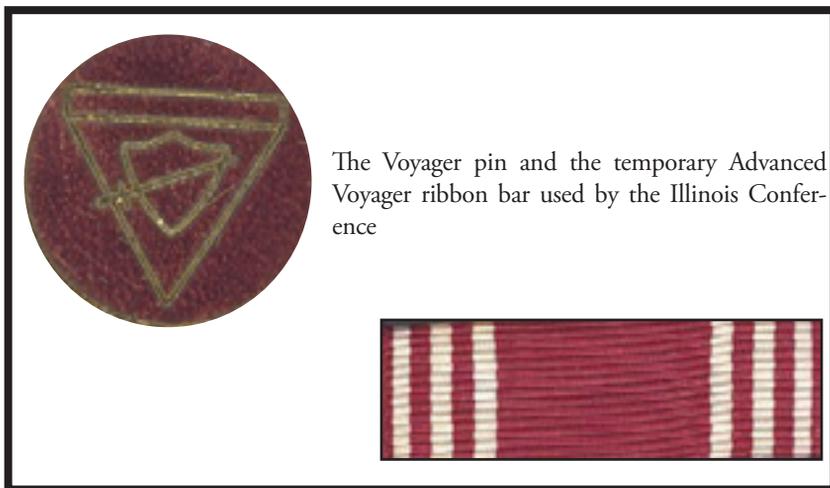
First North American Division Camporee Patch

Other Division Camporees during this decade: Euro-Africa Division (EUD) is on a roll with number 4 held in 1981 in France; Inter-America under the leadership of Israel Leito holds its first in Mexico in 1983 and at the end of the same year, the South American Division held it's first at famed Iguacu Falls, Brazil, Claudio Belz directing.

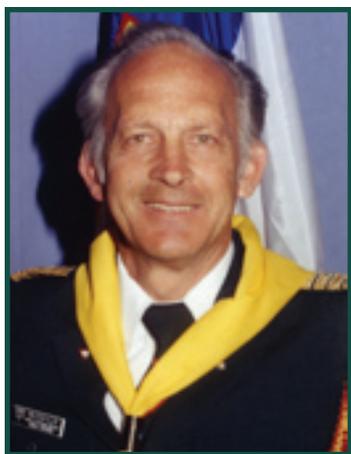


MEXICO PATCH

The Pathfinder World emblem used on the left sleeve of our uniforms changed from the old MV world in 1982 as the last of the vestiges of the old system finally disappeared. This same year, the 6<sup>th</sup> of the Pathfinder Classes with its advanced level was added, finally completing the series of a class for each age level represented in Pathfinder Ministry—called the Voyager. The advanced level had no requirements at the time of introduction, and it was left up to the Illinois Conference Pathfinder clubs to experiment with and develop the requirements in line with those of the previous classes.



The Voyager pin and the temporary Advanced Voyager ribbon bar used by the Illinois Conference



Malcolm Allen

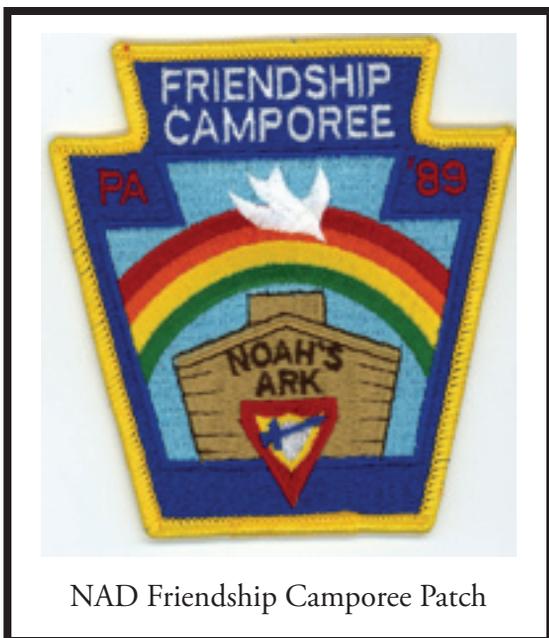
In 1985, Mike Stevenson stepped aside from Pathfinder leadership and continued in the Youth Department, giving his full attention to a new area that was growing rapidly—youth volunteerism and then senior youth ministry. *Malcolm Allen* came in 1986 from Australia to become the 5<sup>th</sup> World Pathfinder Director. When he took office, Pathfinders around the world numbered some 465,000; at the end of his decade of leadership (1996) that figure had swelled to around one million. Malcolm writes the following observation of these

years: “With the growth of new members came new leadership, many of whom had no denomination orientation but were enthusiastic to work for young people. Old concepts of youth ministry that were biblically-based and handed down from generation to generation meant nothing to these new leaders. One could not assume anything was known, and so resources must be rewritten to provide a firm foundation and background for the continued growth and advancement in the Pathfinder movement.” To give support to this need, a video was produced in 1989 titled “The Pathfinders Strong” that recapped the first 40 years of Pathfinder Ministry.

When Allen realized the deficiency in training being created by the church’s rapid growth, he dedicated most of his travel time to attending Union-wide training sessions conducting 15-18 such programs per year over the 10 years of his leadership. Among them were some firsts such as the 1987 program conducted in the Southern Asia Division where over 100 youth directors from all over the Division came together for seven days of intense training. The countries of the former Soviet sphere also opened up to Pathfinder Ministry, and Allen had the privilege of participating in more “firsts” in Romania, the Czech and Slovak Republics, Russia, Ukraine, Moldova and others.

The decade closed out in 1989 with the second NAD Camporee, held in Pennsylvania with Ron Stretter directing. This camporee used Noah and the Ark as its theme. There was a partially constructed life-size model of the Ark near the program stage with daily presentations by “Noah”. This camporee attracted around 17,000 Pathfinders with an ever-increasing representation from outside of North America.

In some ways, the 1980’s introduced a

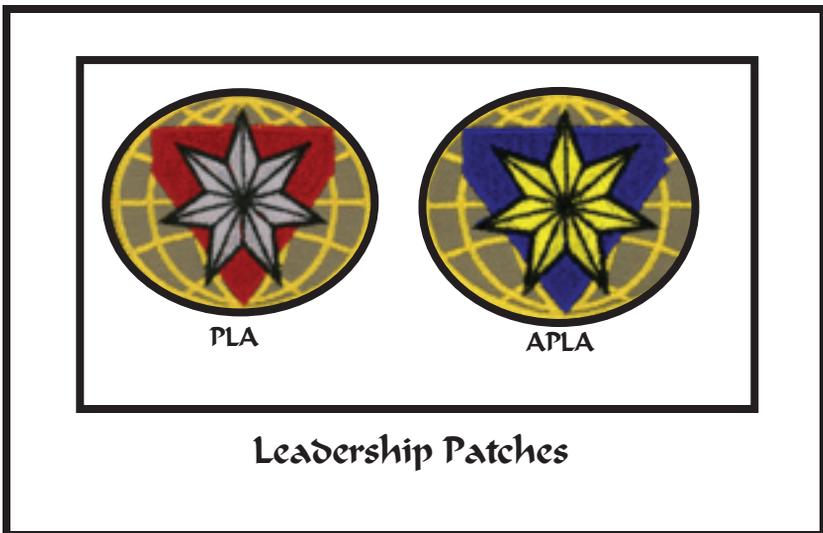


NAD Friendship Camporee Patch

difficult time for Youth Ministry in the church. In 1985 the department was merged with several others into a “super-department” called Church Ministries. While the intent was one of more effective streamlining of department efforts and programs, it was seen by many administrations as an opportunity to cut back personnel and save money. Youth ministry paid a heavy price; fortunately, Pathfinder Ministry came away from the experiment in much better shape than most others. This was due to there being a strong base established through the high level of trained and dedicated volunteers with which the club functions and the fact that at the higher levels of leadership, Pathfinder Ministry was able to keep a focused leadership in place. By 1995, the experiment in Church Ministry was dropped and the Youth Department returned under a restructured plan.

### *1990's*

The decade began with a much needed updating of the Master Guide curriculum that also included two levels of continuing education—the Pathfinder Leadership Award (PLA) and Advanced Pathfinder Leadership/Pathfinder Instructor Award (APLA/PIA) as a continuation of the resources that were to fill the huge void in leadership training brought on by the rapid growth of church membership referred to in the previous decade.



1990 also had on the calendar a camporee in the South Pacific Division, held at Treasure Bend that attracted 4,500 Pathfinders and was the largest such event outside of the United States of America up to that time. However, the record was not to last very long—4 years to be precise (January of 1994) when South America held its 2<sup>nd</sup> Division-wide Camporee, guided by Jose Maria de Silva, that brought together 8,500. Allen describes his arrival at this event: “I had been traveling for 24 hours. The opening ceremony was concluding and I could have closed my eyes and thought I was at the grand final of the world soccer match except they were all in Pathfinder uniform... You would have to give them 100 percent for enthusiasm and 110 percent for volume.”

That attendance record was to fall just 8 months later when (August 1994), the (then) East Africa Division held its first camporee near the spectacular Victoria Falls. Its leader was Baraka Muganda, who would soon become the World Youth Director. Attendance exceeded 10,000. Particularly poignant at this camporee was the fact that every country of the Division was present, including delegations from Rwanda and Burundi that had just come through a most horrific internal war. Yet kids could come together here under the theme “We are Family”; note of the contrast was made publicly by the government authorities in attendance. On a somewhat humorous side, the Sabbath baptism of 157 candidates had to be held in a large dump truck bed, filled with water, because the Zambezi River, a few hundred meters away, had crocodiles and hippos—not your ordinary obstacle for baptisms!

In the category of “absolutely spectacular”, one would have to place the Pathfinder participation over 3 years in the Tournament of Roses- Rose Parade held each January in California. This parade is broadcast worldwide, and when in 1993, China began receiving it, the viewer audience jumped from an estimated 700 million to over 1 billion around the world. This was a fantastic opportunity for people who had never even heard the name of our church to hear it and see it for the first time.

All floats must be made with only natural materials such as flowers and seeds; literally hundreds of hours are spent on each float to prepare it for the parade. In all, five of six floats that Pathfinders decoration, won special awards for their themes and excellence. After the parades were over, Pathfinders again helped to dismantle these huge floats; the flowers were then turned into potpourri and sold, with the proceeds going to Children’s Miracle Network, a charity organization. Norm Middag, Division Pathfinder Director, along

with Dixie and Arnold Plata, Pathfinder Historians, were the primary movers behind this spectacular idea.

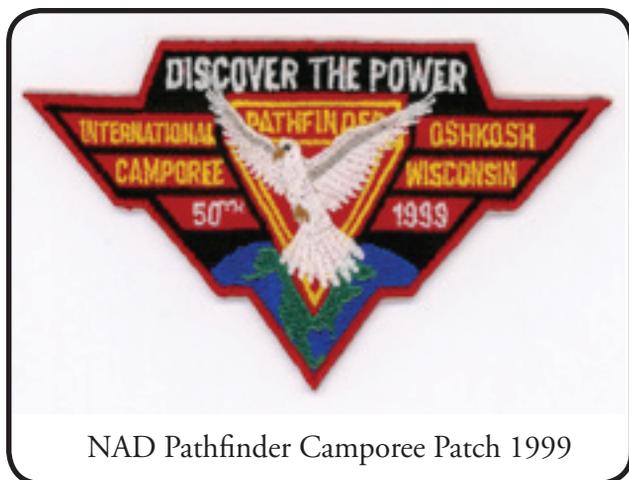


In preparation for the 1995 General Conference Session, Malcolm Allen was asked to write up the parameters, mode of operating, and staffing for the new Youth Department. This plan was voted, with Baraka Muganda of the East Africa Division as its new Director. Early the following year, Allen, returned to Australia, and in May of 1997, Robert Holbrook was asked to become the 6<sup>th</sup> World Pathfinder Director. (Baraka Muganda, World Youth Director, filled in the vacuum for nearly a year at the request of the General Conference administration until the budgets could be balanced.)

Small scale special events, dedicated to training and fellowship for Master Guides, had been going on in various countries for some time. It seemed to be time to offer this dedicated group of volunteer leaders something more; thus entered the idea of Master Guide Camporees and Conventions at the Division level. The first such event was a camporee held in South America, Pucón,

Chile in January of 1998. It was followed the next month in North America with a convention held in Los Angeles, California. This same year, the Inter-American Division held its 2<sup>nd</sup> Pathfinder Camporee in Puerto Rico led by its youth director

Alfredo Garcia-Marenko who later became the World Senior Youth Director, serving from 1998 to 2005. The decade closed with the 4<sup>th</sup> North American Division Camporee, held during August 1999—the largest such event in the world up to that time with 25,000 participants at Oshkosh, Wisconsin.



NAD Pathfinder Camporee Patch 1999

### *The 2000's*

This will obviously be an unfinished end-link in the story of Pathfinding. As of this writing, we are but halfway through the decade. There are so many events, people, programs around the world that we are reduced by space, time, and knowledge to just a few of the barest facts. Pathfinding now has some 2 million members scattered in 85% of the countries of the world. Clubs rise and fall depending on the quality and dedication of local club leaders.

While resources to run a good club abound more than ever, there seems to never be enough. There have been numerous bottlenecks to effective club operation; some of these have been bypassed or reduced. Clubs have increased direct access to the materials they need to function through the establishment of centers for distribution, such as *AdventSource* in North America and *AY Outfitters* on the General Conference Youth Ministries Department web site. Technology has helped bring about greater unity throughout the world; it has also added confusion, with locally-manned web sites propagating local and personal agendas.

Believe it or not, this decade still has room for “firsts.” Many local conferences are still beginning Pathfinder Ministry, especially in Eastern Europe and Asia. Islands who thought themselves too isolated or small to have anything special are waking up to their potential and having fun experimenting on their scale with those activities that others have had for some time. Such an example is Saint Helena Island, out in the middle of the South Atlantic; though it has had a Pathfinder Club for a long time, the club held its first Island-wide Pathfinder Fair in 2003, involving nearly every person living on the island. The event was developed by Pastor Glen Africa, who was serving as a retired volunteer pastor and is known in all of South Africa as “Mr. Pathfinder” for his decades of service in that country.

The Sahel Union of West Africa organized the first-ever Camporee in all of Western Africa. This Union comprises 11 countries of the Sahara regions of Africa. Poverty and Islam make them very difficult to work in. So, to have a Camporee there, and have most of the countries represented, was nearly as difficult as pulling off a Division Camporee. It was held near a small community that had no Christian presence; the impact the Pathfinders made was of such positive value that the



St. Helena Is. Pathfinder Club on Parade



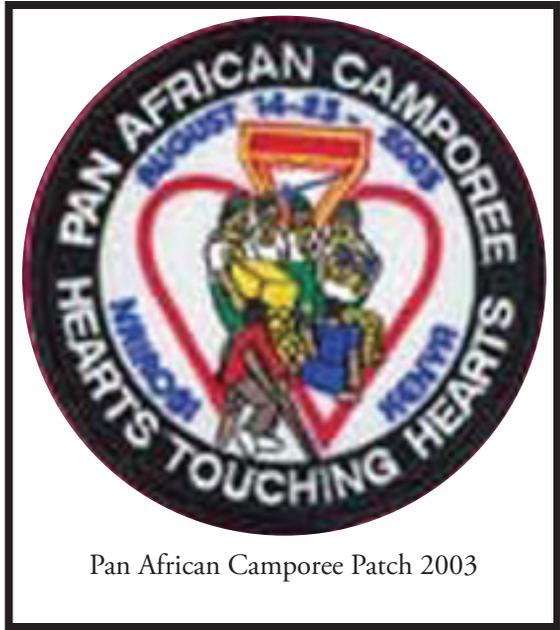
Sahel Union Camporee Pennant

town chief announced a donation of a beautiful large hillside property to the church to build a school and church.

In 2003, another one of those “nearly impossible” events actually materialized. During a World Youth Leadership Conference, held in Brazil in 2001, the idea of holding a Pan-African Camporee ignited. The idea was that the three new divisions recently reorganized, that included most of the

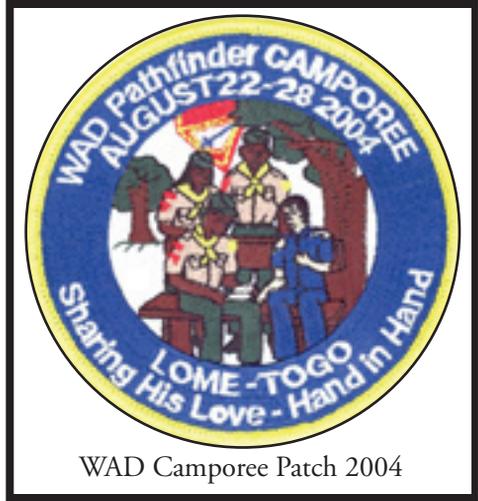
continent of Africa, plus that portion which remained under the Euro-Africa Division would gather at some central location for a massive continent-wide Camporee. As many as 62 countries might be involved. The logistics for such an event would be very difficult compared to similar events anywhere else in the world. Africa’s international transportation problems and visa restrictions are much greater than most other continents. And that is before even beginning to consider the venue itself—infrastructure to handle multi-day gatherings of thousands is minimal in most if not all countries. Yet, after all was said and planned, Division Youth Directors Eugene Fransch and Jean-Pierre Mulumba, managed to pull it off. In the end, Western and Northern Africa were not able to work past their travel problems, but the countries of the two Divisions of East-Central and Southern Africa-Indian Ocean (30 countries) were there—over 6,000 Pathfinders in Nairobi for 10 days of adventure, fellowship, activity and spiritual growth.

Because West Africa was left disappointed in not being able to participate in the Pan-African Camporee, the next year (2004), their Division Youth Director organized what was to be the very first ever, Division Camporee in western Africa, and only the second camporee at any level for that region. Few of the leaders had ever attended a camporee before of any type at any



Pan African Camporee Patch 2003

level—so the challenges were great. Nearly 2,000 from 20 of the 22 countries in the Division were represented, including 100% of all the Pathfinders in Mali—all 50 of them—were there. It was to be an experience they will never forget. The host government of Togo generously facilitated much towards the success of the event.



WAD Camporee Patch 2004

This brings us to the year 2005. South America begins the year in early January with another record-setting Camporee outside of North America when 22,000 of the 165,000 possible Pathfinders from the 8 countries of their Division gathered in a small town of southern Brazil for Camporee #3 in their Division. Erton Kohler and his team of youth directors and hundreds of volunteers ran one of the most inspiring such events in the history of Pathfinding. When one begins to evaluate the impact on the communities surrounding these events, the impact on the spiritual lives of the participants, the smoothness of the daily operation of the event, one begins to understand just how far Pathfinding has indeed come from its beginnings nearly 60 years ago and how God continues to guide, direct, and teach us all—Pathfinders and Staff alike. “By the grace of God...”

## 4

# Around The World



## *Argentina Pathfinder History*

This history of Pathfinders in Argentina is based on translated excerpts from a paper written by Arturo Finis at our River Plate Adventist University, San Martin, Argentina, 1998.

During the 1950's, the Austral Union developed a strong program in the JMV Societies with the Progressive Classes. In 1958, a massive investiture was held at River Plate College, at which some 300 young people were invested in the Classwork; 100 were invested with their Master Guide and approximately 2,000 Honors were presented. The following year, the Union held a Leadership training course led by the Division Youth Director, Jairo Araujo, at which more than 100 students at the college received their certificates.

John Youngberg was a young missionary working in Southern Chile. Before his overseas service, he had been active as a Pathfinder Club Director in his local church in North America, and when he arrived in Chile, he continued organizing clubs in the churches where he served. He had developed a plan he called "Satellite Training" where he would choose a centrally located church and organize a club that then would serve as a model for surrounding churches to follow. This system was very successful, especially when the model club was associated with an educational institution. The Central Argentina Conference Youth Director, Enrique Block, invited Youngberg to

come and introduce the idea at River Plate College. So, in 1960, the training was presented and by mid-week the first *Club de Conquistadores*, held its first meeting with some 80 children attending. The very next Sabbath, the club was presented to the church—already in full uniform! A short while later, Youngberg traveled to Uruguay and Brazil and helped establish the first clubs in those countries. Back at River Plate College the Club director was Lucas Schulz. Along with teaching the classwork and Honors, their first activities included the making of tents for the club, since such commodities were either nonexistent or too expensive. In 1962, the club began a small paper they called, *El Conquistador* in which upcoming events were advertised and club members could practice their journalism skills. By 1966, this club had raised the funds, constructed and now had their own building to meet in.

## *Germany Pathfinder History*

### **1. The beginnings in Solingen**

The beginnings of Pathfinder Ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Germany, dates back to the year 1948. In the city of Solingen, the same city the first Adventist church was founded, this ministry of the Adventist church is born. Under the leadership of Karl-Heinz Machenbach, Pathfinders there became active. In 1951, the first Pathfinder group, the “*Advent-Pathfinders*”, (Pfadfinders is the German term used by Scouts, hence the hyphenated term) is established. They wore a khaki-colored shirt, a blue scarf with yellow stripes (later a brown-green one), and a Pathfinder hat. Machenbach wanted to offer a meaningful way of filling the free time of post-war children and lead them spiritually.

Authorities of the Adventist church reacted negatively to the idea. They wanted to avoid allusions to National Socialism and Hitler-youth. At that time, Pathfinder ministry left a rather alienating impression on the Adventist church that still remains restricted to the area of Solingen.

Applications for financial aid from local government youth-related departments or similar funding for the Pathfinder ministry are not approved by the Adventist church. The idea of Pathfinder ministry in Solingen is not supported by the Adventist church, even though many of its ideas are used

later on in youth ministry. By the year of 1970, the Pathfinder group in Solingen was restructured and renamed: “Freie Pfadfinder Solingen” (Free Pathfinders Solingen), Tribe “Grafen von Berg”. In their distress, the Pathfinders of Solingen chose to join the Swiss Pathfinder Union. Leaders of the “Freie Pfadfinder Solingen” educate themselves by participating successfully in the Gilwell-Course – the highest distinction for a Pathfinder. In 1972, the “Freie Pfadfinder Solingen” join the VCP-North Rhine due to the lack of integration and support of the idea of Pathfinder ministry in the Adventist youth ministry.



1951 First Pathfinder Group “Advent-Pathfinders”

## 2. The beginnings on a broader basis

Since 1948, there are also events for children and young people taking place in the Adventist church. Parallel to the Pathfinders in Solingen, as well as to the Pathfinder Unions (Scouts) outside of the church, the Adventist church developed a youth ministry program called “Jungfreunde” (young friends). To symbolize independence, the name, “Jungfreunde”, was introduced and established. There are reports of the first “Jungfreunde” retreat in Freudenstadt

in 1957. In subsequent years, other first “Jungfreunde” groups were established in South Bavaria, in Munich (1959: Manfred Peters); and Augsburg (1960: Gerhard Mögerlein). The first camp was also held in Bavaria at the Lusen. Participants were the groups from Munich and Augsburg.

### 3. SDA Pathfinder Ministry at its introduction

In 1960, the youth director of the Central European Division (disintegrated in 1972), Eberhard Fischdick, came in contact with SDA American military chaplains based in Germany and became the first German to achieve the rank of Master Guide.

By 1962, some German Adventist administrators began to embrace the idea of Pathfinder ministry. K. H. Machenbach with his experience from years in Solingen became the prime mover of the idea. He came up with the idea of a membership card and a Pathfinder order. However, the church adopted the term “Jungfreunde” for this ministry. They wanted to keep a distance from other Pathfinders (Scouts). Apparently, it is impossible for a small denomination to get involved in the same kind of ministry with the big churches. Later on, Machenbach’s ideas were welcomed and membership cards were issued.

### 4. Establishing Structures

In 1963, SDV (South German Union) and WDV (West German Union) delve into the idea of organization and structures for the “Jungfreunde” ministry. Previous experiments, based on individual initiatives, were welcome and resulting ideas accepted. The organizational placement of “Jungfreunde” as part of the Adventist youth ministry was defined, and clothing rules were introduced (blue-gray shirt, yellow scarf with knot); which were not widely accepted until the end of the 60’s. The badge system was standardized. For the first time, training material was issued and a training concept created. In 1964, the first seminar for “Jungfreunde” leaders of the WDV took place in Mühlenrahmede. (The standardized and systematic training of leaders is a pre-condition for public funding.) The first “Jungfreunde”-camp in the SDV area, took place in Tannenlohe, in 1968.

## 5. Basic planning

The importance of “Jungfreunde” ministry for the church was finally recognized. Students enrolled in pastoral studies were required to take part in the training for Master Guide in the course of their studies. For the first time ever, in 1969, group leaders from all over Germany met for the first seminar of “Jungfreunde” leaders in Mühlenrahmede.

The ministry experienced its first boom and the following educational seminar for group directors of the SDV in 1971 was attended by many. Both Unions agreed to work closely together and have remained so ever since. In subsequent years both Unions published a joint-effort guide for “Jungfreunde” and their leaders. After the restructuring of divisions, the first international camporee of the Euro-Africa Division took place in Malcesine, Italy, in 1977 with a large German participation.

## 6. The focus on growth

In 1963, the idea of Pathfinder ministry in Adventist youth ministry was revisited. Walter Waniek and Toni Oblaski developed a new focus that was a growth-oriented Pathfinder concept. This concept would later lead to the necessity of changing the name “Jungfreunde” to “Christliche Pfadfinder” (Christian Pathfinders).

## 7. Approaches in the former German Democratic Republic (East Germany)

On the occasion of a meeting of young pastors in the East German Union (ODV) at Waldpark in 1986, the youth director of the Euro-Africa Division, John Graz, gave an account of the Pathfinder concept employed by the General Conference. From 1989 on, young pastors attempted to adapt this concept to the possibilities of the German Democratic Republic (GDR). Shortly afterwards, first training seminars for Pathfinder ministry were brought to life. These first attempts to establish the Pathfinder ministry in the GDR were successful. Due to a ban on the term ‘Pathfinder’ on the part of the GDR government, the groups called themselves “Waldläufer” (Ranger). Their uniform consisted of a green shirt and a yellow scarf. Officially the first Pathfinder organization of the GDR was

founded after the fall of the wall in East Germany under the title of “Christliche Pfadfinder der Adventjugend” (Christian Pathfinders of the Adventist Youth). This new name could be used without restrictions.

## 8. A new name: CPA

Some Pathfinder leaders began to use the term “Christliche Pfadfinder der Adventjugend” (Christian Pathfinders of the Adventist Youth) for their groups in other parts of Germany. The abbreviation CPA was introduced. Based on a resolution by the Pathfinder Commission of 1992, the term “Jungfreunde” was replaced by the term CPA for all Pathfinder matters.

## 9. Structures of CPA

The idea of Pathfinder ministry is booming. Working groups and commissions are established to cover the growing demand for material on the realization of the CPA concept. CPA now has a new structure based on age:

### Structure by age:

Children	Young Pathfinders	Pathfinders	Scouts
6-7 years of age	8-11	12-15	from 16 on

CPA ministry wants to offer a program for young adults from the age of 16 on as well. The Scout group is meant to integrate assistants as well.

### Class Level Ranks:

Gefahrte (Companion)	from the age of 8 on	Blue Badge
Trapper	from the age of 10 on	Red Badge
Kundschafter (Explorer)	from the age of 12 on	Yellow Badge
Ranger	from the age of 14 on	Red-Blue Badge
Guide	from the age of 16 on	Blue-Yellow Badge
Master Guide	from the age of 18 on	Blue-Red-Yellow Badge

**Whistle Lanyards and area of responsibilities:**

White Whistle Lanyard	Youth Director of Division/General Conference
Golden	Youth Director of Union
Silver	Youth Director of Conference
Silver/Black	CPA-Coordinator of Conference
Red	Group Director
Red/Black	Assistant Group Director
Blue	Leader
Blue/Black	Assistant Leader
Green	Assistant with special responsibilities

*India Pathfinder History*

India reports a brief summary of their “firsts” in Pathfinding:

1934	First Master Comrade invested in India
1944	First Youth Camp held in India at Mussorie
1953	First Youth Leadership Training Camp, Pune First Pathfinder Club organized, Bangalore
1970	First Pathfinder Fair, Lasalgaon
1974	First Division Pathfinder Camporee, Karnataka
1978	Second Division-wide Camporee, Bangalore
1979	First Campsite owned by the Division at Machillipatanam
1995	Third Division-wide Camporee, Hyderabad

*Kenya Pathfinder History*

According to Stanley Nyachieng’a Barini, long-serving youth director of South Kenya and Nyamira Conferences, says Pastor Jacobs from the General

Conference, introduced Progressive Classes to Kenya in 1962, during a Youth Seminar at Watamu Adventist Youth Center.

Pastor Jack Sequeira and his wife taught various Honor Classes during the seminars at Watamu and proceeded to teach the same at Kebirigo Camp Meetings in South Kenya Field in 1967. Nathan Oyiengo also taught at Chebwai and Karura in Central Kenya Field about the same time. Other pioneers in youth work were Pastors Nyachieo and Elias Oendo.

Pathfinding picked up more fire in the 1980's in local churches and institutions of learning with such persons as Daniel Wanjekeche in Western Kenya, Eliasifu Saisi in Nyamira, Alison Moronya in South Kenya, and Fares Ogillo of Central Kenya.

Dr. Baraka Muganda, then Youth Director of the Eastern Africa Division (EAD), challenged us during the EAD Youth Advisory in Kenya to form more vibrant Pathfinder Clubs. He proceeded to speak at our first Union Pathfinder Camporee in 1992, at Watamu Adventist Youth Center, with 3000 Pathfinders in attendance. Western Kenya Field emerged number one, followed by South Kenya and Central Kenya in organization and discipline. The youth directors then were Dan M'masi - Western Kenya, Stanley Nyachieng'a - South Kenya, and Elijah David Mbwaro - Central Kenya. Other youth directors were Meshach Ogembo - Central Nyanza, Edward Onduru - Ranen Field, Reuben Charo - Kenya Coast, and Timon Ogada- Kenya Lake Field.

Kenya sent Pathfinders to Livingstone in Zambia in 1994 at the EAD Pathfinder Camporee, whose theme coincided with the United Nations "Year of The Family." Pastor Baya, the EAU youth director, was just handing over to Gilbert Ojwang'. The camporee was officially opened by then head of state, President Chiluba of Zambia. In 1996, Kenya held its second Union Camporee, this time at world-famous Masai Mara. This time eight thousand Pathfinders attended; Dr. Saustin Mfunu, then EAD youth director, was our guest speaker. The following two years saw each field and conference doing its own camporees as they prepared to attend "Discover the Power" camporee at Oshkosh, Wisconsin in August 1999. Caesar Wamalika, then EAU youth director, assisted by Dan M'masi and Ezekiel Mouko, led the Pathfinder delegation to Oshkosh.

EAU did its third Union Camporee at Rusinga Island in December 2001, attended by 2,086 Pathfinders, with Passmore Mulambo of Zambia Union

as guest speaker. This prepared Kenya to host the first Pan-African Camporee hosted at Jamhuri Park, Nairobi which attracted Pathfinders from three African Divisions and with participants coming from as far as The United Kingdom, Brazil, Asia, and the United States. The GC Pathfinder Director, Bob Holbrook, and NAD Camporee Executive Director, Ron Whitehead, also participated. This historic camporee was covered by the Kenyan news media.

Pathfinding is very much alive and kicking in Kenya and now has programs and honors in Self Esteem, HIV/AIDS awareness and is involved in ABY, (Abstinence Behavior-change for the Youth endeavor), thanks to the US government, which has channeled funds for this worthy project thru ADRA-Kenya and ADRA-Tanzania. We held a Training of Trainers seminar at Tausi in Ranen Field, which has Master Guides in training, June 19-30, 2005. Youth, chaplains and education directors joined them June 27-29, 2005. This targets Pathfinders and youth around Lake Victoria, a major HIV/AIDS-vulnerable zone in Kenya and Tanzania. Current membership is divided into two categories active (reporting) with over 53,000 listed and inactive (not reporting) with over 40,000 as of 2005.

Individuals that have exceptionally contributed to the growth of Pathfinding in Kenya are:

*Nathan Oyiengo, Alison Moronya, David Wanjekeche, David Mbwaro, Blasious Ruguri, Peter geoge Odero, Meshach Muga, Festus Njagi, Joses Sipakati, Jared Oyier, Johnson Othoo, Kenneth Bushnell, Arthur Bushnell, Gilbert Ojwang', Baya, Caesar Wamalika, John Ngunyi, Fares Ogillo, Musyoka Paul Muasya, Abiud Ekirapa, Maina Jackson, Mang'aa David, Tonny Ndiema, James Machoka, Mouko Ezekiel, Marundu Alfred, Russel Otieno, Willie Ngugi, Washington Ngesa, Fred Ogoi, and Paul Kiage among others.*

## *Latvia Pathfinder History*

In 1994, we found an announcement about the Trans-European Division (TED) Pathfinder Camporee in Sweden. We did not have any ideas about Pathfinders, but we only understood that it is something for teenagers. As Sweden was not far from Latvia we decided to take part in this event. We took 20 teens from our Sabbath School classes and went to Kapparbo in Sweden. There, I understood what a wonderful and influential organization for teens it is. I was sure that we needed a Pathfinder organization in Latvia, too.



**Guna Rimane**  
Founder of Latvian Pathfinders

I came back to Latvia and told about this exciting organization to our youth leaders, and to my big surprise nobody wanted to join in this work. I tried to persuade in different ways, but nothing worked. I started to pray. After some time, Pauline White from Arizona, came to Latvia as a tourist and visited our church in Riga. After the sermon we started conversation, and I told about my dream about Pathfinders in Latvia. As a result, she started to send me boxes of materials and books for Pathfinders. I read and prayed.

A couple of years passed, and one of the Teen Sabbath school teachers, Sanita, was sent to a course for camp leaders. These courses were organized by the Baptist church. She came back all excited about organizing something like this in our church as well. Sanita presented the idea about camping ministry to the other Sabbath School teachers. After the presentation I told her that the Adventist Church has an even better program, I had all the materials, so I proposed that we work together and start a Pathfinder club.

In 1998, we founded the first Pathfinder club in Riga. Four years passed from the moment when I first met Pathfinders and could open a club. During these years, I had to understand that God organizes this work; we are only helpers. When God works, miracles happen on each step. We prayed and went where God led us.

The first Pathfinder camp in Latvia took place in Cesis, 1998. In July the same year we went to the Trans-European Division (TED) camporee in

Norway, where we met Robert Holbrook. Then a rapid development started. Next summer, he visited our second camporee and held our first staff training session. Then later he sent John Swafford with the team from the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. They helped in a short time to organize the work with Pathfinders to be more effective. We are very thankful to John and his team for the great work they have done in Latvia.



Coordinator Team: Left to right-Juris Pasternaks, Astra Kukulite, Dzintars Vaivods, Inta Jakosborne

## *AJV-Scouting (Adventist Youth Alliance Scouting) in the Netherlands*

In 1965, national youth leader, Karel van Oossanen, with the help of youth leader Piet van Drongelen, introduced scouting in the Adventist church in the Netherlands. Until that time, attempts to incorporate the MV program provided by the General Conference in the Dutch SDA church were undertaken, but these attempts had proven to be not very successful. Somehow, the MV program did not seem to fit in the Dutch culture. When Karel van Oossanen discovered that the MV program had similarities to the Boy Scouts of America program, he decided it would be worthwhile to try and adapt this idea in a Dutch context, and develop an Adventist scouting program based on the program offered by Scouting Nederland, which is the Dutch scouting organization. Furthermore, he discovered that it was common practice in the Netherlands for scouting groups related to other churches to be associated with Scouting Nederland. That is why he decided to start an experiment in the Dutch SDA church with AJV-Scouting (Adventist Youth

Alliance Scouting), in order to find out whether scouting could really be used as a part of the Dutch SDA youth program.

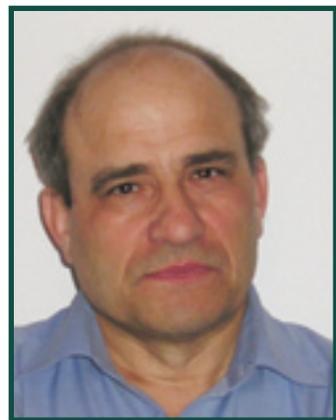
In spite of the fact that some church members objected to scouting because of its military elements, the first national Camporee turned out to be a success. During the years that followed, it appeared to be very well possible to obtain a suitable mix of scouting elements and religious (Adventist) elements. Many youth members joined and AJV-Scouting became a substantial part of the Dutch SDA youth department.

As a result of this fact, the Dutch are involved in the scouting program instead of the Pathfinder program, some interesting differences between the Dutch scouts and the Pathfinders exist. For example, you will be able to recognize the Dutch scouts by their uniforms, their different scarves and badges. An interesting feature of Dutch Adventist scouting is that every club is named after an Adventist pioneer. Of course, most differences are related to externals; you can be assured that the Dutch Adventist scouts treasure the same beliefs and the same mission as Pathfinders do. After all, Dutch scouts are Adventist youth, just like Pathfinders.

## *Romania Pathfinder History*

It is hard to believe that before 1990, very few people in the Romanian Church had heard about Pathfinders. This is due to the fact that, in the Communist regime, along with general freedom rights, any church activities for children and youth were prohibited, including even Sabbath School. Before the installation of the Communist regime, in 1947, the Romanian Church was pretty much in tune with the world church concerning the youth work, including the Progressive Classes that later became part of the Pathfinder program, but all these were forgotten during the long, dark years of Communism.

Immediately after the fall of Communism, in 1990, the church elected a Union Youth Director, pastor Ion Buciuman, a very



**Ion Buciuman**  
Union Youth Director

creative person, open for new ideas. Together, with the youth directors from the six conferences, he started to rebuild the youth work in Romania. First information about the Pathfinder ministry was brought in 1992 by Malcolm Allen, World Pathfinder Director, John Gratz and Jose Figols from our Euro-Africa Division. They presented different seminars about youth, Pathfinder and Adventurer Ministry to 300 participants at two Youth Leadership Conventions held in Brasov and Alexandria. Because of the novelty of the program, the event did not produce concrete results, but rather opened a door and created an atmosphere for the other events and people that soon were to influence the start of Pathfindering.

At a National Youth Congress held in 1993, thousands of young people for the first time got a glimpse of what Pathfinder ministry is when kids from an Adventist orphanage, founded by Rich International in Romania, came on stage dressed in United States Pathfinder uniforms, and demonstrated the use of knots. In the same year Leon Roman, a conference youth director, who was given responsibility for Pathfinder programs in the whole union, organized a camp for 70 children divided in small groups that had elements from the Pathfinder program. One of the groups that participated in that camp was from Lily Church, Bucharest. They had



**Dana Pridie**

previously started to meet on a regular basis and continued to meet after the camp, doing a lot of activities that involved life in nature, health, Christian history, first aid and Christian grooming. This club was led by Dana Pridie and is considered the first recognized Pathfinder Club in Romania.

Another conference youth director, from Southern Transylvania, Szallos Zoltan, sent a team of teenagers to Hungary to attend a training camp for Scout leaders (Pathfinders from Hungary used to be part of the scout organization). With this team, he organized two training camps for Pathfinder leaders in the Transylvania area. Still, because of the strong Scout influences, the program was not accepted by the church, and only a few clubs did actually organize Pathfinder programs. But the team's extraordinary skills and dedication was what was needed to help the national leaders that had the vision, but lacked

practical skills. Here are the names of some of these teenagers that played a great part in the Pathfinder history: Zsoka Banga, Iulia Nagy, Tibor Galaczi, Attila Banga, and Daniela Vadan.

The team was invited by Leon Roman, the official responsible for Pathfinders in the Union, to hold a national training camp, in 1994, in Busteni. Some of the participants went back and started Pathfinder clubs. Total number of children involved was a hundred

and twenty, in five cities (Bucharest, Targu Mures, Campina, Ploiesti, and Slobozia). Eighty of them participated at Padina during the first camp organized in Romania for Pathfinders. Photo above shows the training camp's leadership team: Left to right, Tibi Galaczi, Zoltan Szallos, Daniela Vadan, Emese Osz, Istvan Madaras, Zsoka Banga, Julia Nagy, Gyorgy Banga, and Attila Banga.



Training Camp Leadership Team

Starting with 1995, a new team of youth directors took charge of the youth and Pathfinder program. In October and November 1995 the same training team, along with other newly trained leaders and under the leadership of the new National Pathfinder director, Cristian Modan, held training camps for 90 leaders. This was the start of a sustained support from the Conferences, regular correspondence with the leaders, conventions for the active staff, along with requirements for the pastors to get involved.



**Cristian Modan**  
Romania Youth Director

This improved greatly the efficiency of the training as was clearly seen by the fact that the majority of leaders receiving this new training immediately got involved in Pathfinder Ministry.

In 1996, the youth directors from all Conferences and the Union participated in a Master Guide Seminar held in Switzerland. This event convinced all the youth directors to fully support Pathfindering. Also, Cristian Modan, the National Pathfinder leader, was invited to visit and be trained in Georgia Cumberland Conference, USA. He met with their Pathfinder Executive Council and had the chance to ask questions about unclear topics for Romanians. He completed and was invested as a Master Guide, and with the vision of what Pathfindering really is, returned home and implemented some adjustments in the program. (Later Cristian also completed a Master's program in Outdoor Education at Southern Adventist University.) The new vision was implemented in a National Camp held in 1996 at Codlea, where most of the active Pathfinder leaders participated (86 leaders).

The following period was a period of growth both in numbers and in resource developing. As for numbers, here are some suggestive figures:

Summer 1995	120 Pathfinders
January 1996	800 Pathfinders
January 1997	2,800 Pathfinders
October 1998	over 5,000 Pathfinders

In four years, 1995-1998, there were 39 camp-outs for Pathfinders, with 60-210 participants in each of them.

In 1997, 21 Pathfinder leaders from the Executive Council of Georgia-Cumberland Conference were invited to the first National Honor Camp for leaders. This was the first time the honors had been taught in this country. The idea was that the 120 participants would, in turn, teach honors to their clubs. Since then, three other National Honor Camps were organized and 140 honors have been taught, to an average of 200 leaders at each camp.



**Gary Johnson**

Among the 21 leaders that came was Gary Johnson, botanist, a Pathfinder leader that became the best—known guest among Romanian Pathfinders. Since 1997, he came back very often (10 visits in 8 years), and continued to teach new honors, ideas or concepts, visiting all the Conferences, many Pathfinder camps and leadership events. He also brought many resources and financed some of the Pathfinder projects.

One of the key people that visited Romania was Robert Holbrook, World Pathfinder Director. He participated in a National Convention for Leaders in 1997, at the second National Honors Camp in 2000 and at the Master Guide Seminar in 2003. Every time he stressed the mission of the Pathfinder ministry, the philosophy and the vision that had to influence the leaders, but also was a good mentor and a practical instructor.

Also, Corrado Cozzi, the new youth director at the Division level, visited Romania and brought an open spirit, creative ways of living spirituality, and encouraged the further development of the Pathfinder work.

And last, but not least, Norm Middag, a retired veteran in youth and Pathfinder work, helped the leadership to understand the roots, the basic concepts and the right attitude of a successful and dedicated servant of the Lord.

Along with the external influence, the local leaders and volunteers did a tremendous labor to suit the program to the needs of children, often using creativity blended with hard work and a great spirit. All these helped develop a curriculum for four classes for children and three classes for leaders (Assistant Guide, Guide and Master Guide). The resources produced included the Pathfinder Leadership Manual, Class Workbooks, Honors (on CD, and internet), yearly devotional books for children, and various other resources.

Romania was blessed with a great team of Pathfinder leaders that did their work with passion, enthusiasm and sacrifice. In later years, every conference hired an assistant youth director for Pathfinders that worked closely with the youth director to implement and lead the program. This was the team

that organized 152 Pathfinder camps in ten years, leadership conventions and four National Honor Camps. According to the World Pathfinder Director, in 2002 the Romanian Union youth leadership led out in a record number of honors to be introduced at a camp (80), in addition to 24 other seminars and a multitude of other activities.

Now, it was the turn for Romanians to do something for other countries. In 1999, a team of Pathfinder leaders organized the first Leadership Training Camp for the Moldova Republic, followed by a convention organized for leaders in the same country. Also, Moldavians were invited to participate at training camps or honor camps organized in Romania. Romanian teams also organized training and taught honors to the Pathfinders in Ukraine. The Romanian Pathfinder leader, Cristian Modan, was invited twice to be the speaker for the camporee organized by the Georgia-Cumberland Conference for their Pathfinders.

Beyond the events, resources and valuable trainers mentioned above, some of the most important gains of the Pathfinder program are difficult to measure. Still, they can be seen easily, as more and more Pathfinders, when grown up, decide to get involved in Pathfinder leadership or in other areas of the mission of the church. Pathfinders have a stronger bond to the church than the kids that have never been involved in the program. They love the church



**Cristina Neagu**

and decide to stay in it and do something for its mission. A good number of the Pathfinders (about 25%) were introduced to the church for the first time through the Pathfinder club. Some of them met Christ there and decided to join the church and serve the Lord with all their hearts. They were followed by members of their family, which made their joy even bigger. Here is the story of Cristina Neagu, one of them:

“I always loved books. I grew in their world trying, at the same time, to bring their characters into my world. Above all, the 7 Cherry Kids (teenage personages of a famous Romanian adventure book), I always wanted to be real. I remember that I had a club of friends in the public school, and we called ourselves *The Cherry Kids*. We planned to have a great expedition in the summer vacation

before entering the eight grade. We dreamed about new discoveries and adventurers similar to the ones of our heroes. The time went by and our plans changed. The summer, when our great expedition was going to take place was near, but my friends were acting like they had never thought about it. I was feeling disappointed. Then it happened!

It was the last day of school: June 13, 1997. I was listening to a show for vacation on the *Voice of Hope Radio*, which I had previously discovered. They were talking about the Pathfinder Club. It was enough to hear about nature activities, camps and kids of my age that want to go there. It was a live show, so I called and asked, what I can do to participate in a Pathfinder camp? Probably, my question was surprising for them, because initially they said that Pathfinders need to learn many things before being able to participate in a camp. In spite of the fact that I was a shy person, I insisted, so the next Sunday, at noon, I participated in my first Pathfinder club. Adriana Mohanu and Christian Modan, my Pathfinder leaders, opened before me a world that previously, I thought, did not exist. After two weeks, I participated in a Pathfinder camp that was for me a fulfillment of my childhood dream: to be a Cherry Kid. In that camp I met a God who cared about my dreams and wishes. After coming back from the camp I started to participate every week at the Pathfinder Club, and on Sabbath day, in the Adventist church. And, exactly one year after my phone call to the radio show about Pathfinders, on June, 13, 1998, I got baptized.

After that, because I was fifteen, and that's the age when you finish being a Pathfinder, I decided to prepare to be a Pathfinder leader. Then, with my unit, (called Emerald), I continued to grow and learn new things. *My Emeralds are actually the Cherry Kids* I always dreamed about; but more than that, they are kids without whom I cannot imagine how my Sundays could be or— why not the Everlasting Life.

It may be interesting for you to know that since the story was written, Cristina was called to work in the team of the youth department at the Romanian Union. Her older sister, Oana, also joined the church because she has witnessed what Pathfinders have done for Cristina. Later, Oana also got involved in the Pathfinder Club and is working as the assistant of the director of the Bible Correspondence Course, with about 20,000 students each year.”

More and more the mission became an important part of the Pathfinder program, and Pathfinder clubs became involved in the community with

incredible projects. This was made more effective since, in 2001, the Pathfinder organization was officially recognized by the Romanian State as NGO, and many of its projects have gained the attention of the national and local press.

One of the best-known projects was writing the whole “Bible from memory” in 28 minutes. This was done by 3,500 Pathfinders and youth in the “Freedom Park,” Bucharest, in September 1999. They used 66 rolls of paper (as many as the Bible books) with a total length of 2 miles, and each participant wrote about 10 verses that had previously been assigned to learn by heart. A few verses were also written by the President of the General Conference, Pastor Jan Paulsen.



Jan Paulsen

Also, the Pathfinder Organization was widely recognized for its role in the antismoking campaign. It was one of the first organizations to start this kind of campaign in Romania,



Inauguration of the Bucharest Declaration Monument

and the events organized in most of the cities of the country during eight years (marches, exhibitions, meetings, contests, seminars and so on) gave Pathfinders a special place in media coverage and desired partners of the State Authorities and other NGO's. In 2003, this culminated with the inauguration of a monument for 62 million victims of smoking (1950 – 2000) created and built by Pathfinders and sponsored by the Adventist Church. The Bucharest Declaration that was read at the inauguration and signed by 3,500 youth was later published by the Government (Antidrug National Agency - ANA) with the help of ICAA (International Council on Alcohol and Addictions). This poster, which included eight Ministries and Governmental Agencies, and eleven preeminent NGO's that signed the declaration, also has the logo of the Pathfinder Organization, and the one of the Seventh-day Adventist Church (the sponsor of the monument). The posters spread in Romania, Eastern Europe and Central Asia by ANA and ICAA.

These big projects were actually just a few of many hundreds of other mission projects (educational, ecological, social, and evangelistic) similar to the projects that Pathfinders are conducting all over the world. But Romanian Pathfinders, think that these are just the beginning, because the Lord has promised that “greater works than these shall (you) do” (John 14:12), and consequently they are, as their greeting says: “For the Lord, always ready.”

## *South Africa Pathfinder History*

The Good Hope Conference was previously known as the Cape Field. The G.H.C. Pathfinder Federation was organized in January 1965. It was seven years prior to this, 1958, that the first Pathfinder Training course was conducted under the



**Retreat Club Staff of 1974**

directorship of Pastor J. Human. Sister Kohen, wife to Pastor A Kohen, was one of the first to complete the course in Athlone.

### **The first Federation officers were:**

Conference Youth Director, Pastor G. Beyers  
 Pathfinder Director, W. J. Fillmore  
 Deputy Director, Miss R. Slamet  
 Scribe, Mrs. D. W. Fillmore

### **There were 8 clubs that formed the nucleus:**

*Bonteheuwel, Claremont, Elsie's River, Grassy Park, Riverside, Retreat, Salt River and Wynberg.*

The first Pathfinder Rally was held on March 20, 1965, on the Riverside grounds; followed by the first Pathfinder Fair on Sunday, September 26, 1965.

The Retreat Club, under the leadership of Barbara E. Africa, was the largest club in the federation at that point with a membership of 75. In the years ahead, the name of the Africa family would become synonymous with Pathfinder Ministry. Elder Glen Africa would become "Mr. Pathfinder" in South Africa, with leadership at the Conference and Union levels for many years even in retirement. And the Retreat Club would be led by at least three generations of Africa's.



**Glen Africa - Good Hope Conference  
 Youth Director - 1970**

By 1974, there were 42 clubs in the Conference, with just over 1,200 Pathfinders. They also had just organized their first marching band. By then, two Federations were in operation, one in Johannesburg and one including the Cape Peninsula and Boland.

## *Sweden Pathfinder History*

According to the earliest records available, Rueben Engstrom, a Swedish immigrant to the United States of America, returned to Sweden in 1929 and began the youth work there. He became the youth director of the East Nordic Union (Sweden and Swedish-speaking portions of Finland), from 1935-1938. Rueben published the first pamphlet for junior ministry in Sweden around 1935/36. The first Junior Missionary Volunteer (JMV) handbook appeared in 1938 translated from the English and adapted to Swedish needs. This manual included the two JMV Classes “Vanner” and “Ledsagare” and the two Comrade levels called “Kamrater” and “Master Ledare.” In 1938, Elder Engstrom returned to the United States where he worked till retirement in the late 1950s. Pastor David Karlsson followed Engstrom as Union Youth Director from 1937-1944. He wrote in his memoirs that in 1939, at a youth congress held in Denmark, ten young Swedes were invested as Master Guides. There was a sad note at the congress, when several delegates from Poland had to leave early, because Germany had invaded their homeland, which marked the beginning of WWII.

In 1944, under the leadership of Pastor Karlsson, Vasterang—the Swedish Youth Camp was purchased and is still in use today. In 1946, the first JMV camp was held at the site, bringing together young JMV’s from the many local junior societies that had sprung up around the country.

Pathfinders, as they are known today, were first introduced to Sweden in 1959/1960, when Elder Heinz Mandell was the Union Youth Director. He edited and published the first Pathfinder Manual, and by 1961, a group of Pathfinders who called themselves “The Wolves” (Vargarna), camped at Vasterang. Pastor Paul Sudquist, a returning missionary from Africa, was the guest speaker at that event; and had with him a tribal medicine man’s dress, which made such an impact, that it is still talked about over four decades later.

In 1971, the Division held its first Division-wide camporee at the Swedish camp of Vasterang, with Pastor Sundquist leading out now, as Division Youth Director. Today there are about 200 Pathfinders in Sweden; each year a half-dozen leaders earn their Master Guide. Their activities, honors, camps, etc. may all be found on their web site at: [www.adventist.se/ung](http://www.adventist.se/ung).

## *Trinidad and Tobago Pathfinder History*

The country of Trinidad and Tobago, two islands of the Caribbean Sea, had been actively involved in the JMV Societies since their inception with full programs in the 30's and through the 40's. They even wore the official uniforms of green for the ladies and khaki for the boys as outlined in early handbooks, so it was an easy transition to begin Pathfinder Clubs as soon as the idea was presented.

That opportunity came in February of 1954, when Laurence Skinner visited the islands along with David Baasch, the Inter-American Division Youth Director. Earl J. Parchment and W. W. Thomson from the Caribbean Union and the Trinidad Conference also were on hand to learn and to lead. These two men carried on and were able to see nearly immediate success to their ventures. By the end of 1954, there were not only a number of clubs organized; but they held their first Pathfinder Fair before the year was out, with 4 clubs participating, and immediately, became an annual event that has continued ever since. By 1965, there were 27 active clubs, and one year later, the figure jumped to 37. In 1963 there had been an Investiture with 22 of the 28 being invested as Master Guides. By 1966, of the 282 persons invested, 103 were Master Guides. This was rapidly creating a strong base of leadership, which is key to the long term success of the club.

In 1972, the country received the visit of a large number of Afro-American Pathfinders who were camping at the local conference camp site at Macqueripe. The spin-off of this visit was the formation of Trinidad's first drum corps. One evening, the members of the San Juan church Board, were lobbied to raise funds for the instruments, that then were purchased from the visiting Pathfinders. This added a whole new dimension to Pathfinderism on the Island Nation, especially as it was viewed in the public eye.

## *Other Countries of Europe*

### **Switzerland:**

The German Swiss began with the JMV's in the Spring of 1939, under the leadership of two persons named Buser and Baltisberger. They used the name of "Wächter" and today use the abbreviation ADWA for "Adventwacht," meaning those who are looking for the Advent.

**Italy:**

The Italians call themselves, “Esploratori” (Explorers), as do many other countries of Europe. They began in 1972, with Ugo Visani getting them going and today are also affiliated with the Scouts.

**Austria:**

Josef Stöger, began Pathfinders in 1960, using the same name as the Swiss: “Wächter.” First staff training came in 1967, under Walter Schultschik.

**Portugal:**

Opened their first Pathfinder Club in November of 1970, using the name of “Desbravadores”, as was current in other Portuguese speaking countries.

**Bulgaria:**

One of the most recent countries to introduce Pathfinders—once the iron curtain vanished. Jose Figols, the Division Youth director, introduced the idea during a training seminar in May of 1995. They use the Bulgarian name of “Izledovateli.”

**France:**

Began with JMV’s in 1939, with Sylvain Meyer as leader, and called them “Cadets.”

**Pathfinder Pledge in Different Languages:****English**

“By the Grace of God,  
I will be pure, kind and true.  
I will keep the Pathfinder Law.  
I will be a servant of God and a friend to man.

**Spanish**

Por la Gracia de Dios,  
Seré puro, bondadoso y leal.  
Guardaré la ley del Conquistador.  
Seré un siervo de Dios y amigo de la humanidad.

**Portuguese**

Pela Graça de Deus,  
 Serei puro, bondoso, e leal.  
 Guardarei a lei do Desbravador.  
 Serei servo de Deus e amigo de todos.

**French (Quebec)**

NOTRE ENGAGEMENT  
 Par la grâce de Dieu,  
 Je serai pur, aimable et sincère.  
 J'observerai la loi des Explorateurs.  
 Je serai un serviteur de Dieu  
 et un ami de tous.

**Kiswahili**

AHADI YA WATAFUTA NJIA  
 KWA NEEMA YA MUNGU, NITAKUWA MPOLE, MWAMINIFU NA SAFI.  
 NITASHIKA SHERIA ZA CHAMA CHA WATAFUTA NJIA. NITAKUWA  
 MTUMISHI WA MUNGU NA RAFIKI WA WANADAMU.

**German**

Durch Gottes Gnade will ich  
 in Gedanken, Worten und Taten rein sein  
 freundlich und aufrichtig sein und die ADWA-Regeln beachten  
 Gott dienen und ein Freund der Menschen sein.

**Romanian**

Prin harul lui Dumnezeu, voi fi un serv al Sau,  
 ii voi iubi pe oameni si voi ocroti natura.

**Bahasa Malaysia**

Ikrar Pathfinder  
 Degan anugerah Allah-  
 Saya akan menjadi suci, menjadi pengasih dan menjadi benar.  
 Saya akan berpegang teguh kepada undang-undang pathfinder.  
 Saya akan menjadi pelayan Allah dan menjadi sahabat kepada manusia.

## Pathfinder Law in Different Languages:

### English

“The Pathfinder Law Is for Me to  
Keep the Morning Watch.  
Do my honest part.  
Care for my body.  
Keep a level eye.  
Be courteous and obedient.  
Walk softly in the sanctuary.  
Keep a song in my heart, and  
Go on God’s errands.”

### Spanish

La Ley me manda  
Guardar la Devoción Matutina  
Cumplir con la parte que me corresponde  
Cuidar de mi cuerpo  
Mantener una mirada franca  
Ser cortés y obediente  
Andar con reverencia en la casa de Dios  
Mantener una canción en mi corazón  
e ir adonde Dios mande.

### Portuguese

A Lei do Desbravador ordena-me:  
Observar a devoção matinal  
Cumprir fielmente a parte que me corresponde  
Cuidar do meu corpo  
Manter a consciência limpa  
Ser cortês e obediente  
Andar com reverência na Casa de Deus  
Ter sempre um cântico no coração  
Ir aonde Deus mandar.

**French****NOTRE LOI**

Observer la Vigile Matinale.  
 Être honnête et véridique.  
 Prendre soin de mon corps.  
 Regarder tous bien en face.  
 Être courtois et obéissant.  
 Révéler le lieu de culte.  
 Être toujours joyeux.  
 Être toujours au service de Dieu.

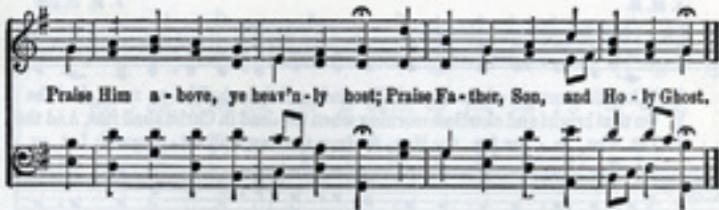
**Kiswahili**

SHERIA YA WATAFUTA NJIA:  
 KUSHIKA SOMO LA ASUBUHI NA KUOMBA  
 KUFANYA BIDII KATIKA MAMBO YOTE  
 KUTUNZA MWILI WANGU  
 KUWA NA MOYO SAFI  
 KUWA NA ADABU NA UTII  
 KUHESHIMU NYUMBA YA MUNGU  
 KUFURAHU DAIMA  
 KUFANYA KAZI YA MUNGU

**German**

Regeln:  
 Ich will  
 täglich Morgenandacht machen  
 meine Aufgaben ehrlich erfüllen  
 auf meinen Körper achten  
 mir ein reines Gewissen bewahren  
 höflich und gehorsam sein  
 mich in Gotteshaus ehrfurchtsvoll verhalten  
 mir "ein Lied im Herzen bewahren"  
 Gottes Aufträge ausführen

## Doxology



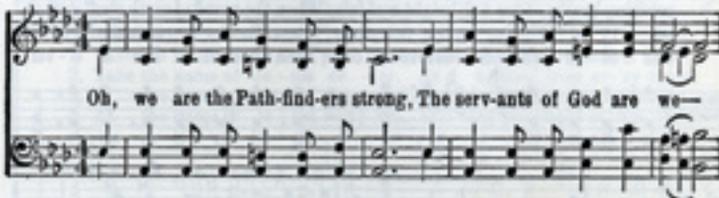
Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

90

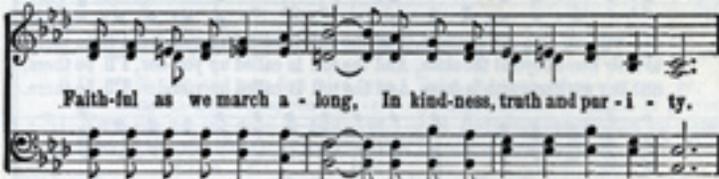
## Pathfinders

H. T. B.

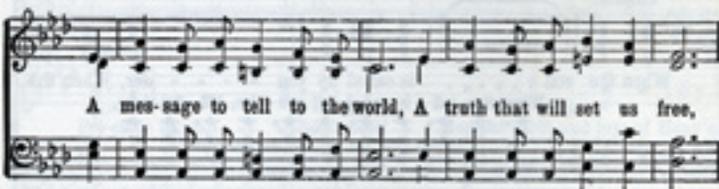
HENRY T. BERGH



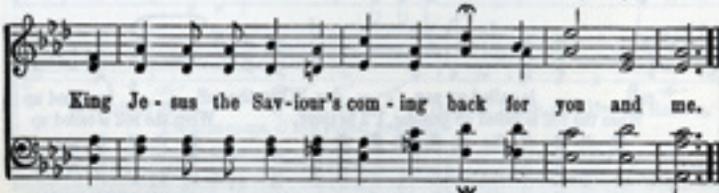
Oh, we are the Path - find - ers strong, The serv - ants of God are we -



Fath - ful as we march a - long, In kind - ness, truth and per - i - ty.



A mes - sage to tell to the world, A truth that will set us free,



King Je - sus the Sav - iour's com - ing back for you and me.

Copyright, 1962, in "Chorus Melodies", Henry T. Bergh, owner

The Pathfinder Song as it first appeared. Later the word "kindness" was deleted without authorization from Henry Bergh and was reinstated in 1998

**Romanian**

Voi respecta Legea Exploratorului care pentru mine este:

Sa studiez si sa ma rog zilnic.

Sa-mi indeplinesc constiincios datoria.

Sa am grija de corpul meu.

Sa-mi pastrez constiinta curata.

Sa fiu politicos si ascultator.

Sa ma port cuviincios in Casa Domnului.

Sa am intotdeauna un cantec in inima.

Sa merg oriunde ma trimite Dumnezeu.

**Bahasa Malaysia**

Undang-Undang Pathfinder bagi saya adalah-

1. Memelihara kebaktian pagi.
2. Menjalankan tugas saya dengan Jujur.
3. Menjaga tubuh saya dengan sempurna.
4. Menetapkan pandangan mata.
5. Bersopan dan menurut.
6. Berjalan perlahan-lahan dalam kaabah.
7. Menyimpan satu nyanyian dalam hati saya.
8. Melaksanakan suruhan bagi Allah.

*Pathfinder Girls Song*

A Historical interest note to 1930: That Pathfinder Club begun in the home of Theron Johnston. The family had a special song written by Ione Martin for the girls. It was set to the tune of "O, Columbia the Gem of the Ocean." Its words included all the components of the JMV Pledge and Law:

**Stanza:**

Oh, the Pathfinder girls of Santa Ana,  
 Are Pure and Kind and True.  
 They keep the Junior Law,  
 The Pledge and Morning Watch, too.  
 They are honest and care for their bodies,

Obedient and courteous are they.  
 Remembering to do well their duty,  
 They choose all the words that they say.

### Chorus:

Then hurrah, for the Pathfinder girls,  
 Three cheers for their leaders too.  
 Vict'ry's flag will help unfurl,  
 If you counsel with a Pathfinder girl.

### Stanza:

They walk softly in the Sanctuary,  
 They Keep a Song in their heart.  
 They're happy and stand ever ready  
 In God's work to have a part.  
 They have something they'll give to you,  
 It is free and makes shorter the mile.  
 If you are to know if this is true,  
 Just watch for their big, pleasant smile.

### Repeat Chorus:

## *Pathfindering Milestones*

### In the Beginning

1890	Our Little Friend is first published
1907	Morning Watch published
1908	Junior Reading Course begins
1909	Junior Missionary Volunteer Societies organized
1911	Takoma Indians, Woodland Clan, Pals Club begin
1914	JMV Bible Lessons begin

1915	Junior Standard of Attainment requirements introduced
1917	Junior Bible Year Reading Plan Primary Reading Course
1918	Junior Manual, published by Ella Iden Junior Standard of Attainment Manual published
1919	Mission Scouts, organized by A. W. Spaulding

### And then there was light

1920	Harriet Holt, becomes first Junior Secretary in GC Youth Department
1921	JMV Pledge and Law introduced
1922	JMV Classes of Friend and Companion introduced Comrade and Master Comrade introduced via the Comrade Band
1924	Junior Manual, published by Harriet Holt
1925	First Junior Camp held in Australia
1926	First Junior Camp held at Town Line Lake, Michigan—boys only Committee selected to study use of uniforms for JMV's
1927	Junior Camps in Michigan and Wisconsin for both boys and girls
1928	C. Lester Bond, becomes 2 <sup>nd</sup> World Junior Leader First 16 Vocational Merits introduced
1929	“Pathfinder”, used to name summer camp at Idyllwild, California John McKim, begins “Pathfinder Club” in Anaheim, California First JMV Handbook published Merits renamed Vocational Honors with 19 new added
1930	Theron Johnston, begins “Pathfinder Club” in Santa Ana, California

1931	JMV Handbook is revised already
1932	Property purchased for summer camp named “Pathfinder Camp”—California
1936	Marjorie March, named to uniform committee to study its use; scarf was in use
1938	Revised Edition of the JMV Handbook shows the designated uniform with scarf  “Ideals for Juniors”, by Bond printed (1 <sup>st</sup> book based on the Pledge and Law)
1939	JMV’s begin in Switzerland
1942	Laurence Skinner, introduces “Trailblazers” in the Pacific Northwest
1945	Clark Smith, prepares the first Drill Manual

### Be fruitful and multiply

1946	L. A. Skinner, becomes the 3 <sup>rd</sup> World Junior Leader  First Pathfinder Club with local conference support organized in Southeastern California Conference  Francis Hunt; Director John Hancock; designs; the Pathfinder Triangle
1948	Henry Bergh writes the Pathfinder Song
1949	1 <sup>st</sup> Pathfinder Club in Puerto Rico; Eliezer Melendez, Director  A German excursion group, organized by K-H. Machenbach

1950	<p>General Conference in Session votes the Pathfinder Club for the world</p> <p>Laurence A. Skinner, becomes the 1<sup>st</sup> World Pathfinder Director (1950-1963)</p> <p><i>Pathfinder Staff Training Course</i> of 10 hours introduced</p> <p>“How to Start a Pathfinder Club” booklet in print</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Pathfinder Club in Aruba, Mexico</p>
1951	<p>1<sup>st</sup> Pathfinder Fair, September 23; Central California Conference, Dinuba</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Pathfinder Fair, September 30, Southern California Conference; Glendale</p> <p><i>Pathfinder Staff Manual</i> published</p> <p>Comrade changed to Guide and Master Comrade changed to Master Guide</p> <p>Halloween food collecting idea first used in Wadena, Minnesota</p>
1953	<p>Junior Guide begins publication, October 7<sup>th</sup>; changed to Guide in 1964</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Pathfinder Camporee, October 9-11, Southern New England Conference, Camp Winnekeag, Massachusetts</p>
1954	<p>2<sup>nd</sup> Pathfinder Camporee, May 7-9, Southeastern California Conference; Pathfinder Camp, California</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> Pathfinder Camporee, Central California Conference, Fresno</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Pathfinder Club in Trinidad and Tobago, Port of Spain; Ruben Wilson, Director</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Pathfinder Fair in Trinidad and Tobago</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Pathfinder club in Hamburg; also published a magazine called “Dein Freund”</p>
1955	<p>First Pathfinder Club in South America and first to use the name “Conquistadores”; Nercida de Ruiz, Director</p>
1956	<p>Explorer Class added</p>

1957	“JMV Pathfinder Day” added to the church Sabbath calendar
1958	1 <sup>st</sup> South Africa Pathfinder clubs; organized in Good Hope Conference  Advanced class levels for first 4 classes added
1959	1 <sup>st</sup> Pathfinder Club in Sweden
1960	1 <sup>st</sup> Camporee in South America at Lake La Nauhe, Chile  1 <sup>st</sup> Argentine Pathfinder Club; Libertador, San Martin  1 <sup>st</sup> Brazilian Pathfinder Clubs; organized in Riberão Preto, São Paulo  1 <sup>st</sup> Union Camporee, Pacific Union; Lone Pine, California, April 11-14  Pathfinders begin in Austria
1961	Baptismal Manual for Junior Youth  1 <sup>st</sup> Southern European Division Camporee, <u>Montpellier, France; Steiner, Director</u>
1962	Pathfinder Field Guide published  Pathfinder Staff Training Course increased to 6 sections of 10 hours each
1963	John Hancock becomes 2 <sup>nd</sup> World Pathfinder Director (1963-1970)
1965	1 <sup>st</sup> Pathfinder Fair in South Africa
1966	Pioneer Class added; changed to Ranger in 1970
1967	Christian Record Foundation initiates Adventist Camps for the Blind

1970	<p>Leo Ranzolin becomes 3<sup>rd</sup> World Pathfinder Director (1970-1980)</p> <p>Pioneer Class changed to Ranger</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Independence Day Parade by “Desbravadores” in Brazil</p> <p>Pathfinders begin in Portugal</p>
1971	<p>1<sup>st</sup> Division-wide Camporee—NE-WAD/TED, Vasterang, Sweden, Sundqvist Director</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Pathfinder film on Drill by Jan Doward</p>
1972	Pathfinders begin in Italy
1974	1 <sup>st</sup> SUD Camporee, Karnataka; McHenry, Director
1975	<p>1<sup>st</sup> SPD Camporee, Harramundi, Australia; Christian, Director</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Brazilian Camporee, Rio Grande do Sul Conference</p> <p><i>The Happy Path</i> by L. Maxwell (2<sup>nd</sup> book based on the Pledge and Law)</p>
1976	<p>50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Junior Camps</p> <p>Master Awards (10) added to the Honor curriculum</p>
1977	2 <sup>nd</sup> Pathfinder film on Club meetings
1979	<p>JMV changed to AJY</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Union Camporee in Brazil—South Brazil Union</p>
1980	<p>Mike Stevenson becomes 4<sup>th</sup> World Pathfinder Director (1980-1986)</p> <p>Les Pitton becomes 1<sup>st</sup> NAD Youth and Pathfinder Director</p>
1981	Pathfinder Sing published
1982	Voyager Class added to follow Ranger
1983	<p>1<sup>st</sup> IAD Camporee—Mexico; Leito, Director</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> SAD Camporee—Foz de Iguaçu, Brazil; Belz, Director</p>
1984	1 <sup>st</sup> FED Camporee—Donato, Director

1985	1 <sup>st</sup> NAD Camporee—Camp Hale, Pitton Director Youth and Pathfinding come under Church Ministries Department
1986	Malcolm Allen becomes 5 <sup>th</sup> World Pathfinder Director (1986-1996)
1988	1 <sup>st</sup> Chilean Union Camporee, Placilla
1989	<i>Pathfinders Strong</i> video produced PLA/APLA (PIA) continuing education program for Master Guides introduced Special Pathfinder Edition of the Bible in English
1990	<i>Finding the Right Path</i> , by J. Doward (3 <sup>rd</sup> book based on the Pledge and law)
1992	1 <sup>st</sup> Kenyan Camporee
1994	1 <sup>st</sup> EAD Camporee, Zambia, Muganda Director Pathfinder Honors video, Journey of Discovery Pathfinders begin in Romania
1995	Youth and Pathfinding leave Church Ministries Department and re-organize Pathfinders begin in Bulgaria
1997	Robert Holbrook becomes 6 <sup>th</sup> World Pathfinder Director (1997-2005) New cloth slides replace former metal and plastic slides for scarves Health Master added to the Honor Master Awards
1999	Pathfinder Bible edition in Portuguese 2 <sup>nd</sup> EAD Camporee, Uganda, Mfunne Director Health and Science category added to the Honors
2000	Sahel Union, 1 <sup>st</sup> Camporee in Western Africa
2003	Pan African Camporee, Kenya; Fransch and Mulumba, Directors
2004	1 <sup>st</sup> WAD Camporee, Togo; Nlo Nlo Director

## *Camporees by Division:*

### ECD East-Central Africa Division

1994	(EAD) Zambia; Muganda, Director
1999	(EAD) Uganda; Mfune, Director
2003	(Pan Africa) Kenya; Fransch/Mulumba, Directors

### EUD Euro-Africa Division

1961	France; Steiner, Director
1972	Austria; Bulzis, Director
1977	Italy; Bulzis, Director
1981	France; Bulzis, Director
1986	France; Graz, Director
1991	Italy; Graz, Director
1996	Belgium; Figols, Director
2001	Germany; Cozzi, Director
2006	France; Cozzi, Director

### ESD Euro-Asia Division

### IAD Inter-American Division

1983	Mexico; Leito, Director
1998	Puerto Ric; Garcia-Marenko, Director

### NAD North American Division

1985	Colorado; Pitton, Director
1989	Pennsylvania; Stretter, Director
1994	Colorado; Whitehead, Director
1999	Wisconsin; Whitehead, Director

2004	Wisconsin; Whitehead, Director
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### NSD Northern Asia-Pacific Division

1984	(FED) Thailand; Donato, Director
1997	Bi-Division Indonesia; Missah/Wong, Directors

### SAD South American Division

1983	Foz de Iguaçu, Brazil; Belz, Director
1994	Ponta Grossa, Brazil; da Silva, Director
2005	Santa Helena, Brazil; Kohler, Director

### SPD South Pacific Division

1975	Harramundi; Christian, Director
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### SID Southern Africa- Indian Ocean Division

2003	(Pan Africa) Kenya; Fransch/Mulumba, Directors
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### SUD Southern Asia Division

1978	Bangalore; Singh, Director
1994	Hyderabad; Nathaniel, Director

### SSD Southern Asia-Pacific Division

1984	(FED) Thailand; Donato, Director
1997	Bi-Division Indonesia; Missah/Wong, Directors

### TED Trans-European Division

1971	Sweden; Sundquist, Director
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1977	Finland; Stevenson, Director
1981	Denmar; Huzzey, Director
1986	Netherlands; Huzzey, Director
1990	England; Huzzey, Director
1994	Sweden; Kendal, Director
1998	Norway; Kendal ,Director
2002	Poland; Tompkins, Director
2006	Denmark

**WAD West-Central Africa Division**

2004	Togo; Nlo Nlo, Director
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## LAKESIDE CAMPOREE

W. E. Burns, Reporting

A grand "camporee" it was! Fifty-five Southern New England Pathfinders converged on Camp Winnekeag not long ago for a weekend camporee. From the four corners of the conference they came—from the New London Tantaquigon Pathfinder Club, from the Pittsfield Haystack Club, from the Sanitarium Nes-Pak Club, from the South Lancaster Nabua Club, with their directors, deputy directors, counselors, tents, sleeping bags, cooking and other camping equipment.

They camped and slept on the ground in tents in units of six or eight. Friday evening after sundown worship, it was a beautiful sight to see the numerous little campfires burning cheerfully as dusk settled down upon the beautiful shores of Lake Winnekeag.

The weekend camporee was full of activities! Pathfinders demonstrated their campcraft skills and had a chance to test them in actual camping situations. Pastor Maxson was our storyteller Friday night at the campfire circle. Sabbath school was conducted by Pathfinders and staff alike, and Sabbath afternoon we had the honor of welcoming Pastor E. W. Dunbar, our world MV leader, who gave an inspirational message and told stories to the Pathfinders.

Saturday night was filled with games around the large fireplace in the dining lodge. Sunday was packed full of pancakes, beanhole beans, potatoes and eggs, aluminum-



On this page every week there appear stories of what Pathfinders and JMV's are doing around the world. These are accounts of junior youth who are going places for God. They are "on the trail" with Jesus, our Master Guide. Send a report of what your club is doing. It may be printed here!

foil baking, homemade reflector ovens, wood-chopping demonstrations, baseball, boating, a Pathfinder powwow, judging of clubs, Pathfinder awards of recognition, and many other things too numerous to mention. Our Sunday guests were Pastor and Mrs. R. A. Nesmith. All of which added together and mixed with fifty-five Pathfinders spells C-A-M-P-O-R-E-E and calls for another camporee by unanimous vote this coming June. A wonderful and profitable time was had by all! The Pathfinder clubs of Southern New England are on the march.

## JMV'S ON BOMBING TRIP

M. J. Perry, Reporting

"These!" grunted a JMV as he cut the string with a jerk, "that's the last bomb."

He and his pals stepped back and surveyed triumphantly their pile of bombs, hundreds of them, all set to be dropped in the enemy's territory.

"Good work," said their counselor. "Now you had better hurry

and get your camping equipment ready, or you'll be late for the car, and you won't get to camp."

With a rush, the JMV's scattered to get their suitcases and bedrolls. In a little while all was snugly tucked into the car.

With a roar the engine started, and the JMV's and their bombs were soon out of the city and flying low through the open country highways.

Forward observer Fred in the front seat was excited. "Look," he shouted, "there's an old gentleman standing by his mailbox. Let's bomb him."

Bombardier Bob, in the back seat next to the window, pulled up a bomb and prepared to let it go.

Meanwhile, the elderly gentleman was looking peacefully down the street, waiting for the mail carrier. Suddenly, as a car swooshed by, he saw a long, slim object fly from the rear window and sail toward him, landing near his feet.

Rear observer Richard, looking out the back window, reported the man's reactions play by play. "He's noticed it," Richard reported. "Now he's walking over . . . he's picking it up . . . he's taking off the wrapper . . . and now he's actually reading—looks like the Signa. Sorry, fellows, I can't see any more. We've nussed a corner."

Those were not atom bombs the JMV's were dropping, but literature bombs. It was the way the Pendleton JMV's shared their faith on the way to Camp Mo-Voden this summer. They have dropped hundreds of such bombs this year, and other clubs could do the same.

PHOTO COURTESY W. E. BURNS

The campsite at Lake Winnekeag, where Pathfinders of Southern New England held camporee. Lake is behind tent at right.

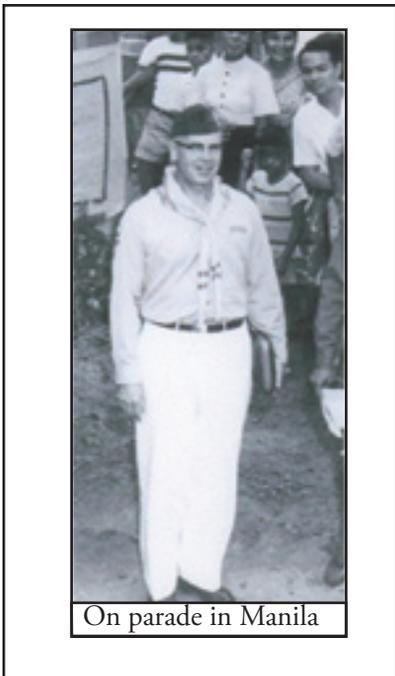
DECEMBER 23, 1953 / 5



A page from the Junior Guide, December 23, 1953 telling about the very first Pathfinder Camporee

## *A Brief Biographical Sketch of the Seven World Pathfinder Leaders*

A note of explanation: Persons elected to be in charge of the Pathfinder organization of the Seventh-day Adventist Church are considered associate youth directors within the General Conference Youth Department. Since their specific responsibility, based on their expertise (often in addition to others as assigned), is that of maintaining the focus and direction of Pathfinding around the world, they carry, by General Conference committee vote, the title of World Pathfinder Director. In a broader sense they are the persons within the Youth Ministries Department responsible for all junior-teen ministries in the church.



On parade in Manila

### *Laurence Skinner*

(1946—[1950] 1962)

(Laurence Skinner was the transition leader between being the World Junior Youth Director and being the World Pathfinder Director. From 1946 to 1950 he was the WJYD and from 1950 on he was the WPD.)

Laurence Arthur Skinner was born on September 11, 1905 in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. As a child he lived in Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba, Canada, where his father worked for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

The family moved to California when Laurence was a teenager, and he attended Pacific Union College, graduating in 1926 as class president. After graduation, he worked in Southeastern California Conference. In 1928, he assisted in the first Southeastern California Conference summer camp at Julian. He married Nola Wallack on September 19, 1929. Nola and Larry

had two daughters, Donna Rae and Jolene Lenore.

In 1930, he became the youth director in the Southeastern California Conference, and in 1934 became the youth director of the Hawaii Conference. The family returned to California in 1936 where Elder Skinner became the youth director of the Southern California Conference through 1939. From 1940 to 1944 he held this position in the Northern California Conference and in 1944 he was asked to be the Youth Director for the North Pacific Union. He was called to be an associate youth leader for the General Conference in 1945; and in 1946, moved the family to Maryland. Elder Skinner, working with Eldine Dunbar and Theodore Lucas, encouraged the development of Pathfinding in the Pacific Union 1947-1949. He became the first World Pathfinder Director, serving from 1950 to 1963.

Elder Skinner truly loved the Lord and enjoyed praying for and with youth and youth leaders around the world. He enjoyed coin collecting as he traveled and also bird watching. His Christian faith and love of the Lord was evident in all he said and did throughout his lifetime. Elder Skinner died on July 10, 2002 in Southern California.





## *John Hancock*

(1962-1970)

*Everywhere John went his trusty accordion traveled as well.*

John Hancock was born in California on August 8, 1917. He lived a very interesting childhood, where at an early age his love of art and music was apparent. He learned to play the accordion; and often drew cartoons and put himself through school by designing and drawing for various people and companies.

Elder Hancock was the youth director in Southeastern California Conference, where he designed the Pathfinder Club emblem in 1946. As a member of the Pacific Union Pathfinder Director's Council he helped to write the 1<sup>st</sup> Pathfinder Staff Manual. He also put together a "How to Start a Pathfinder Club" booklet for world use, incorporating booklets written by Henry T. Bergh and Lawrence Paulson.

John Hancock designed most of the new Pathfinder Honor emblems 1951 – 1981. Elder Hancock served as the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Pathfinder Director 1963 – 1970, and as the World Youth Director, 1970-1980. In 1980, Elder Hancock designed the new Adventist Youth emblem.

Everywhere Elder Hancock traveled, his trusty Excelsior accordion accompanied him. He often said that it spoke the universal language of music, so meeting people he could not understand was not a problem.

Elder Hancock and his wife, Helen, had three children, two sons and a daughter.

When Elder Hancock died on February 22, 2001, he left behind a loving family and a multitude of friends and memories. All looking forward to that bright day when we are all "Safe In His Hands" (the 1962 Youth Congress theme song, John wrote).



*Leo presents the Silver Award to two participants at the 1975 SPD Camporee.*

## *Leo Ranzolin* (1970-1980)

“It was the year 1952—a memorable year in my life!” is the way Leo begins his biographical sketch which appeared in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Issue of *Youth Ministry Accent*, 2004. He had become a Seventh-day Adventist in 1948 and gone to Brazil Adventist College (1949) to complete a degree in Education

(it was called “Normal School” back then), and finished that in 1951. Now, he was enrolled as a sophomore theology major to graduate (again) in 1954. This was, however, a special year because he was asked to be the college MV Society leader, which normally was a position only offered to Senior Theology students. This request marked the beginning of his life of youth ministry. Leo used his experience as the college Society leader to experiment with a number of methods of youth outreach and had an early morning prayer group that met daily in the woods below the campus. Later, he would read General Conference President R. R. Figure’s statement, made at the 1957 youth celebration, held in Mt. Vernon, Ohio, that our task must be to “prepare young people for life;” that became his guiding light for the next several decades of his ministry.

When, in 1955, he entered pastoral work, he implemented the ideas from school days with his church and 6 companies by involving his youth. His efforts were noticed by the local conference biennial session, where they asked him to head up the Youth Department. He was just a month away from marriage to the lovely Lucila B. Rabello, daughter of the VOP speaker for Portuguese, when her uncle, Dario Garcia, president of the college, gave them some wise advice: “Don’t take it. Go to the United States, finish your

studies first.” So they did that; came to America, completed a 4-year degree (the Brazil College was considered a Junior College yet), completed an M.A. and an M. Div. and found work (of all things) as a practical male nurse in California, to keep food on the table while he waited for God to open the next doors. That soon happened when a call came for the same job he had been offered a few years earlier—Youth Ministry Director for the Parana-Santa Catarina Conference. From there he was called to the South Brazil Union, and in 1970, when still but 36 years old, was invited to the General Conference Youth Department as the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Pathfinder Director. Today, there is a very active Pathfinder Club in the Central Church of Curitiba, Brazil, not far from where he began his ministry as pastor that carries his name. In Papua New Guinea their youth camp on the Island of Mussau, also carries his name as Camp Ranzolin. It should be noted that his family includes 3 sons: Leo Jr. (Susan), Luis Robert (Wilma), and Larry; as well as 2 grandchildren—Larissa and David.

Following Elder Hancock’s retirement in 1980, Leo became the World Youth Director and in 1985 was elected to serve in Administration as an Associate in Secretariat till 1990, when he joined the team of Vice Presidents of the General Conference. Although officially out of Youth Ministry, as VP for the world church, Leo continued to be involved by being the VP responsible for youth ministries and by never turning down requests to attend youth related events—especially Camporees, which he was still attending around the world long after retirement.



*Mike presenting the new Pathfinder cap to Elder Neal Wilson, President of the General Conference.*

## *Mike Stevenson*

(1980-1985)

Michael Stevenson was born August 22, 1939 in Stellenbosch, South Africa, to Ernest J. Stevenson & Thora Commins Stevenson. He had five brothers, Hugh (deceased), Ernest, Brian, Patrick and Stanley.

He attended Helderberg College, where he met

and married Jennie May Webster. They were the parents of Michael, Jr. and Miles, who were born in South Africa; James, and Jason who were born in Maryland, USA.

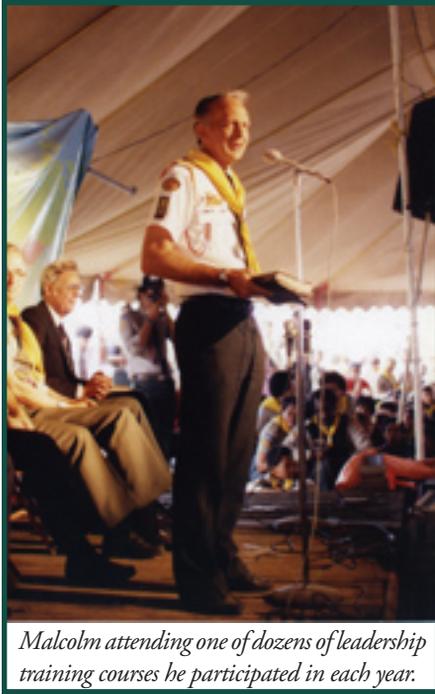
Elder Stevenson gave distinguished service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church beginning in 1961 in South Africa, where he served as pastor, singing evangelist and youth director. In 1966 he was called to be a pastor in Texas, where he served for four years.

In 1970, at the age of 30, Stevenson began serving as the General Conference Campus Ministries Director. In 1975 the Northern Europe-West Africa Division elected him as youth and temperance director.

The Stevensons returned to the World Headquarters in 1980, where he again served in the General Conference Youth Department as World Pathfinder Director (1980-1985); director of Adventist Youth Services—better known as the Student Missionary program (1985-1990), and senior youth director (1990-1993).

February 7, 1993, after a heroic struggle with brain cancer, Michael Herbert Stevenson died at age 53, in Silver Spring, Maryland. For many who loved him as well as Adventist youth around the world, this was a huge loss. He was a special person who will not soon be forgotten.

Millions of young people who have been blessed by Stevenson's ministry, will remember his favorite phrase, "Don't be afraid; be of good cheer."



*Malcolm attending one of dozens of leadership training courses he participated in each year.*

## *Malcolm Allen*

(1986-1996)

Malcolm Allen, our 5<sup>th</sup> World Pathfinder Leader, 1986-1996, served the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist in this capacity until he returned to his home country of Australia, where he was appointed Secretary of the South Queensland Conference, a position he held for two years before being called to the Greater Sydney Conference as President. He served as President until his retirement January of 2001. Malcolm served for 36 years continuously in Pathfinder and Youth Ministry.

Malcolm was born in Australia, the son of Percival John Allen and Winefred Eugenie Harker. He was educated in Australia and attended Avondale College, Cooranbong, New South Wales, Australia, 1955-1958.

November of 1960, he married Valda May Keith in the Wahroonga Adventist Church. Valda and Malcolm have four children. Brett was born in 1962, Gregory was born in 1964, Jamie was born in 1974 and Jenni, their only daughter, was born in 1980.

In 1960 Malcolm became involved in youth ministry and became a Youth Director in the South Pacific Division. He was an Assistant Youth Director of the West Australian Conference in 1966 – 1970. In 1970 – 1974, he became the Youth Director of the Tasmanian Conference, and 1974 – 1977, he was the Youth Director of the Victorian Conference, all within Australia. These positions carried both Youth and Pathfinder responsibilities.

In 1977 – 1980, Malcolm was transferred to New Zealand, where he was Youth Director for the North New Zealand Conference. 1980 – 1986, he was the Youth Director for the Trans-Tasman Union Conference (this covered the Eastern half of Australia and New Zealand).

In retirement, Malcolm and his wife moved to a rural setting in what is called the Southern Highlands of New South Wales, about an hour south of Sydney. Elder Allen still preaches at churches and Camp Meetings and does special assignments for the Australian Union Conference.



*Bob (behind) explaining the value of a small bat seen on the ceiling wall while cave exploring with a Pathfinder Club.*

## *Robert Holbrook*

(1997- 2005)

Although Robert (Bob) was born in the United States, he's of a missionary family that goes back four generations in Foreign Service; therefore, he considers himself a "third-cultural" kind of person and enjoys a world perspective to life. His father was a long-time educator and administrator in the church; his mother was perhaps the most recognized woman in the church aside from Ellen White. His son, Rob, is a linguist, Hans is a naturalist, and Rolf (wife: Carys) is a youth counselor.

When asked where he's from; his answer is often "from where I hang my hat." Often, he then proceeds to count the countries that make up his family and heritage; beginning with his parents and ending with his three boys, the list runs something like this: Norway, Germany, England, Brazil, Bolivia, USA, Peru, Ecuador, Haiti, and Canada. He has lived in 4 countries and traveled to nearly 80. Comparing favorites is not a question to ask, because he finds something about every country that fascinates him.

When his parents returned from overseas service, Bob had the opportunity to belong to the College View Trailblazers—a Pathfinder Club in Lincoln,

Nebraska. This began a lifelong passion for Pathfinding. He also received a degree in Theology, Biology, and Secondary Education from Union College; and began his career as a Junior High teacher in the Southern New England Conference, in 1969.

He lived in South America for 19 years and is fluent in three languages Spanish, Portuguese and English. With 43 years (as of 2005) in Pathfinder Ministry leadership roles, he has held almost all of the local club positions at one time or another, from counselor and instructor, to club director for four different clubs; to holding the Conference Youth Director position in Peru, Ecuador, Gulf States and Illinois. He was also a Union Pathfinder Director for the Central Brazil Union, that at the time, had around 25,000 Pathfinders. While there, his primary assignment was to prepare 2,500 pages of resource materials for Brazilian Pathfinder Ministry.

As would be expected, Bob loves anything to do with the outdoors, from cycling to long distance canoeing and mountain climbing. He is fascinated by everything from lichens to orchids and butterflies to salamanders.

He was recently listed as a consultant, beginning with the 9<sup>th</sup> Edition of the International Paper Money Catalogue for his contributions in identifying birds on money (a mix of his birding and currency-collecting passions). Some consider Bob “legendary” for his knowledge of Neo-tropical birds, but he tends to smile about that one and names off those who “really are.” He has seen and identified over 1/3 of all the bird species in the world and over half of those found in South America. His next most favorite activity has involved spending hundreds of hours exploring caves on four continents. A few of his other hobbies (collections) include collecting Bibles, stamps and Rhinos (not the live variety).

Bob still enjoys more than ever, the opportunity



Bob signing autographs

to help young people find the narrow gate that Christ asks us all to go through. He recognizes that it is the most important work adults can be involved in and is concerned that so few seem to realize the seriousness of it and the impact adults can and do make on the youth whether they want to or not.



*Jonatan Tejel Subirada*  
(2005-)

Jonatan Tejel was born April 9th, 1966, in Alcoy to Andres and Josefina Tejel. Jonathan was raised in an Adventist home. During his childhood, he moved from one city to another, until he arrived in Madrid, where he stayed throughout his adolescence years.

He was baptized by his father, Andres Tejel, on December 26, 1981. He attended Sagunto Adventist College. He also attended Collonges (France) there, he finished his degree in Theology, in 1995.

In 1994 he met and married Daniela Sciarabba. They have two daughters, Astrid, born in 1999 and Edera, born in 2001.

In 1996 he began an internship under the supervision of Pastor Rafael Marti at Barcelona Urgell Church. In 1998, he was elected to be the Spanish Union Associate Youth Director. He also served two years as Associate Director and pastor of the Timoneda Church. In 2002, he was elected to be the Youth Ministries Director for the Spanish Union.

October 2005, during the General Conference Session Jonatan was elected to be the World Pathfinder Director.

# Pathfinder Past And Present



**First Pathfinders in South America--Peru**



**First Pathfinder Camporee 1953**



**Brazilian**



**Rwandan**



**Finland 1977**



**Pathfinders bring their baptismal candidate,  
Tanzania, 1998**



**Happy winners in India, 2001**



**June 2, 1990 Ontario Camporee**



**Baptism**



**Worship and Praise**



**100 years of the church in Ecuador Camporee 2004**



**Southern-most club in the world**



**Campfire**



**High-rise camping - Brazil**



**Singapore**



**Craftwork**



**Termite mound make good stoves**



**Malawi Camporee**



