I had this moment of complete honesty with God in which I said, "I don't think I can hold on to You anymore. So if You want me to stay, You have to hold on to me." Since then He's held on to me. It was an important part of my journey to realize that it's not me holding on to Him. It's not my faith that saves me, but His faithfulness and Him holding on to me.

Visit vimeo.com/nadadventist/ajrebekahhelsius for more of Helsius’ story.

REBEKAH HELSIUS, artist, master guide, Pathfinder Club director for the Wisconsin Conference

Dear Reader: The publication in your hands represents the collaborative efforts of the North American Division and Adventist World magazine, which follows Adventist Journey (after page 16). Please enjoy both magazines!
Pastor Michael Campos baptizes Kryslyn Maldonado, a Pathfinder from the Hinsdale Fil-Am Seventh-day Adventist Church in Illinois. Maldonado was one of 1,311 baptized at the 2019 Oshkosh camporee. Dan Weber

More than 55,000 gather at the Chosen International Pathfinder Camporee in Wisconsin.

Nail gun staccato punctures the evening quiet as Pathfinder Club camporee entrances are built at campsites. The gentle hum of generators near RVs and tents blend with night sounds of the outdoors. The purr and whirr of golf carts traversing campsites on roads soon to be limited to only pedestrian traffic break the quiet as gates and barricades for safety are erected. The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) in Wisconsin, home of the beloved “Oshkosh Camporee” since 1999, would not be quiet for long.

The night before many of the more than 55,000 arrive at the 2019 Chosen International Pathfinder Camporee stands nearly quiet, in stark contrast to the intervening days of drill drum corps playing along walkways, rambunctious pin traders looking to find and trade for “super rare” pins, and youth cooling off under shady trees and on water slides.

Honors and other fun activities in the hangar area (think Pathfinder museum, virtual reality action at the Adventist Review Ministries tent, and a giant dinosaur and potato), camp stages, festive food court, nightly programs beginning with baptisms, and Compassion projects and off-site activity buses rolling through bus areas make for a lively campus. These all lead up to the closing program of the camporee, which includes a rousing song service, energetic evening speaker Damian Chandler, the Adventist ventriloquist Ryan and Lily act, the conclusion of the dramatic live-action David play (with a camel and live sheep on stage!), a 20-minute (or more) fireworks display, and the big reveal of the 2024 theme, “Believe the Promise.” Busy and bustling is an understatement!

Streams of tired and happy campers trek back to their sites. Tents come down, lines of buses exit, roads still. By Sunday afternoon only muddy trails and memories are left.

Here are a few highlights from the event before the quiet again came to the fields of the EAA. These are small glimpses into the massive event, where Jesus took center stage, along with His “chosen” youth. —Kimberly Luise Maran, NAD Office of Communication

“CHOSEN” in Oshkosh
Outreach in Oshkosh

As Christians we are called to serve others,” said Paulo Ballesteros, who has been involved with—and with another Pathfinders Pathfinder Club from the Garland Jag¬zines; 3,000 copies were handed out. Pathfinder was given seven maga¬zines to residents. Each camper received their trading pin gained the attention of counselors, staff, pastors, and church administrators. Although many wanted the pin, the Southern Union Conference gave the pin only to Pathfinders from the union conference who earned it. To earn a pin, campers had to meet a few requirements. Campers ages 10-18 were asked to write a story (more than 100 words) about their experience at the camporee. When they completed the story and submitted a photo, they re¬ceived the pin. Their story was then posted on the SouthernTidings.com website. The best stories posted there were considered for publica¬tion in the Chosen Souvenir edition of the Southern Tidings.

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When campers received their pin, they told their friends about the experience and recruited others to participate. “The pin was produced to serve two purposes, explained Steven Norman III, Southern Union Confer¬ence communication director and Southern Tidings editor. “The first was to connect young readers to the Southern Union. The second and more important was to inspire the next generation to become jour¬nalists for the cause of Christ.” —Joseph Hyde, Southern Adventist University

Pins and Prose

The “Chosen” song was sung seven times during general sessions. At least $20 million in revenue brought to DeKalb during camporee. Walmart on Monday; during the camporee it was the busiest Walmart in the world.

Pathfinders captured 1,311 Pathfinders baptized, 1,444 Pathfinders, 925 volunteers, 56,000 attended the camporee. There is so much to share from the camporee! Here are some links to online coverage:

- Camporee photo albums at Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/nadadventist/albums
- NAD News Link www.nadadventist.org/news
- Chosen Camporee DVDs are available for purchase from AdventSource (www.adventsource.org, or 1-800-328-0525).
- Check your union conference magazine websites and fall print editions for more news and features from Oshkosh.

And ... get ready for the 2024 Believe the Promise International Camporee in Oshkosh!
interested in cooking, then young people will ultimately learn to make their own food.” Shaw is chef and owner of Real Veggie Café in Island Park, Long Island, New York, and a “lifelong” Pathfinder.

—Kimberly Luste Maran

A Slice of Hangar Life

Visitors walking through the four hangars on the campus of the 2019 camporee had the opportunity to experience a microcosm of Adventism—from bumping into Ted N. C. Wilson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, to earning a one-of-a-kind humanitari-an ADRA International pin, to meeting recruit-ers from Seventh-day Adventist schools across North America, to praying with directors from the NAD’s Ministerial Association.

Outside and inside the hangars also lurked real dinosaur fossils, including Arty, a 16-foot-tall dinosaur in Southwestern Adventist University’s dinosaurs, fossils, and reptiles display in Hangar D. The area offered several honor class options, two live boa constrictors, approximately 60 fossils, including some that were given away (while supplies lasted).

As campers made memories with old and new friends, Dixie Plata, one of the cofounders of the Adventist Youth Ministries Museum, hopes visitors will take time to remember Pathfinder events and milestones of the past. The exhibit, which took up about half of Hangar D, contained Pathfinder artifacts including a completely hand-written Bible; manuals and handbooks from as far back as 1926; pins; honors; and more.

—V. Michelle Bernard, Columbia Union Visitor

Honored at Oshkosh

Honors are key components of the Pathfinder curriculum that help youth learn valuable spiritual, recreational, and practical skills they can carry in ministry and beyond. Pathfinders were encouraged to amass as many skills and experiences as possible when-ever honors are offered through their clubs, conferences, and union conferences. But camp-ers are an especially good occasion to earn lots of honors in a compressed time frame. With this in mind, more than 170 honors classes were available for the Pathfinders who attended the 2019 Chosen International Camporee. The honors offered at the camporee appeal to many interests, including leatherwork, knife throwing, biblical archaeology, origami, robotics, space exploration, and gift wrapping. There were also more service-orien-ted honors, including learning how to witness to others of through the “cross-cultural mission” honor or understanding how to resolve conflict with the “peace maker” honor. Two new honors made their debut: the braille and refugee assistance honors.

—Mylon Medley, NAD Office of Communication

ACS Bucket Brigade

Supplies to fill 5,000 yellow buckets were delivered to the Adventist Community Services (ACS) station at the camporee. They included household cleaner; dishwashing soap; scrubber sponges; scrub brushes; cleaning towels; dust masks; kitchen, disposable, and work gloves; trash bags; laundry detergent; paper towels; disin-fectant wipes; clothesline; clothespins; and insect repellent.

“We really appreciate the Pathfinder support for this great endeavor, as well as the ACS volunteers here from Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Maryland, New York, Texas, and Washington,” Sung Kwon, North American Division ACS’s executive director, said. “We could not have achieved this goal without everyone’s generosity.”

—Támara Michaelenko Terry, Texas Conference

World Records

Two attempts at world records at the camporee appear to have succeeded. The first was the largest scarf and slide (called neckerchief and woggle). Fash-ioned in the traditional yellow fabric, the master guide scarf measures 300 feet by 150 feet, and weighs about 800 pounds. Pathfinders in Texas created the scarf; the shield for the slide was designed by Arkansas-Louisiana Conference church members, and measures about 10 feet tall and weighs about 500 pounds. On August 16 the scarf and slide were hoisted up on a giant frame near the Chosen stage. Attendees participated in creating the largest human cross shape. Each person wore a blue paper hoodie as they were funneled into the roped-off shape in front of the Chosen stage. The rope shape was 13,246, set in March 2011 in the Philippines. Each of the 13,309 participants stood in formation for five minutes as auditors using RFID (radio frequency identifica-tion) mats verified the number and drone images confirmed the shape. Guinness World Records ad-judicator Michael Empic verified the results.

A Miracle in Kansas Comes to Oshkosh

Arina Coridan served as a student missionary in Nepal after her freshman year at Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska. After graduating in 2014, she began nursing work at AdventHealth Shawnee Mission in Kansas. She still had the dream of returning to Nepal. Then she met several Nepalese youth in Kansas. Realizing the real need among the refugees, she began her next mission—adventure in Kansas City. Through a series of events, God opened the door for her to move locations to an apartment complex in the city packed with refugees from Nepal. Coridan made friends with Mani, a neighbor woman about her age, and a teen boy named Aadesh, who suggested they start a youth group. Recognizing that many refugees were lonely living in a place not of their culture where they don’t speak the language, she thought it was a good idea. Aadesh invited a few friends, and they invited others. Before long, Coridan was lead-ing a large group of kids. They played soccer together and won a tournament. One of them, Bivek, came up with the name New Change for Youth (NC4Y).

The Iowa-Missouri Conference agreed to sponsor the NC4Y club to attend the West Lenexa Seventh-day Adventist Vacation Bible School (VBS) soccer camp. They bused 45 kids on a 45-minute drive from the apartment com-plex every evening for a week. After the event Coridan realized, “We can’t just walk away from these kids.”

Anne Wham, a retired youth director for Dakota Conference, helped Coridan get the club started.

That first year the club consisted of 36 Nepali kids. The next summer they were again invited to the West Lenexa VBS, and kids from many different countries jumped on the bus at Anna’s apartment complex. By the end of the week 20 were going to the VBS.

The NC4Y staff of nine started praying, and Coridan’s father suggested, “Maybe it’s time for an international club.”

But some of the new attendees spoke Swahili and Burmese, languages her staff did not know. Miraculously, a family from Kenya who spoke Swa-hili, and a family from Myanmar who spoke Burmese, joined the leadership team, giving them the very languages they needed.

Now the club has 54 Pathfinders from eight different countries: Nepal, Dem-ocratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, Tanzania, Syria, Thailand, Myanmar, and the U.S. Through another series of miracles and generous donors, the club made it to the 2019 Oshkosh camporee.

—Lori Pechkan, Union College

Pathfinders gather near the main stage for church service on Sabbath morning, August 17, at the 2019 Chosen Camporee after walking or being shuttled from their campsites, most of which can be seen in this photo. Anthony White
“PUT A PIN IN IT”
Understanding the Pathfinder pin trading culture of the Chosen International Camporee.

BY MYLON MEDLEY

ne of the few things that outnumbered the record-breaking attendance of more than 55,000 people at the 2019 Chosen International Pathfinder Camporee were what was viewed as the camporee’s social currency—collectible pins. Pathfinders collect the pins through purchasing or trading, but mostly through trading, which is greatly encouraged by Pathfinder leaders. One could barely walk a few feet on the main roads of the camping area before bumping into clusters of eager Pathfinders asking one another, “Are you trading?” Even if the Pathfinders couldn’t speak the same language, the language of pin trading was as universal as the Pathfinder song.

“It becomes a frenzy in the past few years,” said Armando Miranda, Pathfinder director in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference, smiles with his collection of pins in a “pin trading” tent on the campground. “At first I was kind of nervous to ask people to trade pins, but now it’s fun to me and I do it all the time.”

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A Recipe for Confidence

The process of trading gave Pathfinders opportunities to make new friends and develop interpersonal skills. “We live in a world in which we’re all disconnected from each other, even though we have devices to stay connected,” said Miranda. “The interaction with other people forces [Pathfinders] to look each other in the eyes, even if it’s just for bargaining.”

For many campers this was their first time participating in pin trading, but it did not take long for them to catch on to the culture. The "frenzy" was palpable. Pathfinders from all parts of the world seized every opportunity to build their collection.

“I’ve met people from China, California, Canada, and all sorts of other places,” said Tristan Naumann, Pathfinder of the Bloomington Navigators from the Indiana Conference. “At first I was kind of nervous to ask people to trade pins, but now it’s fun to me and I do it all the time.”

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The Gospel to the Poor

It must be lonely in prison. In time the sense of being trapped becomes overwhelming. Not knowing what the future holds is disheartening. You are left in the dark, waiting for something, for someone to bring a word of encouragement, a glimmer of hope. But the wait is so impossibly long…

Kenneth, a penitentiary inmate, recently started corresponding with the Jesus 101 ministry. “I was losing hope and wanted to end my life,” he wrote, “but my friend sent me a copy of your book I Will Give You Rest. I was so lonely and hurting for causing so much pain in my life over doing drugs…, but after reading your book I told myself, Life can be so good with Jesus Christ. I am alive in prison because of your book and God’s amazing grace! … May God bless you and continue to give you inspiration to do His will in reaching the poor in spirit with the gospel.”

Kenneth’s letters touched my heart, and his words, reaching the poor in spirit with the gospel, caught my attention. In the ancient world at the time of war the word “gospel” (euangelion) was used to announce to the inhabitants of a city the good news of victory (see Isa. 52:7 in the Septuagint). Their king had been victorious on their behalf on the battlefield, and now they were free! This (or maybe you actually do), but you may feel that you are imprisoned by circumstances and are running out of hope. Remember that the gospel of Jesus is for the poor, for you and me. No matter how dark our past and seemingly hopeless our situation, Jesus won the battle on our behalf! May you rest in His assurance of salvation!

Kenneth finally realized that he was looking for until I came to prison, and I am thankful for being locked up behind these walls. I now have something amazing on the inside of my heart. How great is God!

When we are in the most adverse circumstances, we are most likely to make that incredible discovery that, while we are the poor in spirit, we have all the riches of heaven through the gospel of Jesus Christ. You may not find yourself in jail today (or maybe you actually do), but you may feel that you are imprisoned by circumstances and are running out of hope. Remember that the gospel of Jesus is for the poor, for you and me. No matter how dark our past and seemingly hopeless our situation, Jesus won the battle on our behalf! May you rest in His assurance of salvation!

Kenneth will be released from prison in February 2020. Until then he would like to receive encouraging letters. If you are interested in getting his address, contact office@Jesus101.tv.

Elizabeth Viera Talbot, Ph.D., is speaker/director of the Jesus 101 Biblical Institute (www.jesus101.tv), a media ministry of the North American Division.
MEDIA CENTERS COLLABORATE IN INTERNATIONAL CROSS-MEDIA PROJECT

A group of media professionals from Seventh-day Adventist Church world divisions met on July 9-10, 2019, to work on an international cross-media project that will focus on bringing hope to anyone facing uncertainty in their lives. The select group from different Adventist media centers spent time brainstorming, praying, and shaping the creative project during two days of meetings at the Inter-American Division (IAD) headquarters in Miami, Florida.

Part of the network project will include stories, a short film produced by the South American Division; a short documentary film about the uncertainty students face, by the North American Division (NAD); a book on facing uncertainty, by the North American Division (NAD); and a short documentary film produced by the South American Division (IAD) headquarters in Miami, Florida.

During the meetings, project team members created a timeline for the project, as well as marketing and distribution strategies and ways of increasing communication among the collaborators to make the project a reality. “This is incredibly exciting that we can come together as partners to accomplish something that individually we could not do, using the medium of film and print to connect with an audience that has neglected us in the past,” said Julio Muñoz, associate communication director for the NAD, and film coordinator for the NAD project documentary.

“Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries is proud of our chaplains who have milestone promotions,” said Paul Anderson, director/endorser of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries, during a ceremony at the division’s headquarters in Columbia, Maryland. “We have a Flame Award we present to military chaplains when they achieve the rank of colonel or upon their retirement. . . . Chaplain Elliott is not retiring. In fact, he’s at an apex of his career.”

Elliott is not retiring. In fact, he’s at an apex of his career.

NAD Honors Promotion of an Adventist Chaplain in the U.S. Air Force

Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries of the North American Division recognized Chaplain John Elliott of the United States Air Force for his recent promotion to colonel on July 3, 2019. He is the third Adventist Air Force chaplain to achieve the rank (the first was David Buttrick, who was promoted in 2017; the second was Andrew Pak, who was promoted in 2018). Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries is proud of our chaplains who have milestone promotions. “It’s a privilege to be in ministry, serve our country, and be a minister for those who serve our country,” said Elliott upon accepting the award.

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