
C E L E B R A T I N G T H E

◆ **Pathfinder** ◆
Diamond Jubilee



P R O G R A M S & I D E A S
to Celebrate 60 Years of Pathfinder Ministry

Celebrating the Pathfinder Diamond Jubilee is prepared for Pathfinder Clubs around the world.

Author: Deena Bartel-Wagner

Managing Editor: Brad Forbes

Layout and Design: Ginger Calkins

Publisher: AdventSource

Available from:

AdventSource

5040 Prescott Avenue

Lincoln, NE 68506

1-800-328-0525

www.adventsource.org

© 2010 North American Division Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists.

All rights reserved. The activity pages in this book may be used and reproduced without permission from the copyright holder in local-church printed matter. It may not, however, be used or reproduced in other books or publications without prior permission from the copyright holder. Reprinting the content as a whole for giveaway or resale is expressly prohibited.

Printed in the United States of America

ISBN #978-1-57756-677-9

Celebrating the Pathfinder Diamond Jubilee

Introduction and Purpose

It's time to celebrate! During 2010, the worldwide Pathfinder organization of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will officially turn 60 years old. Adventist churches should be proud of the time and investment they have given to the training of our youth. Don't allow this Diamond Jubilee go by without recognizing the history of Pathfinders in your club and local church family.

A good way to include the entire church is to host a Pathfinder Jubilee Weekend that focuses on the impact of the Pathfinder program for the past 60 years. By honoring the past, you will help your Pathfinders develop a vision for the future. Emphasizing the importance of our past history provides the basis for a long-term investment of training potential leaders who will continue to mentor future generations of Pathfinders.

The program outlined in this manual provides various options for your Pathfinder Diamond Jubilee Celebration. You can choose the components that will work best for your club and church family. Discuss the options with your Pathfinder staff, pastor and church board.

As you begin to map out your plans, take the time to organize and execute a Pathfinder Sabbath program that will excite and energize your club members. Use the skills, talents and gifts of your Pathfinders to design and implement the celebration activities. This is a time for mentoring young people in their leadership skills. Help them discover the gifts with which God has blessed them, whether it is public speaking, arts and crafts, music or others.

Enlist the help of former Pathfinders who may not currently be involved in this ministry. This may be an avenue of revitalizing their interest in the club. It is also an opportunity to help your Pathfinders connect with the "pioneers" in your church and to see that the club's ministry isn't just about the present. It is also about the past and the future.

Planning Schedule

When you spread out the planning process and delegate responsibilities for a weekend or even a day event, it decreases the workload and lessens the stress. By taking time to plan, you will actually be saving yourself time and energy.

3-4 Months Prior to the Pathfinder Diamond Jubilee Celebration

- Pray about the witness this program can be to your community, church family and Pathfinder members and staff.
- Discuss a date with the pastor, church board and your Pathfinder staff.
- If your church typically designates the offering that is taken during the worship service on Pathfinder Sabbath for the local Pathfinder Club, you should also bring this to the church board at this time.
- Once a date is chosen, make sure it is listed officially on the church calendar.
- Invite any special guests you would like to attend. This would include the conference youth director, your area coordinator and any guest speakers.
- Decide if there will be a fellowship meal following the worship service and if so, who will provide it.

2 Months Prior

- It's time to meet with the Pathfinder Club and staff to plan the program and make assignments for speaking, musical parts and other responsibilities. Remember to assign staff to Pathfinders for practice sessions and to follow up with preparation details.
- Touch base with the elder, deacon, greeter and Sabbath School superintendent who are responsible for that Sabbath to make sure they know what expectations you have for them. Outline for them the activities for which the Pathfinders will be responsible.
- Assign a staff member to make sure all uniforms have been ordered and fitted for all Pathfinders and staff members.

1 Month Prior

- Have a review session with staff and teen leaders. This is a time to make sure the various assignments are under control and that everyone will be ready for their individual parts. Make sure any memorization is perfected.
- Plan several rehearsals of the sermon. This doesn't need to include the entire club, only those who have speaking parts.
- Submit any announcements about activities in which church members can participate to the church bulletin secretary. These should be made in advance so people can plan for the Pathfinder Jubilee Weekend.

2 Weeks Prior

- Schedule a time to have a rehearsal in the church with the entire club. Allow plenty of time to work through places to stand, the order of the service and how the club will

enter the church and where they will sit during the service. This is the time to make any additions or changes. During the rehearsal make notes of supplies you may need and other information that will help your final stages of planning. You should also time the program to ensure it will not run too long or be too brief. If the community is invited to the events, be sure to advertise.

1 Week Prior

- Schedule a dress rehearsal in the church, including music, stories, etc.

The Day!

- Begin your day by asking God for peace and blessing on your club members' activities.
- Arrive early so you aren't rushing in after everyone else has arrived.
- Organize your staff and ensure that they are ready to carry out their assigned duties for the day.
- Encourage your Pathfinders to do their best.
- At the end of the day, thank God for allowing you to be a part of this worldwide ministry.

Pathfinder Jubilee Celebration Weekend

If you have never coordinated an entire weekend of events, do not allow this to overwhelm you. With delegation and planning as well as brainstorming, your club can devise an enjoyable weekend filled with memories and meaningful experiences that will draw every participant into a closer relationship with Jesus.

Here are some ideas you might want to consider for your club's special weekend.

Friday evening vespers

- Host a reunion of former Pathfinders. Encourage them to reminisce about their activities and how Pathfinders made a difference in their lives.
- Have the club perform a musical program.
- Host a soup and bread meal, and watch footage from the latest international camporee.

Sabbath Services

- Sabbath School and worship service.

Sabbath Dinner

- Planned fellowship dinner.
- Use sack lunches if your afternoon activity takes you away from the church.

Sabbath Afternoon Activities

- Go for a hike.

- Visit a local museum or aquarium.
- Plan a Share Your Faith program.
 - *If the weather is hot, distribute water bottles in a public area (attach an encouraging note to the bottles).*
 - *Make sack lunches and distribute them to the homeless.*
 - *Conduct a needs survey in the area around the church.*
 - *Take homemade loaves of bread to homes in the area around the church.*
- Work on a nature honor.

Sabbath Evening Worship

- Have sundown vespers.
- Hold a talent program.
- Go swimming at a local indoor pool.
- Throw a pizza party.
- Have a cookie decorating party.

Sunday Morning

- Have a pancake breakfast (invite people from the community).
- Hold a Pathfinder fundraiser.
- Organize a community service project (trash collection, food distribution, help cook a meal at a homeless shelter, volunteer at the local animal shelter).
- Host an information session on starting a community watch group in your church neighborhood.
- Paint over graffiti.
- Host a bike safety check for the neighborhood.
- Host a fluid and oil check for cars.
- Have a free car wash.
- Bake fresh cookies for your local fire or police department.
- Pack boxes of cookies and other supplies to send to military service members who are deployed.

Responsibility Assignments

As you plan for the Pathfinder Jubilee Weekend, delegate different responsibilities to various members of the staff, Pathfinders and their families. You cannot do everything and you shouldn't have to.

Taking the time to plan in advance so you will give each person time to prepare for his or her part. Have times for participants to practice together and to encourage each other in learning their parts. The more your group practices, the easier the event will be when it comes time to stand in front of the entire church.

SABBATH SCHOOL

- Sabbath School Praise Team
- Sabbath School Welcome
- Sabbath School Scripture
- Sabbath School Prayer
- Mission Emphasis
- Sabbath School Special Feature

Narrator

Pathfinder #1

Pathfinder #2

- Lesson Study (this will depend on which option your club chooses)

WORSHIP SERVICE

- Color Guard
- Ushers/Deacons
- Music

Song Leaders

Special Music

Organist

Pianist

Other

- Sound System/Lighting
- Public Relations

Video/Slides

Bulletin/Posters

Bulletin Board

Conference News

Union News

Other

- Platform Personnel

Announcements
Welcome
Opening Prayer
Opening Song

- Skit Characters

Narrator #1
Narrator #2
Desmond Doss
Luther Warren
Flora Plummer
Harriet Holt
W. Spalding
John Hancock
Club Director or Pastor

OTHER ROLES

- Church Set-up/Clean-up
- Weekend Programming

Friday night
Fellowship dinner
Sabbath afternoon
Sabbath night worship
Sunday morning

Sabbath School Program

Song Service

There are many different formats through which you can provide the song service for Sabbath School.

- Have a praise team composed of Pathfinders and staff who play musical instruments provide the accompaniment. Choose two or three Pathfinders to lead the music.
- Suggested songs from *He Is Our Song* include:

#128	“I’ve Got a River of Life”
#102	“Unto Thee, O Lord” (be sure to sing this in parts)
# 80	“Deep and Wide”
# 37	“Father, We Love You”

- Suggested songs from *The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal* include:

#565	“For the Beauty of the Earth”
#625	“Higher Ground”
#422	“Marching to Zion”

Welcome

Use the following welcome or write one that is personalized for your church family:

Today during our Sabbath School and worship service, we are celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of the youth program Pathfinders, a worldwide ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church for youth ages 10-15.

Scripture

Psalm 25:4, 5 (NIV): “Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.”

Worship in Prayer

During your preparations spend some time with the Pathfinders who will be praying. It can be frightening for young people to offer public prayer. Encourage them to think about the people and things for which they will pray. This will lessen the stress and will be a much more meaningful prayer experience for everyone.

Mission Emphasis

There are several choices for the mission emphasis period.

- If your church uses quarterly mission magazines, you can assign one or two Pathfinders to present the scheduled story for the Sabbath program.
- If your church uses Mission SONlight or Adventist Mission DVDs, check to see if the week of your event is scheduled for a viewing.

- Use this time to highlight some of the club’s Share Your Faith activities from the last year. Use photos, videos and personal experiences to make this an exciting and energy-filled report.

Special Feature

This feature will need preparation for props. Be sure to allow enough time in your planning phase to make these props and for the Pathfinders involved to learn their parts.

Narrator: **It’s important for Pathfinders to know how to use the equipment that is part of their outdoor activities, such as a compass and maps. A compass can be used when you are hiking, backpacking, sailing and during many other outdoor activities.**

Before you can work with a compass, it is necessary to understand the different components, how they work and why it is important to make sure the adjustments are set correctly.

Pathfinder

#1: *(This part doesn’t need to be memorized precisely. The Pathfinder who is demonstrating the compass parts should understand the following material and be able to relate it easily to the congregation.)*

A compass has several different features you need to understand in order to make it work properly.

First, there are the directions. Every compass will have four main directions in clockwise order around the case. These are North, East, South and West. You can remember this order by remembering Never Eat Soft Worms.

Second, there is a red compass needle. This needle will always point to the North and the North Pole. This is because of the earth’s magnetic field.

Third, the compass housing will have degrees which run around the outside of the compass from 0 to 360 and the letters N, E, S, W. You can rotate this housing, which will allow you to go in any direction.

Fourth, there are orienting lines used to line up the compass needle.

Fifth, the orienting arrow is used to line up the housing.

Narrator: The compass and map can lead you to safety in all kinds of weather conditions. It can also help you to find the correct route even if you are unsure of which direction to travel. When you are in the wilderness or backcountry, you have to know how to adjust a compass to get a true reading.

Pathfinder

#2: When you are using a compass you need to know there are two types of North Pole. They are True North and Magnetic North. The earth is surrounded by a magnetic field. This affects how a compass is read.

The difference between the true north geographic pole and the north magnetic pole is called *magnetic declination* or usually just declination. It is important when you are using a compass and map to declinate the compass to get accurate readings.

To declinate your compass you must either twist an outside ring or twist a screw that changes where the orienting arrow sits in relation to the ring.

When I adjust the compass to match the declination on the map, the orienting arrow seems to be off center from North. This isn't a mistake.

Next you have to put the needle inside the orienting arrow. When you do this the north indicated at the index pointer is true north. This now matches the north on your compass.

Narrator: As Christians, we have equipment that is much the same as the compass and maps that Pathfinders use. Jesus and our relationship with Him is our True North. Our map is our life and the choices that we make every day. The compass of our lives is the Bible.

The directions on our compass include:

North – Spiritual life and church involvement

East – School

South – Home

West – Community

Pathfinder

#1: Magnetic North draws the needle of the compass to it. If you follow Magnetic North, rather than True North when you are hiking, you will not end up at your chosen destination. In fact, you will get lost and could even be in danger.

The devil and sin are the Magnetic North in our lives. This often makes it difficult for us to find the True North or Jesus. We must have the means to provide declination in our lives. We can do this with a combination of daily prayer, Bible study and witnessing to others.

Pathfinder

#2: When you are using a compass out in the wilderness, it is important to stop about every 100 yards or so to take a new reading and make sure you are still on the right path. The pull of Magnetic North isn't very obvious and it is easy to become disoriented without reconnecting with True North.

The devil doesn't care if we get off track just a little bit in our lives. In fact, many times he prefers that because it's not as noticeable.

Narrator: **So how is the compass and map in your life? Are you daily seeking True North and declinating with prayer, Bible study and witnessing? Or is Magnetic North distracting you and pulling you ever so slightly off the path that leads to heaven?**

Lesson Study Time

Choose from these options for the lesson study time or create your own option.

- Divide into the normal adult and youth classes that regularly meet during Sabbath School. If you choose to do this, be sure to notify the teachers far enough in advance that their class time may be shortened.
- Present either the junior or earliteen Sabbath School lesson to a combined group of youth and adults.
- Present portions of things that Pathfinders have learned in their AY class work from the Spiritual Discovery section.

Friend Class: Choose one of the following Old Testament characters – Joseph, Jonah, Esther or Ruth. Role-play their story. Discuss the following thought questions:

1. Describe some of the emotions these Bible characters may have felt as they went through each experience.
2. What are the difficult parts of this story?
3. Why do you think God allowed this event to take place?
4. If you were sharing this story with a non-Christian friend, how would you describe the difference it has made in your life?

Companion

Class: Role-play a scene from the childhood of Jesus. Discuss the following thought questions:

1. How do you think other children treated Jesus?
2. What in this story that helps us understand Jesus better?
3. Explore some of the thoughts Jesus might have had as a child.

Explorer Class: Choose a person of the New Testament church in the book of Acts. Role-play his or her contribution to the founding of the new faith movement called Christianity. Discuss the following thought questions:

1. What difference did this individual make during the early days of Christianity?
2. Why do you think God allowed this person to experience what he or she did? How did it strengthen the person's faith in God?

Ranger Class: Role-play a person from the Middle Ages or Reformation period who affected church history. Discuss the following thought questions:

1. What role did this person have in helping others see Jesus in a new way?
2. How did this person risk everything to follow Jesus?

Voyager Class: Describe the ministry and mission of J.N. Andrews and why it was important at that time in history. Think of this in terms of the gospel commission that Jesus gave in Matthew 28:18-20. Discuss how fulfilling the gospel commission today is the same and different from the time of J.N. Andrews.

Guide Class: Choose an experience that will take place during the closing moments of earth's history. Role-play this scene. Discuss the following thought questions:

1. How did this scene reveal the need to be preparing now for the second coming of Jesus?
2. What gives you peace when you think about the world going through those final days before Jesus comes again?
3. Who will you tell this week about the second coming of Jesus?

Closing Song

He is Our Song #146 "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"
Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal #537 "He Leadeth Me"

Pathfinder Sabbath Church Service

This Pathfinder Jubilee Celebration Worship Service is designed to focus on the history and ministry of Pathfinders and the important role it plays in the life of the youth who are active members.

You will notice that the order of service is different than the typical worship service. The intent is to use different parts of the service to highlight the history of Pathfinder ministry.

Please note that you will need to decide when to take up the offering. If you have secured the vote of the church board that any unmarked offerings will be used for the local Pathfinder Club, it is recommended that the offering be taken at the end of the service. An appeal is included for this.

If the unmarked offerings will be used for the project designated by the local conference/ union, it should be taken at the beginning of the service during the welcome period. Use the written appeal that has been provided to the church by the local conference office.

Welcome

Welcome the congregation to the celebration of 60 years of Pathfinder ministry. Welcome any special guests and mention any positions they may hold in the Pathfinder organization.

Note that the order of service will be different than usual. Tell how the service will highlight important milestones of the worldwide Pathfinder program, as well as touching on the local club's history and ministry in your church family.

If there is a fellowship dinner following the worship service, invite everyone, especially guests, to attend.

If everyone is invited to attend the other weekend events, use this time to invite them.

Processional

Invite the congregation to stand for the processional and to remain standing until after the opening prayer.

Color guard and Pathfinders will march in to "Onward Christian Soldiers." The order of processional should be color guard, Pathfinders, teen leaders, Pathfinder staff and platform personnel.

Once everyone is in their respective places, give the command "Present Arms" for the Pledge of Allegiance: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands; one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all."

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, give the command “order arms.”

Following the command “Order Arms,” give the command for the Color Guard to post the colors.

Following the posting of the colors, announce the opening song, “Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus,” #618 in *The Seventh-day Adventist Church Hymnal*.

Following the opening song, announce the opening prayer. Give the commands “attention,” “parade rest” and “prayer attention” for the Pathfinders.

Opening Prayer

Following the opening prayer, ask everyone to be seated.

Narrator 1: Each of us celebrates milestones in our lives – birthdays, graduations, anniversaries, baptisms and other major life events. Telling the history of the event and what it means to those involved is a vital component of the celebration. Understanding our history provides a framework to connect the past with the future. Without this connection, future generations will fail to understand the proud heritage they carry forth and the foundations the pioneers have laid for them. During this year, Pathfinders around the world are celebrating 60 years of Pathfinder heritage and ministry. During the next few minutes we will reconnect with Pathfinder history and hear how God led in the building of a youth movement that circles the globe.

Narrator 2: Following World War II, veterans who had served in Europe and the Pacific began to return home. This was a watershed moment for the world; life would never again be as it was before the war.

The life of Desmond Doss was one that was forever changed during the war in the Pacific. Because of God’s leading and the training Doss received in a club in his home church as a boy, he became a national hero. The preparation trained Desmond Doss to be a servant of God and a friend to man even when he was ridiculed by fellow soldiers and later under enemy fire on a lonely cliff in a country far from his homeland.

Colonel Doss, would you please tell us a little of your amazing story?

Desmond

Doss: I was raised a Seventh-day Adventist and as a young boy, I made my decision to follow God no matter what the cost. I didn't know that one day this choice would lead me to saving the lives of 75 men in Japan.

As a young boy, I was a part of the Junior Missionary Volunteer Club at our church. We learned many useful things, including how to tie different kinds of knots. I practiced these knots over and over to make sure I knew how to tie them easily.

As I grew older, there were many troubles in the world. Eventually a war broke out that involved the entire world. Men were fighting in Europe trying to keep freedom alive.

One day the United States was attacked by Japan. Soon soldiers were being sent to many places in the Pacific to fight for freedom there, too. I wanted to serve both my country and my God, so I decided that I would serve as a medic in the army, but I would not carry a gun. Although many of the other soldiers made fun of me, I still prayed and read my Bible every day. And I treated them when they were hurt or sick.

Narrator 2: Tell us about what happened to you when you were in Okinawa.

Desmond

Doss: One day our group of soldiers was told that we had to take control of the Maeda Escarpment. We weren't expecting the enemy to fight as hard as they did. Many of the men were trapped and wounded. There was only one way off the ledge. I was going to have to lower each of them to safety.

I remembered the knots I had learned as a boy and knew that I could safely use them. All that practice had paid off! I quickly tied a double bowline to use on each man.

Narrator 2: Can you demonstrate for us how you did this?

Desmond

Doss: *(At this point Doss should tie the double bowline and demonstrate its use on another Pathfinder. Be sure to practice this ahead of time so it can be done quickly and correctly.)*

Narrator 2: Tell us what happened after you tied the rope.

Desmond

Doss: The enemy was doing everything they could to prevent us from escaping. As the gunfire increased and the bullets whizzed past me, I kept praying to God, “Let me get one more man down.” For twelve hours I lowered man after man down the 400-foot Maeda Escarpment. God answered my prayer and allowed me to get every man down to safety.

Narrator 1: Desmond Doss was honored for his exceptional service and bravery by the country he chose to serve, in spite of the ridicule he received for taking a stand for his convictions. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, a Bronze Star and three Purple Hearts. The training he received in a youth group was the difference between life and death for 75 men.

How did the training Desmond received as a boy become a ministry for young people in the Seventh-day Adventist Church? There were adults who loved young people and wanted to help them develop a living and growing relationship with Jesus.

Today, we honor those early leaders who had the vision of providing mission and ministry to young people with whom they worked. Their leadership and foresight has touched the lives of hundreds of thousands of youth. From the ranks of Pathfinders have come missionaries, evangelists, teachers and doctors as well as firefighters and police officers, civil servants and church leaders. The list could go on. The impact of the lives of each Pathfinder who has accepted the challenge to show Jesus to the world through whatever gifts God has given them has made a difference.

From the early beginnings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, reaching out to and involving young people has been an important component of ministry. Many of the early church founders were youth and young adults.

Let’s journey back to 1879. I’d like you to meet 14-year-old Luther Warren.

Luther

Warren: My friends and I believed that Jesus was coming soon. We were eager to share this good news with other people, but we also wanted to grow spiritually in our lives and be prepared to go to heaven with Jesus. We decided to form a youth society that would meet the spiritual needs of young Adventists. This was the first organized effort in the Adventist church that was designed to specifically reach young people.

Narrator 1: By 1901, these early efforts were officially recognized by the General Conference.

Flora

Plummer: My name is Flora Plummer. As the director of the Sabbath School Department for the world church, I was responsible for finding activities that encouraged junior and teen-aged youth to become involved in service and to build their relationship with Jesus. During the next four years, many churches around the world began to establish Missionary Volunteer Societies. These eventually provided activities for both senior and junior youth.

By 1907, these youth societies were so popular that the General Conference formally established the Young People's Department. During the next year the official name of Seventh-day Adventist Missionary Volunteers was adopted.

Narrator 1: Other pioneers led out in the work of training young people in service, citizenship and spiritual growth. Milton Kern was the first director of the newly formed Young People's Department at the General Conference. Kern, along with his assistant Matilda Erickson, developed materials such as the "Morning Watch" devotional plan, a "Junior Bible Reading Course" and the "Standard of Attainment." Although they have different names today, these early materials continue to be a part of the Pathfinder curriculum. Another program that has continued since 1907 is Pathfinder Sabbath, which was first called Young People's Day and then Missionary Volunteer Day.

Harriet

Holt: My name is Harriet Holt. My greatest desire with the missionary societies was to instill both spiritual and practical training in the youth. Many small clubs were being formed to provide outdoor activities for the boys in the congregation. I wanted to make sure girls were not left out. My position in the General Conference Youth Department provided me the opportunity to begin having outdoor activities, handicrafts and outreach events for a small group of girls. These activities helped me develop four training classes for the Junior Missionary Volunteer Societies. These classes were named Friend, Companion, Comrade and Master Comrade.

Narrator 2: Camping played an integral role in many of the activities for the Junior Missionary Volunteers. A.W. Spalding was one of the leaders who led numerous summer youth camps. Mr. Spalding, what influence did your work at the summer camps have on Pathfinder Clubs of today?

A.W.

Spalding: During our summer camps, I often told adventure stories of the early Western explorers, including John Fremont. His nickname was "Pathfinder." Soon everyone was calling our camp the "Pathfinder Camp." After that a local Junior Missionary Volunteer Club began using the name. As clubs started to combine the training of the classes developed by Mrs. Holt with camping and other activities, the Pathfinder program began to evolve.

Narrator 2: You also had a part in writing something that is recited by every Pathfinder today.

A.W.

Spalding: That's right. I was working with a group of boys and decided we needed to have a pledge and law for them to live by. Today's Pathfinders say almost the same pledge that I wrote for those boys back in Tennessee.

Narrator 2: *(Call the Pathfinders to attention. Give the command "present arms." Have the Pathfinders recite the Pathfinder Pledge and Law. Give the command "order arms." Give the command "at ease." Give the command "you may be seated.")*

Narrator 1: There were many more pioneers who gave of their time and energy to lead young people to Christ in those early years of the youth movement in the Adventist church. Elder Lester C. Bond dedicated 18 years to the work of Junior Youth Ministry. He worked with A. W. Spalding to develop the first Pathfinder honors, which were called vocational merits. In 1931, Elder Bond also introduced the investiture service, which showcases what Pathfinders learn in their activities and outings.

Other leaders who worked tirelessly for Seventh-day Adventist youth and the development of the Pathfinder program included Elders E. W. Dunbar, Laurence A. Skinner and Theodore E. Lucas.

Elder Walter Kisack was instrumental in organizing the first camping programs for African-American youth. The energy, planning and vision of Elder Leon Davis made his camp programs at Camp Victory Lake in Hyde Park, New York so popular that more campers attended his camps than any other camp in North America.

Narrator 2: By the 1940s, Pathfinder-type clubs were being organized in many churches.

It's already been mentioned that preparing youth for the soon coming of Jesus was on the minds of many of those who worked in youth ministry. The end of World War II brought much happiness, but this was tinged with the uncertainty of what the future held. The Cold War and other world events continued to show that we live in a world where the forces of good and evil are battling for the hearts and minds of every human.

Youth ministry leaders felt an even greater urgency to lead the youth into a deeper and more meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ. One of those leaders was Elder John Hancock.

John

Hancock: When I was asked to become the youth director of the Southeastern California Conference, one of my first assignments was to lead out in the summer youth camp program. At the end of the summer a mother of one of the campers came to me and said she wished camp could continue all year round. When I asked her why, she replied, "When my son returned home from camp he had the light of heaven in his eyes."

This remark made a deep impression on me. I began to look at a program called Trailblazer that had been developed by Henry T. Bergh. It wasn't long before I asked Pastor Stan Jefferson to help me start a club in the Riverside Seventh-day Adventist Church. We named the club Pathfinders and had 15 or so boys and girls who became members.

When we decided a uniform was needed for the club members, I worked on designing a patch that included a triangle, with the three sides representing the spiritual, physical and social development of children. The shield represents faith in Jesus and the sword on top of the shield represents the Word of God.

As other churches heard of what we were doing in Riverside, they also wanted to have clubs in their churches. Lawrence Paulson, who personally organized and led 12 Pathfinder Clubs, worked with me in helping to train leaders for many of the clubs that were started.

Narrator 1: The groundwork for youth clubs had been laid. There was such rapid growth of Pathfinder Clubs that in 1950 the Seventh-day Church world leadership believed it was time to move forward and make this a worldwide program for youth ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. With that vote Laurence Skinner was appointed the first world Pathfinder director. It is that vote for organizing the youth program that we celebrate today. Without the world church accepting the program of Pathfinders there would not be international camporees, Pathfinder Clubs in countries like Romania and Bulgaria, Rwanda and Kenya, Brazil and Argentina, or India and Thailand. There would not be the variety of names that denote Pathfinder Clubs in other languages, such as Esploratori in

Italian, Desbravadores in Portuguese, Conquistadores in Spanish or Adventwacht in Swiss German.

Narrator 2: We've looked at the world history of Pathfinders. Our club is a part of that history too. (At this point the club will provide a brief history on the local church club. This should be no longer than 3-5 minutes. This is a good time to honor long-time Pathfinders, any pioneer Pathfinders, etc. If your club is fairly new, focus on what kind of history you are planning on making and use this time to build support for leadership and Pathfinder-age youth joining the club. No matter the age of your club, be sure to include how you are training young people to be ready for the second coming of Jesus.)

Club Director

or Pastor: Desmond Doss isn't the only one who was able to make the choices that he did because of the training he received. Whether you recognize it or not, many of you may still be growing in your relationship with Jesus because of the influence of a Pathfinder Club or leader in your life.

With 60 years of Pathfinder ministry under our belts and more than two million Pathfinders around the world, has this just been a fun activity for Adventist kids from the ages of 10-15? Or has it made a genuine difference in the lives of our youth?

Two major studies named Valuegenesis 1 and 2 have been completed on behalf of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists. These studies examined the spiritual formation of thousands of Seventh-day Adventist youth.

Our focus today will be on just one small segment of the research. The Pathfinder program is having a very positive effect on its members.

The Valuegenesis studies have shown us that there are very specific parts of the Pathfinder program that make a difference in the lives of our youth who are in Pathfinders. First, there must be an active Pathfinder Club. Second, the leaders must be caring, supportive and compassionate. When these are combined, up to 83 percent of the Pathfinders involved are affected spiritually in a positive way. They are more likely to stay in the church and grow a mature faith. That's what we are

all looking for, isn't it? Pathfinders is a way to minister to youth and keep them from drifting away from their spiritual belief system.

It is very exciting to see a ministry that is having such a positive impact on youth who are being pulled in many different directions. Of course there are areas that can be improved. We can't be content to rest on the 60 years of ministry that have gone before. We must continue to refine and update our Pathfinder ministry.

The aim of Pathfinder ministry is still the same: "The Advent message to all the world in my generation." As we celebrate 60 years of Pathfinder ministry we should also remember that we are 60 years closer to the second coming of Jesus.

The early Pathfinder pioneers were focused on training a generation of youth to be ready for the return of Jesus. As a church today we can be no less focused on preparing the current generation. In some ways it is harder now. There are more distractions, the pace of life is faster and the attention span of the entire world is shorter. The challenge for the church is to find ways to cut through the clutter of society and reach the hearts of the young before they make choices that will lead them away from their personal relationship with Jesus.

As you contemplate this, I would encourage you to examine what your role in Pathfinder ministry or other youth ministry should be. Can give of time and talents to mentor the youth? Perhaps financial support is a better match for you. That part of ministry is just as important. Providing Pathfinder programming does require financial support. Whatever you choose to give, God will use it to continue the good work He started.

OPTIONAL: It is time to collect the tithes and offerings. Today, any unmarked and loose offering will be used to further extend the work of the Pathfinder program here in our local church and community.

(Ask the Pathfinders designated to collect the offering to stand. Offer prayer for the offering and have the Pathfinders collect the offering. Someone should be waiting at the back of the church to take the offering from the Pathfinders so they can quickly return to their seats.)

NOTE: While the offering is being collected have a Pathfinder/Pathfinders perform special music.

Narrator 2: A Pathfinder meeting would not be complete without singing “The Pathfinder Song.” Elder Henry T. Bergh composed this song in 1949. It has carried the message of the mission of Pathfinders to communities, churches and clubs around the world. Being God’s servants by telling our friends and neighbors of the second coming of Jesus is still the message of Pathfinders today.

Will you please stand with the Pathfinders as we sing “The Pathfinder Song” as our closing hymn? Please remain standing for the benediction and the recessional.

Closing Song:

“The Pathfinder Song”

Benediction

Recessional

Give the command to the color guard to retrieve the colors.

Give the command “attention” to the Pathfinders and staff.

Give the command for the color guard to proceed out of the sanctuary.

Recessional should be color guard, Pathfinders, teen leaders, Pathfinder staff and platform personnel.

Pathfinder Diamond Jubilee Celebration

Short Feature

This short feature is intended to be used if your Pathfinder Club is not having a full-scale Sabbath morning program.

Narrator: Each of us celebrates milestones in our lives – birthdays, graduations, anniversaries, baptisms and other major life events. Sharing the history of the event and what it means to those involved is a vital component of the celebration. Understanding our history provides a framework to connect the past with the future. Without this connection, future generations will fail to understand the proud heritage they carry forth and the foundations the pioneers laid for them. During this year, Pathfinders around the world are celebrating 60 years of Pathfinder heritage and ministry. During the next few minutes, we will reconnect with a Pathfinder of the past and hear how God led in the building of a youth movement that today circles the globe.

Pathfinder

Past: I am the Pathfinder from the past. In 1879, a group of teenage Adventist youth wanted to find ways to help others grow spiritually. Luther Warren and others formed a youth society which focused on the spiritual needs of Adventist youth. This was the first organized effort within the Seventh-day Adventist Church that was designed to specifically reach young people.

Youth societies similar to this one continued to grow in popularity. Although some looked with caution upon programming specifically for youth, the movement grew with the help of many dedicated leaders such as Flora Plummer, Elder Milton Kern, Harriet Holt, A.W. Spalding, Elder Lester C. Bond, Elders E. W. Dunbar, Laurence A. Skinner, Theodore E. Lucas and Walter Kisack.

The Junior Missionary Volunteer Society was the official title used by the General Conference beginning in 1909. It was through one of these Societies that a young man named Desmond Doss learned to tie knots that would help him to save many lives on a battle-ravaged cliff in Japan. Here's Desmond to tell his story in his own words.

Desmond

Doss: As a young boy, I was a part of the Junior Missionary Volunteer Club at our church. We learned many useful things, including how to tie different kinds of knots. I practiced these knots over and over to make sure I knew how to tie them easily.

As I grew older, there were many troubles in the world. Eventually a war broke out that involved the entire world. Men were fighting in Europe trying to keep freedom alive.

One day, the United States was attacked by Japan. Soon, soldiers were being sent to many places in the Pacific to fight for freedom. I wanted to serve both my country and my God, so I decided I would serve as a medic in the army, but I would not carry a gun. Although many of the other soldiers made fun of me, I still prayed and read my Bible every day, and I treated them when they were hurt or sick.

We were sent to Okinawa, Japan. One day we were told that we had to take control of the Maeda Escarpment. We weren't expecting the enemy to fight as hard as they did. Suddenly, most of the men I was with were trapped and wounded. There was only one way off the ledge. I was going to have to lower each of them to safety. If I didn't, everyone would die.

I remembered the knots I had learned as a boy and knew I could safely use them. All that practice had paid off! I quickly tied a double bowline to use on each man.

The enemy was doing everything they could to prevent us from escaping. As the gunfire increased and the bullets whizzed past me, I kept praying to God, "Let me get one more man down." For twelve hours I lowered man after man down the 400-foot Maeda Escarpment. God answered my prayer and allowed me to get every man down to safety.

Pathfinder

Past:

Desmond Doss was honored for his exceptional service and bravery by the country he chose to serve, in spite of the ridicule he received for taking a stand for his convictions. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, a Bronze Star and three Purple Hearts. The training he received in a youth group meant the difference between life and death for 75 men.

By the end of World War II, the Seventh-day Adventist youth movement was growing larger. Many leaders were working together to design a program that would prepare youth spiritually, emotionally and physically. Leaders, who were responsible for the organization of the Pathfinder Clubs, as we know them today, include Elders John Hancock, Henry T. Bergh, Lawrence Paulson and Elder Laurence Skinner.

In 1950 the hard work of many Pathfinder pioneers paid off and the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists officially voted to form the world Pathfinder program.

Pathfinder

Present:

I am the Pathfinder of the present. With two million Pathfinders worldwide, our numbers are growing every year. There are Pathfinder Clubs in countries like Romania and Bulgaria, Rwanda and Kenya, Brazil and Argentina, India and Thailand. Pathfinder Clubs are called a variety of names in other languages, such as Esploratori in Italian, Desbravadores in Portuguese, Conquistadores in Spanish and Adventwacht in Swiss German.

Although we've gone global, the mission of Pathfinders is still the same. Our leaders guide us in a closer relationship with Jesus and help prepare us for His soon coming.

Club Director

or Pastor: With 60 years of Pathfinder ministry under our belts and more than two million Pathfinders around the world, has this just been a fun activity for Adventist kids from the ages of 10-15? Or has it made a genuine difference in the lives of our youth?

Two major studies named Valuegenesis 1 and 2 have been completed on behalf of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists. These studies examined the spiritual formation of thousands of Seventh-day Adventist youth.

Our focus today will be on just one small segment of the research. The Pathfinder program is having a very positive effect on those who are members of clubs.

The Valuegenesis studies have shown us that there are very specific parts of the Pathfinder program that make a difference in the lives of our youth who are in Pathfinders. First, there must be an active Pathfinder Club. Second, the leaders must be caring, supportive and compassionate. When these are combined, up to 83 percent of the Pathfinders involved are affected spiritually in a positive way. They are more likely to stay in the church and grow a mature faith. That's what we are all looking for, isn't it? Pathfinders is a way to minister to youth and keep them from drifting away from their spiritual belief system.

It is very exciting to see a ministry that is having such a positive impact on youth who are being pulled in many different directions. Of course there are areas that can be improved. We can't be content to rest on the 60 years of ministry that have gone before. We must continue to refine and update our Pathfinder ministry.

The aim of Pathfinder ministry is still the same: "The Advent message to all the world in my generation." As we celebrate 60 years of Pathfinder ministry we should also remember that we are 60 years closer to the second coming of Jesus.

The early Pathfinder pioneers were focused on training a generation of youth to be ready for the return of Jesus. As a church today we can be no less focused on preparing the current generation. In some ways it is harder now. There are

more distractions, the pace of life is faster and the attention span of the entire world is shorter. The church must find ways to cut through the clutter of society and reach the hearts of the young before they make choices that will lead them away from their personal relationship with Jesus.

Pathfinder

Future: I am the Pathfinder of the future. What will your contribution be to help boys and girls like me have the opportunity to be a member of a Pathfinder Club? Will you help by teaching and mentoring us? Sometimes the workload for our leaders is heavy. Will you encourage them to meet the ever-changing ways to minister to my generation and those to come? Will you dig deep to financially support the ministry of Pathfinders? Will you pray for each Pathfinder in our church, that we will be ready when Jesus comes?
