



Pathways...

February 2003

Colored Balloons

“Aren’t you being partial and judging people by the clothes they wear? If that’s the case, doesn’t that tell you something about yourself, your partiality and your sense of values?”

James 2:4 The Clear Word Bible

A shabbily dressed boy was intrigued by a balloon vendor. Although he didn’t have any money, he mentally picked out the vendor’s blue balloon as the one he liked best. A few minutes later, a well-dressed boy walked up to the vendor, paid for the blue balloon and began to play with it. A few minutes later, some of his friends appeared and wanted him to play with them. Without a second thought, the rich boy simply let go of the blue balloon and ran off to play with his friends.

Watching the ascending balloon until it became a tiny blue dot in the afternoon sun, the poor boy walked over to the vendor. “Which of these balloons is your cheapest one?” he asked softly.

The vendor, realizing that there was more to the boy’s question than curiosity about balloons, knelt down and replied thoughtfully. “I believe that it’s this gray one right here. In fact”, the man continued as he carefully pulled the gray balloon from the spaghetti-like mound of strings in his hand, “you can have this balloon for free.”

The young boy stared in amazement at the vendor, hesitantly reached out for the balloon, then quickly pulled his hand back as he inquired: “Mister, will this balloon go just as high as that pretty blue one if I let it go?”

“Yes, it will,” assured the vendor, sensing that the boy was still asking about more than a balloon, “You see it isn’t what is on the outside of a balloon that determines how high it will go, but what is on the inside.

--Carolina Conference

Coordinator’s Corral

Get to know the Coordinators

Joe and Patsy White



Joe and Patsy have been coordinators for 28 of the 29 years that they’ve been in Pathfinders. During the time they’ve been in Pathfinders they have had a number of different jobs, such as Craft Director, Counselor, Honor Instructor, Director, Coordinator, and currently Joe is on the North American Division Pathfinder Committee.

On the few weekends that they are not doing something with Pathfinders they help out as leaders in the Junior Sabbath School.

They have two children, a son Patrick and a daughter Millie who is married to Randy.

The hobbies that they enjoy are camping, cooking, and working with computers

Joe says that his specialty is Pathfinder Contests.

When asked, “What do you enjoy most about Pathfinders?” They said definitely the kids.

Outreach Activity Ideas

Dime-a-Day Chapel

By Joedy Melashenko,

Assoc. Speaker/Youth Ministries Director

I'm calling on all young people who want to have a very important part in helping to build a chapel in India, or in another country of the world. That's right – whether you are a primary, junior, or a Pathfinder, you can make a difference in helping bring Jesus to a new un-entered village – a dime-a-day. Read on.

One important group in North America, the “Pathfinder Clubs”, is already making a difference in building up Christ's kingdom on earth. Numerous Pathfinders are saving a dime-a-day for a year (that's \$36.50) to help build chapels in India.

The Quiet Hour has developed a special sash patch that can be worn with pride, for all Pathfinders who participate. All it takes is 225 people to save a dime-a-day for a year and another village chapel can be built. Do the math – 10 cents X 365 days X 225 people=\$8212.50. (This includes: a chapel, two stipend workers, two bicycles, Bibles, audio equipment, and supplies for one year). Did you know that The Quiet Hour has set a goal to build 1000 chapels in India alone during the next few years and that they have already completed 300?

Directors of the Pathfinder Club in National City, California, sent us the following note: “We also want to remind you that once again – this time for the whole year – our Pathfinder Club will be saving ‘Dimes a Day’ for chapels in India, as our *main* mission project. Hopefully next year's total donation will be three or four times what we were able to give this past year.”

God is not simply looking for the “deep pockets” in this world to help spread the gospel, though they are important. He also wants a lot of small pockets sharing . . . then “little becomes much” when placed in the hands of the Lord. Even a dime, when blessed by the Lord, can result in “much fruit” for His kingdom.

Do you want your youngster, or your children's church group, or youth group, or women's study group, or men's prayer group to

adopt an easy “Mission Project”? Why not support the “Dime-a-Day Chapel” project? Just like the grain of mustard seed . . . you plant the small seed and before you know it, it has matured into a bumper crop for His harvest.

For more information on the “Dime-a-Day Chapel” project, please call or email us at The Quiet Hour. That's 909-793-2588 or email charlenew@thequiethour.org.

Safety Tip

Bring emergency supplies. In addition to a first aid kit, this includes: a map, compass, flashlight, knife, waterproof fire starter, personal shelter, whistle, warm clothing, high energy food, water and insect protection. It's also a good idea to know ahead of time the location of the nearest telephone or ranger station in case an emergency does occur.



Camp Cooking

David Hash

This was a recipe that several of the 'Davids' in the club I was in cooked up several years ago. And it's been a staple ever since.

Take 2 bags of frozen tatter tots (let them thaw out a bit) then smash them up while still in the bag. Also smash up one can of Loma Linda Little Links. Fry the tatter tots and Little Links together in a little bit of oil in a large skillet until somewhat crispy and light brown. Serve. Make sure to have ketchup for those who want it.

Optional: Add onions or scramble several eggs in with the potatoes and links. Also the Pathfinders love to experiment with a variety of seasonings, Cajon seasoning being a favorite.

Campfire Cooking – Recipes -

http://www.michcampgrounds.com/cooking_recipes.html

Taste of the Trail

<http://www.geocities.com/Yosemite/Trails/3839/>



Camping 101 – Sleeping Bags

A sleeping bag is one of the most important camping equipment purchases and outdoors person makes, and one that many people purchase at the last minute or on the spur of the moment. Many types of sleeping bags are available. The best bag for you depends on your sleeping habits, the temperature and climate where you camp and whether you'll be carrying the bag on your back or in the trunk of your car.

Sleeping bags come in two basic shapes, mummy and rectangular. The best choice for you depends on your sleeping style and how you intend to use the bag. Most backpackers prefer the mummy-shaped bag. The narrow cut can decrease a bag's weight by up to a half-pound, which is critical to backpackers who measure every ounce. The mummy's smaller size also requires less energy to heat up at night than the larger rectangular bag, which has more air space. Remember a sleeping bag does not warm you, but retains the heat your body generates.

While the rectangular bags end abruptly just above the shoulders, the mummy bags have a hood that can be pulled tight around the sleeper's head.

Sleeping bags come in different sizes. Some bags are made in junior or youth sizes. Most are available in regular and extra-long. Some also come in extra-wide sizes. Backpackers often buy longer sleeping bags for their winter treks because they store so much gear (such as boots, drinking water, flashlight and batteries) in their bag at night. If at all possible try on the sleeping bag at the store. If you can't try it on then measure a bag that you know is the right length for you and compare it to the ones you are considering buying. If you are ordering one from a catalog make sure to give yourself plenty of time for returns in case it's not what you expected.

A sleeping bag acts as an insulator to slow the loss of body warmth. How well a bag insulates depends on its insulating material,

construction, and amount of loft. Choose a temperature rating based on the conditions you plan to camp in most often. A bag's temperature rating indicates the lowest temperature at which a camper would be comfortable. But what is comfortable for one sleeper may not be for another. There is no industry standard for temperature ratings and they vary from manufacturer to manufacturer.

Some things to consider before choosing the right temperature rating for you. Temperature ratings always assume that the bag will be used with a ground pad. Your metabolic rate, levels of fatigue and hunger, and the quality of your tent and ground pad also impact your sleeping comfort. Some people are colder than others when sleeping and might want a warmer, or lower-rated, sleeping bag.

Many traditional camp bags are comfortable to about 40°F. A bag rated to 20°F is considered a versatile three-season bag, usable in New England from early spring to late fall. A bag rated to 0°F is used for cold weather and some winter camping. Bags rated from -15°F to -30°F are suitable for most winter camping conditions.

Sleeping bags are filled with either down or with synthetic fibers. Down is the best natural insulator known. It is light and compressible. It packs small and its loft can be fluffed back with just a couple quick shakes. Down costs more than synthetic fill, and if it becomes wet it loses about 80% of its insulating abilities and takes a long time to dry. Keeping your down bag dry is essential. A well-cared-for down sleeping bag will keep you warm and comfortable through several years of outdoor adventures.

Synthetic fill is made from small fibers that are treated with silicon to help enhance their loft. The fibers also have chambers in them to help trap air. Synthetic-filled bags cost less and are great for people who are allergic to down. They also continue to insulate when wet and dry quickly. However synthetic bags weigh more and have a shorter life span than down bags.

Other things to look for are a zipper draft tube, a draft collar, well-designed baffles and double stitches sewn at stress points.

Hot Tip

If it's really cold at night when you're camping here's a hint to help warm your feet. Fill a Nalgene water bottle with boiling water (use caution not to spill it on your hand) put the cap on tight and make sure it doesn't leak. Put it in a sock to keep from burning your feet and roll it into the bottom of your sleeping bag to get it warm. In the morning you can use it for drinking water since it's already been boiled.

Nature Nugget

Don't Make Nature a Stranger

By Judy Siegel, Nature Studies Teacher

What did your Pathfinders see today? Did they notice the little eggs hidden on the back of a leaf? Did they pause by a tree to look at the new leaves unfurling? How about that glistening web, almost hidden? Could they hear all the activity going on right under their feet as the world is getting ready for spring?

Or did they run to the bus to get out of the rain?

Most of us are impervious to the magic going on all around us. Children grow up fast those days, and often learn that to survive, they need to toughen up. Then the magic of the world is forgotten. But it still exists. The magical sense that children have needs to be strengthened and supported so that it will remain vital.

There are always ways to make the natural world very much alive for a child. Noticing what is around him is the first step. Once he is interested, engaged, then the world opens up. He begins to look at things around him in a different way...If he learns through wonder, he may respect the next spider that he sees and watch it instead of stepping on it.

Here then, are some suggestions for activities parents can share with their children. No special talents or tools are needed.

They can be done in the yard on the block, walking down the street. The only thing necessary is to take the time to stop, look, and listen. A good way to get started is to raise a question that the child will be interested in, like,

"I wonder who lives in that tree?" If you wonder, the child will wonder.

1. Look for creatures and their homes, animal homes, insect homes, bird homes. Who lives in a tree? Turn over a big rock or an old board and see what you find.
2. Choose a tree. Go right up to it. Feel it. How DOES it feel? Look up through the branches. Is anything happening on the branches? Are there buds? Leaves? Any other plant or creature living in it? Does your tree give anything that you can eat or use?
3. Children are pretty good listeners. If they are interested. This is a good time of year to hear the sounds of nature. If you hear a bird, share it with your child. "Listen? Do you hear that?" How many different kinds of bird songs can you hear in a minute? (The kind of bird doesn't matter the discovery of the sound is enough.)
4. Children are fascinated by insects. They are easy to find and fun to watch. They have no fear of insects until they see someone else, usually an adult, show fear. So, if you are afraid of spiders, make an effort not to pass it on? Give your child a chance to discover the wonders of the insect world. Insects are master carpenters, weavers, tricksters, imitators and organizers! Watch some ants for a while. Follow a beetle. Look at a spider web. How do they do it? Look under logs, bricks, boards. Dig up some soil. Does anybody live there? (Remind the children to put the soil back and not to harm any insect they may find.)
5. Get some good picture books from the library on insects, flowers, birds, and trees. Have these on hand after a discovery out of doors. Don't make nature a stranger!

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