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Posted: 20 Apr 2011 09:00 PM PDT
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Luis Alberto Pérez, from San Cristobal, in the highlands of Chiapas, is member of the Sirio Pathfinder club. Luis comes from a very needy family, and still wanted to participate in the Inter-American Division Pathfinders Camporee.

Inter-America: Pathfinders challenged to see Jesus with new eyes
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Inter-America’s 3rd Pathfinder Camporee saw thousands of Adventist young people participating in dozens of activities after settling into their designated campgrounds for the next few days at Ciudad Deportiva in Mexico City.
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April 21, 2011

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April 21, 2011 - Mexico City, Mexico...Fabiola Quinto

For months now, hundreds of pathfinders have practiced diverse march routines in their clubs to compete against other clubs during march competitions at the 3rd Inter-American Division's Pathfinder Campore, which began yesterday. The two categories of marches being judged were the school and the military.

Stress and concern were evident on the participating pathfinders' faces. One of the first clubs to participate was the Gideon Club from Cancun in South Mexico. Their routine featured colorful batons and was led by Genesis Herrera, a traveler-class Pathfinder.

"We practiced every day for two months to come out with a perfect routine," said Herrera. "I was very confident because I knew the routine and knew we would perform very well, thank God for that."

By her side is Karla Ramirez, a young girl who participated with her club called Gerisim from Minatitlan, Veracruz, from the Inter-Oceanic Union. "We practiced for three months. Now I am more relaxed, under less stress," she said.

Priscila Terrealba, a pathfinder in the guide class, was the leader of 22 pathfinders who practiced every Sunday for two months. "We came from three different towns: Acarigua, Ganaré and Barinas. We made one single group to represent the Los Llanos Venezuela Antilles Union," she commented.

Terrealba was chosen for her voice projection and discipline in the marches, and the instructor selected the 22 pathfinders who marched the best.

Pamela Sandoval from guide class of the Stay'psi Club from Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, North Mexican Union, said that they began intense practice one-and-a-half months ago every Sunday. Her group was among the top 12 selected in her region.

Araceli Moreno, director of the Mahanaim Club, Guanajuato, Central Mexican Union, said that her 12-member group voted and adopted the routine they liked most.

After their routine, the Areoles from the Valle Mission in Mexico, felt so much relief that they broke down in tears. Jonathan García, a member of the group, commented that they practiced for over two months and that they were nervous. "Now we feel more at ease to continue with the rest of the events," he said.

"Finally we are done with this very difficult event," said Abraham Lopez, a member of the Itiel Club from Jalpa de Mendez, Tabasco. Central Tabasco Conference. Southern Union.
Pathfinders from the Pleyades Club in Merida, Yucatan in South Mexico. They were among the more than 6,600 gathered at the largest campground at camporee.

Then, Perez had an idea. He would buy some souvenirs and resell them later. In Veracruz, one of the stops his bus made on the way, Luis bought a bag of nice seashells and a Sharpie pen. Carefully, he wrote on the shells the words Chiapas, Mexico, and upon arriving to the campground, Luis began to sell his shells. Now Perez is happy as he has enough money to spend and enjoy the camporee.

This is the spirit of the South Mexico Pathfinders—the largest delegation participating in the camporee with 6,613 pathfinders from 198 clubs representing 10 conferences and missions. The union's territory includes five states in the southeastern region of the country.

Within this delegation, the largest group comes from Central Chiapas, which numbers 1,097.

Pastor Jeremías Morales, youth ministries director for the church in South Mexico, explains this number.

"This is the result of a strategy the field is carrying out," says Morales. "They challenged each club to help create a new club. The strategy is working not only with Pathfinders, but with all youth organizations in the field."

"One of the things the kids have liked the most," says Ursula Sors, who assists the youth ministries director, "is the musical drama about David, which has been highly appreciated."

Pathfinders from Mérida, Yucatán, have liked the team spirit each club is showing and the unity and friendship among Pathfinders, even from other countries.

Brandon Morales, from the Cosmos Pathfinder Club in Pichucalco, Chiapas, says he has great regard for the preaching of Pastor Jose Rojas.

"I have also liked the cool weather here; my home town is so hot," exclaims Abdiel Hernández, from the same club. There have been challenges, though.

"To bathe has been a giant," says Carlos Lozano, from Mérida, Yucatán. "The water is so cold that you actually experience pain when it falls on you."

The Pathfinder delegation from South Mexico brings high expectations to the camporee. Two competitions on which they foresee good results are drills and the Bible bowl.

"Our youth leaders are convinced that the Pathfinders club is a redeeming organization, which means that the club's activities deserve our 100 percent commitment," says Morales. "Our motto is, 'the least required from us is excellence.'"
Pastor Jose Rojas challenged thousands of pathfinders to fix their eyes on Jesus during Apr. 20 evening program at Ciudad Deportiva.

"God brought you here to shake you and plant a seed in you so that you can fight the giants in this world," said Rojas. "God tells us that we too can face and conquer the giants in their lives."

It's part of surrendering and showing God your allegiance by resisting the devil, obeying and serving Him.

"If you give your life to Christ, you will be able to do things that you thought you couldn't do," added Rojas as he challenged the young generation to see Jesus with new eyes.

"You are a generation which we have never seen," he emphasized. "You have talent, you are the fulfillment of prophecy, an army of God who will finish the work by preaching Christ crucified, Christ resurrected and Christ's soon coming."

"Let God free you from the giants out there. Have Jesus in your life and He will lead you like never before. Fix your eyes on Jesus," Rojas concluded.

It was that core message of capturing the special vision of serving God that resounded throughout the day's activities and evening program.

Enrique Ramos from Iguala, Guerrero of the Inter-Oceanic Mexican Union, said he enjoyed the message of the night and wants to work harder at trusting God more.

"I know that we have to depend on God in order to be better and conquer any giant," said Ramos. "He gives us the strength to learn to face our fears."

For Ramos, age 15, his giant this week was facing his club's march competition. He and his 22 fellow club members called Club Osos are hopeful to be selected for the second round of march competitions by Friday.

Episode two of the musical drama presentation illustrated David as a shepherd boy leading up to being anointed with oil by the Prophet Samuel.