Satan’s Hurdles vs. God’s Heroes
by Laurel Gaudin, Pathfinder Drill Instructor

When planning for a camp out, an experienced Pathfinder leader, or team of leaders, knows that there is bound to be a glitch or two along the way, but as Pathfinders we are trained to be as prepared as possible and take obstacles in stride. Sometimes, though, even as a Pathfinder leader, we need a boost from others to clear the hurdle. I think needing that help, and having it offered, gives us all a sense of our value to a person or an organization. Let’s face it—we all need and appreciate being reminded that someone cares.

Friday, September 13, was beautifully sunny, and that morning eighteen kids were packing last minute items in their bags and preparing to head for the Michigan Pathfinder Camporee at Camp Au Sable in Grayling, MI. In addition to the kids, there were five staff members, a parent, a bus driver, a cook and three staff kids that would be going. Our plan was for the bus to go up with thirteen of the kids, Director Janessa Howell, Deputy Director April Hughes, our parental chaperon, Linda Murphy, and of course the bus driver, Dean Snow, at 9 a.m. At 2:35 p.m., I planned to pick up the first of three high school students, and by 3:15 p.m. be on our way north. Later a fourth staff member, Joni McGrath, would pick up the remaining two Pathfinders whose parents didn’t want them to miss a full day of school and bring them as well as her mother, Arlene Hughes, who was coming up to help with the cooking and one of the staff kids. Alex Prouty would also be coming up later with his two staff kids. (Yes, he has four kids, but the other two are Pathfinders.) Sounds like a good plan doesn’t it? Well, a plan is about as far as that one went.

Janessa, April, and I met the kids at the school. We got them organized with their gear packed on the bus and in the trailer, while Dean got the bus ready to go. Our first hurdle came when Dean hooked the wiring harness from our trailer, which was carrying all of our kitchen and camping gear, to the bus and realized that the clearance lights were not working. Also, we didn’t have a pin to hold the trailer hitch in the mount on the bus. Dean, being a conscientious man, refused to pull the trailer without all the lights working. That turned out to be a huge blessing in itself! We spent about 45 minutes trying to figure out what to do. We even called three of our former staff members, who had taken care of all the bus and trailer issues for us in the past but have since moved away. We found out from them that the bus was no longer equipped to haul the trailer because they had run into the wiring issues in the past as well, so they had begun using one of the staff member’s trucks to haul the trailer. Unfortunately those staff members had all moved away and none of our current staff own trucks that could haul the trailer. We started praying and brainstorming. I have to say we came up with some good ideas showing that we were really thinking outside of the box. But going back to needing others’ help to know we are appreciated and cared for, God sent some heroes for us.

Continued on page 3
If You Hadn’t Told Me
by Judy Crowe

If you hadn’t told me
About a man who died for me,
How He walked the road to Calvary,
Then where, in the world, would I be?

If you hadn’t showed me
The words that He spoke to me,
The love that came so easily,
Then where, in the world, would I be?

If you hadn’t loved me
Enough to witness to me,
How Jesus died to set me free,
Then where, in the world, would I be?

If you hadn’t told me
How His blood was shed for me,
How from sin, I am set free,
Then where, in the world, would I be?

-A big thank you to our Pastors, Darrel le Roux and Bill Dudgeon!

Blessed Poverty
Matthew 5:3

“... For theirs is the kingdom of heaven” is not the goal, but rather a lifestyle of poverty itself. This kind of poverty is not poor in order to become rich, but is poor because of its extreme value: total dependence of all existence. You see, there is a poverty that is content at being poor, as it still survives and accepts its lot, but this is not that kind of blessed poverty.

The most blessed kind of poverty is the kind that is so poor that it threatens your total existence—when one is so poor that without intervention or help, you will die. This poverty is blessed because it has a spirit that has no self-sufficiency but forced to total dependency. In the USA, this total-dependent poverty is a scarce experience, especially with the increase of iniquity and a ‘cooling-off’ of love. This poor in spirit has no self-reliance. This blessed poverty is so God-reliant, not just for life itself, but also on living that life now, and in the kingdom of heaven to come. This kind of ‘totally-poor-in-spirit’ can be trusted with the most valuable heavenly riches, which is why it’s theirs. Practice this poverty of spirit now and be entrusted with heaven itself.

Blessed Blessings,
Pastor Darrel

Sabbath School Lessons

The Sanctuary is a great topic for this quarter, and we don’t want anyone left out. We have mentioned, in the bulletins and up front, that we have cut our lesson book orders, as many people are using smart phones or the Internet to read, write and meditate on the weekly lesson study. The website for the lessons is www.ssnet.org.

You can download the free “Sabbath School” app on your phone or iPad also. If you do not have access to the website or a smart hone and need, or prefer, a book and have not received one, please contact the church office for one. We trust that you will be blessed with the lessons this quarter.
Continued from page 1

**Hero number 1** was NAS Principal, **Michael Jakobsons**. I’m told that he notices everything, and he saw that we were still there long past 9 a.m. I think the kids marching and playing Simon Says in the parking lot may have given him that clue. He called **hero number 2**, **Roy Kingman**, whose diesel mechanic does all the maintenance on the bus. Roy was in California at the time, so he called **hero number 3**, his mobile diesel mechanic, who came right away and was able to get the wiring working so that the clearance lights worked while Janessa and I went to Lowe’s and purchased a pin for the trailer hitch. We cleared hurdle number 1. Dean hooked the trailer up to the bus. It looked like it was riding a little low, but we all kind of dismissed it for the moment as he pulled the bus out into the school parking lot.

**Hurdle number 2** was discovered when Dean and the mechanic took a closer look at the trailer hitch and realized that the part of the bus it was mounted on was coming off the bus! It was their assessment that it wouldn’t hold the trailer even for driving across town. This hurdle looked even bigger to us than the first one. We have so much stuff that we take for camp outs with the group that there was no way we could fit it all in the bus and still have room for the kids to ride. We needed some other way to haul the trailer, so we were back to praying and developing other ideas for hauling the trailer. About this time **hero number 4** showed up.

**Pastor Darrel le Roux** was driving by and noticed the Kingman mobile mechanic unit in the school parking lot. He was afraid that there was a serious mechanical issue preventing the bus from making the trip, so he stopped to see if he could help us get alternate transportation for the kids to Au Sable. We filled him in on the story while our mechanic made a few phone calls. The mechanic told us that there was a Kingman box truck that we could use—all we had to do was go get it. In this case clearing hurdle number 2 became **hurdle number 3**.

Of the three of us present and available to go up as early as possible, I was the only one with experience and confidence in driving larger vehicles. The reason this was a hurdle was that I had injured my back earlier that week and was planning to stay in a motel Friday night and return home Sabbath afternoon/evening, and that would leave the truck stranded in Grayling. Budgets being what they are, I was not able to stay a second night. Janessa became **hero number 5** when she agreed that Pathfinders would help me with the second night. Pastor Darrel immediately took me to Mishawaka to pick up the truck, and the Pathfinders started unloading anything we would take with us from the trailer and putting it out to be loaded in the truck.

When we got to the yard, we found that the truck was not yet available. Pastor Darrel spoke with the men in the shop and arranged for us to pick it up at 1 p.m. While we were waiting, Pastor Darrel rearranged his afternoon schedule and continued making phone calls to find an alternate plan to get our trailer to camp. His persistence to make sure we got there overwhelmed me, and it was all I could do to keep from crying. At this point it was 12:30, and Pastor Darrel took me to run a few errands and made sure that I got something to eat. With my mind on other things, if he hadn’t done that for me, it would have been much later before I ate anything.

We headed back to the yard and found the truck ready for us. As I drove into Niles, I found out that the bus left just before we got to the school at 2 p.m. For the adults who were with the kids, this presented **hurdle number 4**. We had told the kids to bring sack lunches and were planning to feed them supper at camp, but they wouldn’t even arrive at camp until around 7 p.m. To set up the kitchen and fix supper then would have the kids eating around 8:30 p.m., if they were lucky. So while they were unloading the trailer, Linda became **hero number 6** when she suggested that they get the kids pizza on the way up and have them save their sack lunches for supper later on. The plan worked brilliantly!

When we arrived at the school, we met **hero number 7**, April, who was just leaving. She was going to pick up the kids I was supposed to bring up to camp. I had some errands that I had to run before I could leave, so Pastor Darrel and Alex (**hero number 8**) loaded all of the gear into the back of the truck, and when I arrived an hour later, Pastor Darrel was tying off the last rope to secure my load. I put my stuff in the cab and left the school at 3 p.m.

I had to make one stop before I hit the road. I went to my grandmother, **Dorothy Metzger**’s, house for an ice pack, and my mom’s lawn chair that would support my back better than our camp chairs. Grandma has always been a personal hero of mine, and she became **hero number 9**. Shortly before stopping by, I told her over the phone a very short version of the hurdles we were facing. After giving me the things I was after and fussing over me to be sure I was taking care of my back the way that grandmas do, she told me something that nearly put me in tears again! She doesn’t usually pray specifically for Pathfinders, but that morning she felt impressed to pray for us long before she even knew how desperately we needed prayer! I gave her a hug, told her how much I appreciated it and left.
**Hurdle number 5** came when someone driving behind the bus saw that the bar for the trailer hitch on the bus was dragging on the ground. Dean and Janessa were aware of it but thought it would make it to the next rest area where they could take care of it without pulling a busload of kids to the side of the freeway. The driver was concerned that it would fall off so, seeing the name on the side of the bus, she called the church. This is where **hero number 10** comes in! Gina Meekma happened to be at the church. She is often at the church on Fridays, preparing the little details for the Sabbath services, but it really was a miracle that she was still there. She had just come in from getting the mail and was getting ready to leave when she heard a message about the bus being left on the answering machine. She wasn’t sure how to contact the bus driver, so she called **hero number 11**, Dean’s son Rodrick Snow, who contacted Janessa on the bus since he knew that his dad wouldn’t answer the phone while driving. Dean then pulled the bus over and removed the dragging bar from the back of the bus.

April hit **hurdle number 6** when she was delayed for 45 minutes in Grand Rapids traffic. The Lord had blessed, and I was just a little ahead of the traffic back-up with the remaining gear our club would need. Janessa discovered **hurdle number 7** when she got to camp and was the only staff member there. Dean and Linda were very helpful, but they were not as well versed in our club’s routine for pitching camp as this was their first camp out with us. Fortunately, another hero rose up from within our club! Corina Irwin was **hero number 12**! As one of our Teen Leaders in Training (TLT), Corina stepped up and assisted Janessa in organizing the Pathfinders and directing them in the process of setting up camp.

When I got to Grayling, I checked into my motel and then headed over to the camp. I arrived at camp and **hero number 13**, Dan Johnson, met me at the gate with a sympathetic smile and a great big hug. He was one of the people that Pastor Darrel had called in trying to find a way to haul our trailer. Dan had also given Janessa a hug when the bus had arrived earlier. Yes, you can be a hero just by giving someone a hug when they need it.

I arrived at camp a little before 8 p.m. It was beginning to get dark. All but two of the tents had been set up, and the kids were beginning to put the canopy together. **Hurdle number 8** was that we couldn’t find the poles for one of the remaining Pathfinder tents, but fortunately a previously mentioned hero, Linda, let us use the tent she had brought along. I started helping the kids who were trying to start the fire because some of them were new to our club and haven’t yet practiced starting a fire. Their techniques had me concerned for their safety so I began directing them. At this point, **hero number 14**, Dean (who could also be considered hero number 1 for not being willing to haul the trailer without the clearance lights), started instructing them as well. Seeing the kids had excellent supervision from him, I went to help with the tents.

About an hour later the rest of our group arrived. The staff pitched in as usual but **heroes number 15 and 16** jumped up too. Nathan Horvath and Brandon Hughes are also TLTs who had come up with April, and they went right to work. Not only did they start working, but they got other Pathfinders to work with them. Nathan’s natural enthusiasm and energy even helped to perk up some of the more tired Pathfinders and got them involved in finishing camp pitch. When all the staff was finally at camp, Janessa went up to the evening meeting because a director’s meeting with instructions for the weekend always follows the Friday evening meeting. She told me that when she walked into the pavilion, the speaker, Dr. Atkins, (**hero number 17**), was talking about how when we follow Christ and choose to serve Him, the devil puts a big target on our backs and hurls discouragements our way. She said it was just what she needed to hear. What a wonderful reminder, that God has each of us in this club for a reason, to serve Him.

Later at the director’s meeting, a director from another club, **hero number 18**, asked if they needed to go back and get anyone. They had seen our bus on the side of the road earlier and didn’t stop because they didn’t have room for any more passengers, but they were happy to go back and pick that club up if they were still stranded. What servant hearts they exhibited! Janessa immediately piped up and told them, “Thank you, but we made it here.”

I know this is a long story, and I appreciate you sticking with it this far, but bear with me for one more paragraph. We all face obstacles and though it’s not usually the way we expect it, God always provides a way to clear the hurdle. Having a hero come in and give you a boost doesn’t make you any less capable. If we can see it for what it truly is, it’s a way of God telling us how important we are to Him and those around us. It takes hurdles to find heroes, treasure them both. And were you counting? Did you notice that our heroes outnumbered our hurdles more than 2 - 1? God is so amazing! Thank you again for reading our long story. It’s a story that needed to be told in full, and I cried while I was writing it. When I dwell on how amazing God is, and look at the details He orchestrates to fulfill His purpose in my life and the Pathfinder ministry, I can’t help but be overwhelmed to tears by His goodness. Thank you all for your support and prayers for our Pathfinder Club. You are appreciated more than you will ever know!
Meet Our New Members

Acosta Family
by Lou & Isabel Acosta with Gina Meekma

In August 2010, Lou, Isabel, Bidkar (18 yrs old), and Keren (11 yrs old) Acosta moved to Berrien Springs from Colorado, where they had lived for eleven years. Before that, they lived in Silver Spring, Maryland. They now live in Niles. For the first two and a half years, Lou commuted a lot between here and Colorado.

Walt Williams told the Acostas that Niles Adventist School is the best school around. They came to visit and joined a cleaning bee at the school. Keren loved the school immediately. After she picked NAS as her future school, they decided as a family to join Niles Westside and became members in November 2011.

At Niles Westside, Lou is the Personal Ministries Leader, Stewardship Leader, Lay Advisory Representative, and a Deacon. He also put in a lot of time this summer helping with the addition at the school, for which NAS is very thankful! Isabel is the Spanish Sabbath School Teacher, Associate Director of the Adventurers Club, Personal Ministries Assistant, Stewardship Ministries Assistant, and a Greeter.

A CPA, Lou is a student in the Seminary at Andrews University. Isabel is also a CPA as well as a Book Seller. Their son, Bidkar, is a college student near Detroit, MI, and their daughter Keren is in sixth grade at NAS.

Isabel and Lou met at Montemorelos University in Mexico in 1990. They will have been married twenty years this coming January. Each family member likes to read. Lou particularly enjoys carpentry, leather crafts, painting, basketball, and attempting calligraphy. Isabel’s favorite activities include cross stitch and sewing Barbie dresses. Keren likes writing poetry, exploring nature, and playing with Xochitl and Kalote (their two puppies). She is learning to whittle wood. The Acostas are currently working on a tree house for Keren, and a second dog house for the puppies.

Welcome to the Niles Westside Church family, Acostas!

Adventurers Flying Through the Year!
by Tami le Roux, Director

Adventurer families are in the process of completing their Build and Fly award. They have learned some about flight, made paper airplanes, gliders, and kites - and had a lot of fun flying them!

We have also worked on some of our class work - with games and extra fun things in that time too. Our homework for the different classes is encouraging family worship time and the child’s own personal devotional time. Please pray for our Adventurer families as they work to strengthen their devotion time through this year.

There are a few awards we are looking to work on as we take a trip to Fernwood on Sabbath afternoon, October 12, like the Outdoor Explorer and the Scavenger Hunt with the Eager Beavers. If you have a Fernwood membership and would like to lend it to us for that Sabbath, please let Tami le Roux know, and we will let our Adventurer parents know that it’s available.

The next award we are looking to complete just after Fall Fest will be the Whale award. And speaking of Fall Fest (October 27), the Adventurers will have our Balloon-Dart booth again. Hope to see you there!
A big “Thank you” to all of the CROP Walk sponsors (more than $1,600 raised so far) this year! These funds assist hungry families around the corner and around the world. September 22 was a wonderful day for a walk along the river. Thank you, Niles Westside Walkers: Snow Family, le Roux Family, Prouty Family, Lauretta Mann, Sue Mann, Sue Rose, Stan Smith, Kathy Dockerty, Denise & Joe Kidder, Phyllis Bobelenyi, Anna Kerr, Kathy Herbel, and Regina Mack. You’re helping change the world! CROP Walk funds can still be turned in to Esther Jones at 269-845-5770 or email: ocecesther@gmail.com.

Women’s Ministry is starting a Secret Sister’s Group, and all those ladies who are interested in joining, or just socializing, are invited to attend our kick off meeting on Sunday, October 6, at 4 p.m. It will be held at Barb Harris’ home (3940 Hidden Valley Trail S, Niles). Call Barb to RSVP or if you have questions (517-474-2434). A light tea will be served.

Fellowship Lunch: Sabbath, October 12, after second service, in the school gym. Please bring extra food and join us!

Pasta Fundraiser: The Niles Four Flags Pathfinder Club is selling pasta to help raise money to attend the International Pathfinder Camporee! Feel free to place an order with any Pathfinder or staff member by Wednesday, October 16. There are all kinds of fun pasta shapes, kits with pasta and crackers, and cookies to choose from. There is even a gluten free pasta option! Orders can even be placed online and shipped directly to your home. To purchase online, go to: www.funpastafundraising.com/shop/niles-four-flags-pathfinder-club. Please share this link on your Facebook page or email it to other out of town family and friends too. Orders can be placed online up to a month after October 16. Thank you for supporting your Pathfinder Club today!

Women’s Night Out: Thursday, October 17, at 5:30 at Olive Garden (Mishawaka). Please RSVP to Kathy Dockerty (kadockerty@yahoo.com or 269-782-8567).

Bonfire & Worship Social: Sabbath, October 19, at 5:30 p.m. at the Chapel in the Woods. Bring food for your family, including hot dogs to roast. Hot chocolate and s’mores will be provided.

Congratulations to Jessica & Chris Carlsen on the birth of Tahlia Eden on September 6! She weighed 6 lbs 10 oz, and was 19.5 inches long.
Niles Adventist School
www.nilesadventistschool.org  269-683-5444  Michael Jakobsons, Principal
“Like” us on Facebook!

We bring our children to Jesus to be touched by His love, trained for service, and educated for Heaven.

NAS potluck and worship at Weko Beach on September 6.
Photo Provided by NAS

Western Theme
All are invited to come dressed in your favorite western wear. There will be an obstacle course, hay rides, games and prizes, and food for sale. Tickets can be purchased at the door. If you are interested in helping, please contact Cathy Leonor at 269-357-3132.

NAS Gym
Sunday, October 27, from 4-7 p.m.
Western Theme
All are invited to come dressed in your favorite western wear. There will be an obstacle course, hay rides, games and prizes, and food for sale. Tickets can be purchased at the door. If you are interested in helping, please contact Cathy Leonor at 269-357-3132.

Upcoming NAS Events
Tuesday, October 1 - Gift Card Orders Due
October 6-9 - LIFT at Camp Au Sable
Monday, October 14 - No School - Fall Break
Tuesday, October 15 - Gift Card Orders Due
Tuesday, October 15 - School Board, 7 p.m.
October 21-25 - Achievement Testing
Tuesday, October 22 - Picture Day
Sabbath, October 26 - Music at Niles Westside (Grade 7)
Sunday, October 27 - Fall Festival, 4-7 p.m.
Monday, October 28 - Parent/Teacher Conferences (noon dismissal)
October 28 - November 1 - Week of Spiritual Emphasis

For more pictures, go to www.nilesadventistschool.org, Links.
October Calendar of Events

1. Midweek Manna. ............................ 6 p.m.
2. Pathfinders (gym). .......................... 6:30 p.m.
3. Praise Prayer Meeting (Niles Philadelphia Church). .......................... 7 p.m.
4. Bible Study (Pastor’s Office). ............... 2 p.m.
5. Beyond Books Club. .......................... 3 p.m.
6. Natural Church Development Mtg (Leaders). .......................... 7 p.m.
7. Tom Evans, Speaker. .......................... 8:30 & 11 a.m.
8. Natural Church Development General Mtg. ......... 4 p.m.
9. Sunday Sunup Runners (Plym Park). ........... 8 a.m.
10. Pastor Darrel le Roux, Speaker. ............ 8:30 & 11 a.m.
11. Fellowship Lunch (gym). .......................... after 2nd svc
12. Sunshine Band at Riveridge Manor. ......... 2:30 p.m.
13. Adventurers - Fernwood. .......................... 3:30 p.m.
14. Sunday Sunup Runners (Plym Park). ........... 8 a.m.
15. Adventurers (Curriculum - gym). ............ 6 p.m.
16. Women’s Bible Study. .......................... 10:30 a.m.
17. Midweek Manna. ............................ 6 p.m.
18. Pathfinders (gym). .......................... 6:30 p.m.
19. Prayer Meeting. ............................ 7 p.m.
20. Bible Study (Pastor’s Office). ............... 2 p.m.
21. Pastor Darrel le Roux, Speaker. ............ 8:30 & 11 a.m.
22. Adventurers (Curriculum - gym). ............ 6 p.m.
23. Women’s Bible Study. .......................... 10:30 a.m.
24. Midweek Manna. ............................ 6 p.m.
25. Church Board Meeting. ........................ 7 p.m.
26. Pathfinders (gym). .......................... 6:30 p.m.
27. Prayer Meeting. ............................ 7 p.m.
28. Bible Study (Pastor’s Study). ............... 2 p.m.
29. Adventurers (Curriculum - gym). ............ 6 p.m.
30. Pastor Bill Dudgeon, Speaker. ............. 8:30 & 11 a.m.
31. Music by NAS. ............................ 2nd svc

No School at NAS - Fall Break
1. Midweek Manna. ............................ 6 p.m.
2. Finance Committee Meeting. ................. 7 p.m.
3. School Board Meeting (school). ............. 7 p.m.
4. Pathfinders (gym). .......................... 6:30 p.m.
5. Prayer Meeting. ............................ 7 p.m.
6. Bible Study (Pastor’s Study). ............... 2 p.m.
7. Beyond Books Club. .......................... 3 p.m.
8. Women’s Night Out (Olive Garden, Mishawaka). .... 5:30 p.m.
9. Lester Merklin, Speaker. ........................ 8:30 & 11 a.m.
10. Worship & Bonfire (Chapel in the Woods). .... 5:30 p.m.

Newsletter Items Due
1. Sunday Sunup Runners (Plym Park). ........... 8 a.m.
2. Adult Volleyball (gym). .......................... 7 p.m.
3. Adventurers (Curriculum - gym). ............ 6 p.m.
4. Women’s Bible Study. .......................... 10:30 a.m.
5. Midweek Manna. ............................ 6 p.m.
6. Church Board Meeting. ........................ 7 p.m.
7. Pathfinders (gym). .......................... 6:30 p.m.
8. Prayer Meeting. ............................ 7 p.m.
9. Bible Study (Pastor’s Study). ............... 2 p.m.
10. Adult Volleyball (gym). .......................... 7 p.m.
11. Pastor Bill Dudgeon, Speaker. ............. 8:30 & 11 a.m.
12. Music by NAS. ............................ 2nd svc
13. Sunday Sunup Runners (Plym Park). ........... 8 a.m.
14. NAS Fall Festival (gym). .......................... 4-7 p.m.
15. Parent/Teacher Conferences at NAS (noon dismissal)
16. Adventurers (Family Network/Award - gym). .... 6 p.m.
17. Midweek Manna. ............................ 6 p.m.
18. Pathfinders (gym). .......................... 6:30 p.m.
19. Prayer Meeting. ............................ 7 p.m.
20. Bible Study (Pastor’s Study). ............... 2 p.m.

October Birthdays

No Birthdays listed for October 2013.

October Calendar of Events

Services

First Worship Svc
Saturdays, 8:30 a.m.

Midweek Manna
Tuesdays, 6 p.m.

Sabbath School
Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.

Prayer Meeting
Wednesdays, 7 p.m.

Second Worship Svc
Saturdays, 11 a.m.