



encounter

Spring-Summer Calendar 2012

Five foolish virgins and the Winter Olympics

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New Pathfinder & Adventurer feature!



Editorial

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contents

Editorial	3
Adventist Volunteer Service	4
Youth Week of Prayer	5
Students' page	6
Five foolish virgins and the 2010 Winter Olympics	7
ADRA-UK 2012 Appeal	11
BUC Calendar 2012	12
Pathfinders.....	14
Adventurers	15

Easter is almost here. But what is it to us? A few days off? A weekend for a youth retreat? Church services? Time with family and friends? More time to study? Whatever we utilise the time for, it is still what it is: a time of commemoration of God's act of salvation for mankind.

Maybe we have some other dates in mind this year, times when we can do things – but what about the reason behind what we do?

In this edition you will find an article I wrote about my reflections on a trip to the Vancouver Winter Olympics 2010. I saw churches doing things to share the Gospel of Jesus to visitors, and I saw churches that weren't doing anything. Whether you have something planned for sharing the Gospel during the Olympics or not, you can get involved in a special prayer and Bible study programme that will be sweeping the UK and Ireland for seventy days before the Olympics.

'The Spirit of the Flame' prayer and study programme will roughly follow the route of the Olympic torch. It is a time to come together as a youth group on a given day to study about the power of the Holy Spirit, and seek the presence of God in claiming that power in your personal lives – and in the ministry of your youth work in your local church.



More information will be sent out and available online at:
www.adventistyouth.org.uk, so join here or on **Facebook** for all the details you need.

Yours in Christ's service,
Pastor Nathan



 search for
encounter magazine 



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'What was Luke's occupation?' This was the question my manager asked as she proceeded to fill out my volunteer reference form. She was unsure about what to put for my knowledge of the Bible, and so decided to test me. Well this left me stunned; I didn't know the answer! I racked my brain, arguing with myself in my head because I didn't know the answer. 'But I should know . . .' I thought. At the time I felt ashamed that I didn't know the answer, and this made me consider what kind of influence I was having on my working environment. Was I professing Christ? Was I professing to others that I had a knowledge of God and His Word? Since then, and more so since arriving in Korea, I have come to realise that it's not just about knowledge of the Bible, but also about application. Preparing religion class Bible studies and sermons for vespers, as well as personal Bible study, has shown me that I have a greater knowledge of the Bible than I had thought. As promised, God has brought into my remembrance His Scriptures and His promises. Daily He speaks to me through His Word and through the other missionaries around me. God's orchestration of all the events in my life and His authority are continually being made evident.

Tell us about the most interesting person you have met so far on your placement.

I have met so many amazing people it's difficult to name just one. However, the first two people I prayed with when I arrived at my assigned school were a non-Adventist student called Anne and a church member, Elder Haah. Anne is quite possibly the sweetest person I have ever met. A faithful and diligent student, she attends with her husband and loves to read the Bible.

Elder Haah is one of a kind: upon our meeting he explained to me how he prefers the British English to American English, and one Sabbath explained to me how he had taught his dog how to poopoo on the toilet, and had to perform minor surgery on its tail to prevent it from hanging in the toilet! (I'm not sure how far animal cruelty laws go in Korea, but I'm sure that wouldn't sit well in England.) He has offered to give me a copy of this biblical software programme he worked on for ten years, which incorporates different versions of the Bible, including Hebrew translations and Spirit of Prophecy references! Basically he's a genius! Interesting, funny, unusual and wise all rolled into one!

Abigail Rey is currently serving in Korea at the SDA Language School.

Share one instance when you have felt God working very specifically while you have been away.

For the first three weeks after arriving in Korea, I struggled to sleep – I could not sleep a whole night through. As traumatic as this was (I am one who loves sleep), it was also the perfect way to begin my transition to living the life of a missionary. During this time every word that I heard or read focused on the need to commune with God daily, to spend time in prayer and reading His Bible. I couldn't sleep, so I did as I believed God was telling me and communed with Him. I've always believed in the power of prayer and the importance of personal devotion, but this became so much more significant in light of the busy schedule that we undergo as missionary teachers. I cherish this time that I can spend with God, and recognise that nothing is by chance. God allowed me to struggle with sleep so that I would learn to constantly commune with and depend on Him: and this has been the perfect basis for me to embark on this mission.

Please continue to pray for me and the other missionaries here in Korea as we continue our work for God.

Abigail x



This year the theme is:

What if you gave Christ everything?

Become a disciple today

'Who is God?' Pose this question to the people around you, and you'll quickly discover that there are a lot of ideas on the matter. But have you ever thought about it yourself? Likewise, opinions on the exact identity of Jesus are all over the map, but what do YOU think about Him? Who is He to you? Maybe you find it hard to care about this issue, or feel that you already have all the truth you need. But what if there's more? It all comes down to this: are you ready to seek God?

Readings can be downloaded from the BUC Youth Ministries website and emailed or photocopied for use in your youth group. Let us know how you get on – we'd love to hear your feedback and stories of encouragement from your week. Write on our Facebook wall (BUC Youth Ministries) or email bucyouth@adventist.org.uk



2012 YEAR OF DISCIPLESHIP

The General Conference Youth Department has produced a series of small group discussion guides on this theme. The 26-week course aims to help you on your journey to an authentic walk with Jesus. It is available for download now from the BUC Youth Ministries website: <http://youth-adventistchurch-uk.adventist.eu/disciples-in-action>



DISCIPLES IN ACTION
YOUNG ADULT CURRICULUM
 AN INTERACTIVE CURRICULUM TO GUIDE YOUNG PEOPLE IN THEIR JOURNEY TOWARD AN AUTHENTIC WALK WITH JESUS

GO TO: WWW.GC-YOUTHMINISTRIES.ORG

We hope to have a regular page in [encounter](#) which will look at issues faced by students, and hopefully provide you with some useful links and resources.

Please write to us and tell us what you would like to see on this student page. Your opinions matter, and we look forward to hearing from you. Email us at: bucyouth@adventist.org.uk or contact us via Facebook (BUC Youth Ministries).



Exam timetable clashes?

The Religious Liberties department has successfully helped many students who have had issues with examinations which are scheduled to take place during Sabbath hours. Your local conference or mission's Religious Liberty officer should be able to help you in the first instance, so please give him or her a try. If no one is available or it is a time-critical matter, please contact isweeney@adventist.org.uk with the following details:

Your full name (as known by your educational institution);

Contact name and address at the college/university to whom the letter should be addressed;

Any relevant **ID numbers**;

Your **request** in detail.

Find a Seventh-day Adventist church near you:
<http://www.adventistchurches.org.uk/#search>



SEC Student Network:
<http://asn.secyouth.org>



Senior Sabbath School study guides:
<http://ssnet.org/study-guides>



Collegiate Quarterly Sabbath School lesson study:
<http://www.cqbiblestudy.org>



Student gatherings are taking place in various locations this year. Here are a few to choose from:

Irish Mission Young Adult weekend:
12-14 October 2012
<http://www.adventist.ie/youth>



NEC Student Day: 22 September 2012. Please contact the NEC Youth dept. for more details.



Five foolish virgins and the 2010 Winter Olympics

I arrived at Vancouver Airport. It was a February evening and surprisingly mild. I was on my way with Pastors Stewart and Hypolite to see what our Church was doing during the 2010 Winter Olympic Games. I got in the car, and we headed off.

'How long will it take to get there?' I asked, thinking we were to stay at the British Columbia campsite, some distance off into the hilly countryside.

'Not long', was the reply. 'We are not staying at the campsite.' I guessed we were going to a hotel nearby. 'We are staying in a convent!' they said.

Now before you suspect Jesus infiltration in the Adventist Church, let me explain! This was the accommodation used (more of a conference centre than a convent) by 'More Than Gold', a co-ordinating multi-denominational Christian group that brings churches together to maximise the effect of evangelism during Olympic Games.

The Youth Ministries Director in British Columbia, Canada, had been working closely with More Than Gold, as had other directors in other countries during past Olympic Games.

Our time with them proved, for me, to be enlightening. The places we saw, the churches (not just Adventist), and the stories we heard have convinced me of the opportunity we stand to miss if we do not recognise that the world will be coming to our place to play some 'games'.

Reflections

Below you will find some of my reflections on the experience, and I hope you will realise the opportunity you have to 'play games' with your community.

Jesus told a parable about ten bridesmaids who were waiting for the wedding to start, and in particular



for the groom to arrive. They knew what was going to happen; it's just that half were not ready when it happened. Jesus was talking about being ready for His return; I am talking about the arrival of the Olympic Games.

One of the most poignant lessons I learnt in Vancouver was that so many churches woke up to the opportunity too late to do something for God's sake during the Games.





Not just London

When I was in Vancouver I saw many sites and venues used by the Olympics. Not all of them were sporting venues.

And not all venues were in Vancouver. A mistake we can make is thinking that the Games take place only in the city that lends its name to the Games. The Sydney Games were not just in Sydney, the Vancouver Winter Olympics were not just in Vancouver, and the London Olympics are not just in London.

Some of the football is taking place in Scotland and Wales, and various places across England. The marathon and road cycling meander through suburban London and into the Home Counties. Sailing and other water sports are taking place in Weymouth and near Enfield. And the Olympic torch is being carried 8,000 miles throughout the regions of the United Kingdom.

The BBC has announced that for the first time ever you can watch every event on-screen, be it the TV and its multiple channels, or online. From archery to yachting – you can see it all! And this is where your church can come in.

I visited many churches that ran their church as a big screen centre, to view the Games at certain times of the day. You don't have to have tickets to see the Games. I went to one church that was in sight of the ice skating venue. No one living in the neighbourhood had tickets. The venue might as well have been the other side of Canada – but they could go to the church and share in food and drink, chat with the other attendees, and watch an event on the big screen.



Too many Adventist and other

Christian churches missed out in Vancouver because they didn't think of open-door witness, a chance to have the community walk your turf, meet new people, drink your Barleycup, eat your free food, watch the event on a big screen (with surround sound, maybe?), and accept an invitation to a future event, like healthy cooking classes, or parenting classes, or your church's kids' programmes . . . or . . . or . . . or . . .

What I mean is, you don't need to have a ticket or live near a stadium to enjoy the Games. It's all about using the Games as an excuse to open your doors, have a party, and invite people back to something else.

One pastor of a Sunday church told us that on the day of the ice hockey final (Canada vs. the USA!), they cut the morning service short, set up a barbeque outside and had the



members invite their friends and knock on the doors of the neighbours to invite them to watch the BIG GAME at the church, with a free barbeque in the bargain. Some members opposed the plan. But in the end 150 members mingled with 150 visitors. Canada won! And friendships were made. Now, I'm not recommending that we cut our Sabbath worship short, but this is an example of what one church did to evangelise during the Games.

Not just the Games

So here's the cliff-hanger: you plan a party, you have people visit your church – now what do you invite them to? I have been to too many evangelism events that are a flash in the pan, and nothing is set up to follow. Plan to get interested visitors, plan for the future, and plan to make disciples for Jesus. The Games are the excuse, the party is the bait, and the follow-up is the hook! Don't cast your line with the bait without having a hook. That's a waste of good bait!

Not just for locals

The Olympics brings in hundreds of thousands of people, but not many of them have tickets for the Games. Our target audience can change at the time of the Olympics. This is where how many visitors you have in your town/city does depend on where you live in the UK. Visitors will go to where the venues are, so in the main Olympic venue locations plan for two groups of people to reach: your local community, and the visitors/holidaymakers.

Consider what you can offer both groups.

Not just for sport

I was amazed in Vancouver that the Games created a massive cultural event, and were not just about sport. For weeks before and during the Games, venues put on shows, concerts, and entertainment; some you paid for, and some were free.

Churches used this to attract visitors. Street performers were acting out their skills in dance and music, while passers-by were offered hot chocolate and given an invitation to an evening concert. This was all added to by the Olympic venues – non-sport locations where artists performed, festivities were enjoyed, and people mingled. At one venue a local singer performed, and at another venue I saw Ziggy Marley entertain the crowd. All for free! What can we do as a church as bait for ministry? I'm imagining youth music concerts, quiz nights, party games for the community, all with the Games on the screen, refreshments freely available, and invitations given to future church activities. And I see our youth showing our parents how to do it right!

Not just street witnessing

Bear in mind that if you live in an Olympic Games area, they will have a lockdown on the streets. You will not be able to do street witnessing in the event areas, and are unlikely to get permission in the local streets. But if you have a church in the area you can do something without restrictions (check with your local council for regular licensing requirements).

In Canada I visited a Lutheran church right opposite an Olympic Culture venue. They did not want to open the sanctuary, but the hall was open with a 9-metre screen, refreshments were available, and there was free internet access, and information about future activities of the church.



Not just big screens

Hanging tangled with the rest of the lanyards and nametags is my Salvation Army name badge: though I did not get a chance to serve with one of the hot drinks teams, they had made a badge for me. Adventist youth joined with the Salvation Army network serving drinks from a backpack flask system while talking to the captive listeners, inviting them to events in the church.

The collaborative approach meant that Adventist youth got onto train station platforms, parks, and street corners where they would not have got permission otherwise. At no time did any denomination diminish their beliefs. It was a common goal of bringing people to know about Jesus.

You may not choose to join other denominations or work through the More Than Gold network, but the point is you can consider how you can meet the needs of the passers-by, and maybe earn the right to talk with them to invite them to something else. In marketing terms it's a 'loss leader'; giving away one thing to try to gain another. As young people, what could you do as a loss leader to gain the chance to invite contacts to something else?

Not just willing players

One of the terrible truths about an event like the Olympics is the increase in trade of prostitution and slave-trafficking. Your church may not be able to get too much involved with providing a refuge centre without specialist help, but why not do simple things like tidy up phone boxes of the pornographic literature inviting clients to 'call this number now'? Pop the cards into the recycle bin and put the cards to some real use.

Not just other churches

Unfortunately the Adventist church in Vancouver was more like the foolish virgins than the wise ones. Yes, two Adventists were chosen to be Olympic torch-bearers, an afternoon was spent by a couple of hundred youths in street witnessing and drinks distribution, a youth weekend was celebrated, an Adventist youth programme celebrated all things Olympic with Adventist Olympians present, and scarfs knitted by Canadian Adventists with 'Adventists are your friend' type tags sewn in were given out for free – but too many Adventists missed the party, the wedding feast, the opportunity.

Not just a budget expense

My greatest fear about the 2012 Olympic Games is not athletes testing positive for drugs, or the fear of a terrorist attack, or the increase of crime. My greatest fear is that any church realises too late that they have missed the opportunity to invite their neighbours to a party, and to share Jesus during the Games.

In the book, *Gospel Workers*, Ellen White tells a story of a dream. It is called 'A Dream'! She describes going out with a group into a field to pick berries. After some careful picking she notices some laughter and talking back at the wagon. She asked why people had stopped picking, and they replied they had not found anything, were tired and hungry, and thought to rest a while. Read it for yourselves to find out the whole story.



There is no rebuttal for socialising, but, in the absence of serious effort to find fruit and no produce to bring back, Ellen laments at how they can 'chill out' without even putting in the effort and realising any results.

These Olympic Games, the youth of our churches have the chance to do something for God's sake. Or you can kick back, with the TV on, and laze the Games away. In Jesus' story it was a fifty-fifty split, wise and foolish virgins. Let's change the percentage. Lets have active youth leading events, talking to the neighbourhood, and showing the old-timers the habits they should have been passing down to the youth.

If you let your church do nothing during the Olympic Games, you are as foolish as they are. . . .

Pastor Nathan Stickland



Annual Appeal 2012:
 31 March – 15 April (extends to 22 April in London). Dates may vary in Scotland. All funds are collected by volunteers.

Adventist Development and Relief Agency – UK
 Stanborough Park, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD25 9JZ, England
www.adra.org.uk

Scan our QR code to donate £5 by SMS toward the Annual Appeal

help us to help
 you + ADRA = help

Fundraising Standards Board

ADRA UK

Adventist Development and Relief Agency UK

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About: ADRA UK is a registered charity in the UK and Scotland

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- £2 Bowl of Food
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- £5 Waterproof tarpaulin for cover
- £10 Hygiene kit
- £10 Cooking Utensils

Your contribution makes it possible for ADRA to plan and respond effectively.

March

9-11	Master Guide and Pathfinder Leadership Award (PLA) training	NEC
	Pathfinder Basic Staff training	SEC
11	Youth Day	NEC
17	Youth Week of Prayer	ALL
17-24	Master Guide and PLA Camp	SEC
23-25	Newbold Youth Day (tbc)	ALL
24	Master Guide training	WM
30-1	ADRA-UK Annual Appeal	ALL (except ROI)

April

5-9	ARME Bible Camp	NEC
6-10	Three Missions Weekend	IM, SM, WM
15	Pathfinder Basic Staff training	SEC
27-29	Master Guide and PLA training	SEC

June

1-4	Adventurer Camporee	NEC & SEC
1-5	Brecon Camp	WM
10	Pathfinder First Aid & Manual Handling training	NEC
11-17	Camp Meeting	SEC
18-24	Camp Meeting	NEC
23	Youth Day	WM
29-1	Master Guide training	SM

Hit LONDON is back!
 Preaching during the London Olympics
 Pre-Training: 21.00 - 23.00
 from 4th March 2012 @ The Advent Centre
 with Steve Thomas, Kirk Thomas, Richard de Luser & more
 You will be allocated a church community to develop your gifts as part of the training, training up to the Olympics.
 Contact the LYM or SEC Youth Dept to apply or to add your church to the list
 call: 01923 232 726 or text: 'HIT' to 07391 721 007 with your name and church

Thames Valley Youth Federation (TVYF) & NEC Youth Department
PRAYER WARRIORS
 Friday, 4 – Monday, 7 May 2012
 Alton Castle, Castle Hill Rd, Alton, Shropshire, ST10 4JF
 £45 per person
 Guest Speakers – Eds Walsh, Dwayne Lenton
 Please visit or call: www.thamesvalley.org.uk/youth | Tel: 0115 950 6312 to book and for further information.

IM – Irish Mission
 NEC – North England Conference
 SM – Scottish Mission
 SEC – South England Conference
 WM – Welsh Mission

The NEC Youth, Sabbath School & Children Ministries brings
ARME Bible Camp to England
 Thursday, 5 – Monday, 9 April 2012

Yanfield Park Training & Conference Centre
 Yanfield Lane, Yanfield, Staffordshire, ST10 2JH

Options:
 1 - £20 per person which can hold up to two people
 2 - £30 for a family of 4 which has two adults 18+ and two children ages 0-17 (two rooms)
 3 - £25 (Sabbath only) (registration, lunch and supper will be provided)

A special children's programme 'The Force' will be provided for children ages 4 to 12.
 Web: www.armedebiblecamp.com
 Please visit or call: www.necadvent.org.uk/youth | Tel: 0115 950 6312 to book and for further information.

Aberdaron NEC Youth Camps

Junior Camp
 Sunday, 29 July – Sunday, 5 August 2012

Earlteen Camp
 Sunday, 5 – 12 August 2012

Senior Camp
 Sunday, 12 – 19 August 2012

Price: Junior & Earlteen - £145
 Senior Camp - £130

Please visit or call: www.aberdaron.org.uk/youth | Tel: 0115 950 6312 to book and for further information.

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 Phone: 01923 232 726

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5-7 OCT 2012

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MORE DETAILS COMING SOON

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 01923 232 726

July/August

6-8	Master Guide and PLA training (2)	NEC
6-8	Youth Bible Summit	SEC
13-15	Wilderness Camping	NEC
23-29	Youth Camp – Chapel Porth	SEC
27-12	London 2012 Olympics	ALL
29-5	Junior Camp – Aberdaron	NEC
29-5	Junior Camp – Chapel Porth	SEC
31-8	Summer Camp	IM
5-12	Earlteen Camp	NEC
12-19	Senior Camp	NEC
13-19	BUC Pathfinder Camporee	ALL
27-2	Teens Summer Camp	SEC
29-9	London 2012 Paralympics	ALL
31-2	Master Guide and PLA training (3)	NEC
31-2	Master Guide training	WM

May

4-7	Master Guide training	IM
4-7	Prayer Warriors – Alton Castle	NEC
12	Youth Day of Fellowship	SM
19-27 July	Spirit of the Flame – Olympic Torch Relay	ALL

NEC YOUTH DEPARTMENT BIG 6

Sunday, 1 July 2012

University of Birmingham Sport, Munko Sports Centre, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT

Price: £2 – Spectator & £4 – Participant

Please visit or call: www.necadvent.org.uk/youth | Tel: 0115 950 6312 to book and for further information.

Use Me LORD

SEC YOUTH DAY OF FELLOWSHIP
 18th FEBRUARY 2012
 @ THE ROCK TOWER
 WYTHEVALE PARK, LONDON W14 9PL



Pathfinder Page

In this new feature we will be looking at all things Pathfinder- and Adventurer-related. The *Adventurer Award Book* was revised just at the end of last year – you can download a copy of that and the *Pathfinder Honour Book* from the BUC Youth Ministries website: www.adventistyouth.org.uk, or use the QR code to access it directly.



The following are two awards which may prove of interest. One is a new honour which will be demonstrated in detail at the BUC Camporee this summer, and the other is an extremely topical Olympics Adventurer Award.



Raku

1. What is the meaning of 'raku', and what makes it different to other forms of pottery?
2. Design a simple pattern using the colours that are available for glazing your pot.
3. What do the terms 'bisque', 'greenware' and 'glaze firing' refer to?
4. What is different about raku firing, and why?
5. Make a simple pinch pot and coil pot. Bisque fire, glaze and then raku fire.
6. What is 'reduction' firing, what materials are used and what effects do they produce?
7. Draw and label a home-made raku kiln, showing the firing chamber.

REQUIREMENTS

For hints and answers to the questions, please visit the Pathfinder page on the BUC Youth Ministries website at www.adventistyouth.org.uk



Adventurer Page



Olympics

Category: Recreation
 Year Introduced: New in 1996
 Item Number: YOU8050
 Originating Institution:
 North American Division: NAD



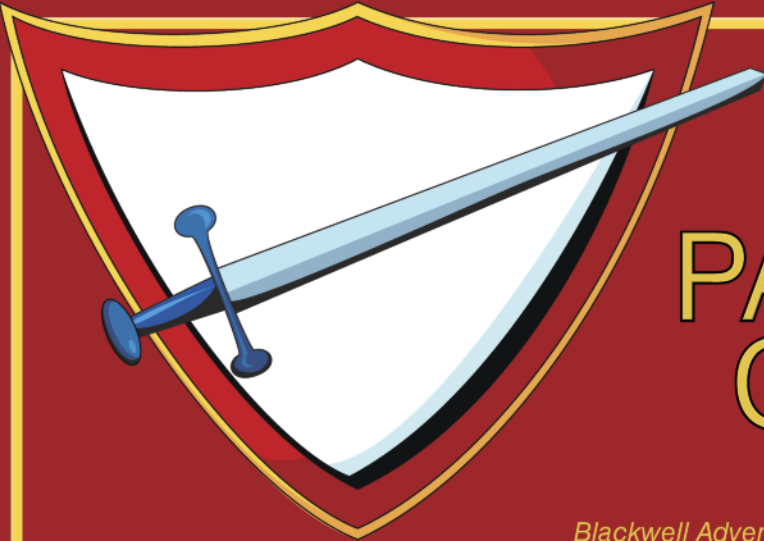
REQUIREMENTS

1. Learn a little about the Olympic Games:
 - a. Where were they first held?
 - b. When?
 - c. Where will the next Games be held?
2. Make an Olympic banner.
3. Make an Olympic torch.
4. Play an Olympic game.
5. Make an Olympic colour chain.
6. Memorise 2 Timothy 4:7.
7. Who in the New Testament talks about running a race?
8. Discuss with your parent or teacher what 1 Corinthians 9:24-26 means.

ANSWERS

1. Use an encyclopedia to answer (a) and (b).
2. This banner can be an 8.5" x 11" one, or everyone can work on one together as a club.
3. Each person makes a torch. It can be made out of a Styrofoam cone, papier-mâché, and so on.
4. Games like a baton race, javelin throw (Nerf javelin), sock throw, standing broad jump, and so on.
5. The chain can be made out of chenille. Use the Olympic colours (black, yellow, green, red and blue). Twist each chenille strip in a circle, attach the circle to another strip of chenille, twist and continue until all colours are used. Can be worn on the Adventurer's head.
7. Paul.





2012 PATHFINDER CAMPOREE

13-19 August 2012

Blackwell Adventure, Blackwell, Bromsgrove, West Midlands B60 1PX

Time is running out to sign up for the early-bird prices! After 10 April, regular prices will apply. Complete your application form and return to your club leader ASAP! All the info and forms can be found on the BUC website – details below.

Theme: **RUNNING** for Home

- The guest speaker is Pastor Israel Williams, who ministers in the SEC
- Loads of activities available, including water sports, new honours and tree-trekking
- Day trip to Alton Towers included
- Join 1,000 Pathfinders from across the British Union and overseas

You won't want to miss it!

Visit www.bucpathfindercamporee.org.uk for all the details and forms you'll need.
Club leaders must register on the website and pay online for your club.

Remember, early-bird pricing runs out on 10 April 2012!



For the latest news, sign up to Twoppy.com from your smart phone and search for BUC Pathfinder Camporee 2012.