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 LARGE PRINT / Standard Print.Why I became a Bahá'í

'Stand By Me' Inspirational youth weekend at Burnlaw



I WANT TO start by saying a great big thank you to all the residents of Burnlaw, and the organisers of the event – you were all really great. You put a lot of effort into the weekend to make it successful, and it was.

The “Stand by Me” weekend focused on the roles of men and women in society and how their roles are changing. On the Friday night the 20 participating youth ranging from 12 to 22 gathered in the “Beautiful” room for the

introduction and trust workshop led by Grant Morley. It was a great time to meet new people and get a little feel for what the rest of the weekend was going to be like. On the Saturday we started with an inspirational (Devotional) then split into two groups for discussions on either “the world of man” or “the world of woman”. They were both fantastic sessions and I think everyone learned a lot about the mind of the opposite sex, what the Bahá'í writings say about the roles of men and women and how society perceives them. Then later the groups that had discussed “The world of men” discussed “The world of women”.



For the next two sessions we did a very interesting and amusing activity. The males and females were split into A discussion session two groups. Each group was asked to devise a game for 7/8 year olds of the opposite sex. Then three members of the opposite sex had to observe each group without putting any input into the discussion. Then after, we had to play the games that had been made up. So the girls had to be 7/8 year olds boys and the boys had to instruct them for the game that they had designed and vice versa. It had amazing and really fascinating results!

Grant Morley demonstrates Trust Games

The reflection sessions followed the free time. They were a great time to talk in smaller groups about what we would change and what we wouldn't. On the Saturday evening we had an hour and a half session called “A celebration and ceremony of change and growth”. It was a journey through life. We started in the mother's womb, moved to toddler-hood where we got a story and a lollipop, then to childhood where we pretended to be at a child's birthday party. Lastly we were at a self-conscious teenage party where we all were given different personalities. It was a lot of fun

Sunday was filled with a similar programme. In the discussion times we looked at “Which planet are you from?” and “Trust Me”. The activities were “Emotions”, where we looked at the emotions that surround our everyday life and “Talk to Me” more drama orientated around our body language and what it means. All in all very interesting.



A discussion session

On the Sunday evening we had a 45 minute inspirational that was really well put together with a definite amount of unusual music. It ended with the song “Stand by me” everyone who knew the song joined in. The evening ended with roasting marshmallows around a bonfire.

Unfortunately I had to leave on the Sunday night but it ended with an evaluation session on the Monday. It was a fantastic weekend and I am really glad I didn’t miss it. However if you did and you would be interested in going to an event with the same programme email me at soee302@hotmail.com as I would like to organise one in Scotland some time soon.

Hope to hear from lots of you.

Zoe Sier

