

As I look back on the week of camp Good News 2006, five words keep running through my thoughts. The same five that I could not get out of my head every time I looked around at the beautiful camp, children, and adults that surrounded me; "Oh, what a wonderful world". I wonder what inspired Louis Armstrong as he sang that, his soft yet gruff baritone was so distinctive. He sang that song with such feeling and love. His words paint a clear picture, for me it is a picture of Camp Good News, right here, right now.



Sunday morning was quiet and peaceful as we awoke. There are 3 Americans and 17 Moldovans here, ready Lord, to do your will. Just tell me what to do and I will do it Lord, as long as I live I will wholeheartedly obey. Psalms 119:33

The parents had been told to arrive at 12:00 p.m. obviously, someone didn't get the message and by 8:30 a.m. parents had already begun to bring their children. Sunday morning quickly went from peaceful to chaotic as parents scrambled, some not so politely, to register their children. Sue remarked that it reminded her of some Kingwood parents, the "me and mine first" attitude. These parents were afraid that we would run out of room and really wanted their children here: I hope it is that they know it is a Christian camp, but I really fear it is because it is free to them. Many churches and individuals have sponsored these children at \$50.00 a child to be able to attend Camp Good News. Although right now it is so frustrating for the adults, if the donors could see the excitement on these campers faces they would realize how much more than money they have given to these children.

Sunday afternoon, after the parents said their long, some very long, goodbyes, camp was finally underway. Looking over the week as a whole, it was a breeze! Practically, stress free! The schedule was awesome, the campers eager and (for the most part) attentive. The Moldovan Team members lead with Christian love

and kindness. These young people are amazing. So many of them speak three languages, easily! Romanian, Russian, and English are heard all over the camp.

As in every camp that allows small children, there are those that only want to go home, we had a few of those also. One of the small boys wouldn't leave his sister's side; he became one of the "girls" on the yellow team. He was as happy as he could be!

There are so many memories flooding my brain as I look back on that week; the egg hunt, Special Olympics, talent show, and so many more. On day; Tuesday, really was my favorite. The morning began with our personal quiet time. I am pretty selfish with that, I love this time to just praise. How much we have to be thankful for, I know how blessed I am and I want to be sure I always praise God for what He does for me. This morning was pretty sticky, the humidity extremely high, the mosquito's love it, the rest of us, not so much....after breakfast was praise and worship time; my favorite!

I love the songs, even when I am home they are in my head. I play the CD in my truck because I am determined to know each one.

The campers were restless this morning and had a really hard time settling down for the message. I had the blessing of meeting our Bible leader, George, last year. He is a TaekwonDo Black Belt, a musician, and an awesome Christian example for these young men. George is also a passionately gifted speaker. He is truly anointed by God to spread His message. I will never forget that Tuesday morning as George began to speak.

"In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:1

George's message that morning stirred not only the hearts of us humans, but the earth itself took notice. The clouds raced away from above us to let the sunshine flood Camp Good News, the birds began to chirp so loudly that our translator had to speak louder to be heard above them, the trees rustled as the soft breeze began to get stronger and stronger, even one small bird stopped searching the area for food and seemed to listen very quietly and attentively to George preach

about John the Baptist and our Lord, Jesus Christ. The earth marveled at the message from our God. My words don't do justice to the blessing that morning; Psalms 96 is a much better account.

"Sing a new song to the Lord! Let the whole earth sing to the Lord! Sing to the Lord; praise His name. Each day proclaim the good News that He saves." (Read it...it is perfect!)

The entire passage describes that morning to me.

The entire day was so special; it culminated with the Jesus film. How perfect that it had been misplaced for the date of its original showing---what a God think! After the film, an invitation was given, 101 of these children accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior,

101!! HALLELUJAH! Selah! I went to bed that night with the sounds of the angels in Heaven rejoicing to have added these tender souls into the Book of Life.

The rest of the week was like icing on the cake; more just makes it sweeter! I pray these campers will maintain that one perfect relationship in their lives as they return to probably some spiritually bleak homes.

I am refreshed and elated to have the privilege of that wonderful week. It is such a blessing to me and it renews my spiritual cup. There can be no other on earth at this moment as fulfilled and overjoyed as myself. Praise God for this special time in my life and to God be the glory.

God showed me this verse three years ago when I decided to follow His calling to mission trips. It has become my "beacon verse" and He has blessed me greatly once I began to obey; "Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is within the power of thine hand to act." Proverbs 3:27

The Lord has blessed me with the ability to act for those less fortunate and has introduced me to strong Christians that have shown me the example of how. What a great and glorious day it will be when we all meet in Heaven and the fellowship will continue forever.

Amen.



What a day that will be  
When my Jesus I shall see  
And I look upon His face  
The one who saved me by  
His grace  
When He takes me by the  
hand  
And leads me through the  
Promised Land  
What a day, Glorious day  
That will be