

Work in Progress Update

August 15, 2005

Dear Friends:

Summer means kids and camps, but it also means summer interns, our workcrew, and lots of volunteers. Everybody joins in to make it possible for hundreds of children and teenagers to experience one of our great camps – and see Jesus in the life of a loving leader.

What do the young interns and workcrew, who come from all over the place and join our indigenous up-and-coming leaders learn from serving? Here are a few of them with each other and the kids they served and their comments:



- For the first time this summer, three of our youth participated in the National Youth Summit in Washington DC., sponsored by The Department of Health and Human Services National Clearing House on Families and Youth. We were inspired by what other youth are doing around the country. We were challenged to action in our own communities. We have already researched steps to take in preventing a local store from selling liquor to minors. We were impacted by the inscriptions found on Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial,



"In these days of difficulty, we Americans everywhere must and shall choose the path of social justice, the path of faith, the path of hope and the path of love toward our fellow men." Campaign Address, Detroit, Michigan, October 2, 1932.



- This is the first year that we have taken a trip specifically for "fringe kids" in the high school group. The purpose of the trip was to just have fun with them and build relationships with them, but we really got to have some deep times together and even reconciliation – which is impossible in the world of gangs. The rest of the summer was (even) more overwhelming to me....

- We painted an entire church inside and out (Mexico trip) and did a mini Kids Club with 30 kids. I was very convicted personally about

my mindset and attitude the entire time. I really felt the battle of self-reliance vs. depending on His Spirit for strength raging in me. One verse that God used during this time and the rest of the summer to help me rely on Him was **Ephesians 6:10,"Finally, my brothers, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might."**

- **Kids Camp:** loads of fun + intensity = awe. This was a 4th-6th grade camp in Payson. A high school student leader and I were assigned to “the tough girls”. They wouldn’t listen to us at all, but there was an amazing gracious leader who had tracked with each of them in some way and they listened to her. I was begging for some connection after the second day because I got really drained just trying to start any conversation while being rejected repeatedly.

He answered my prayer by showing me how huge every little walk or sentence was for them to rebuild healthy trust. The cabin times (discussion times at the end of the day with kids and their leaders) were beautiful glimpses into these girls’ lives and hardships which allowed me to see them with His eyes. The most precious time was Friday. After a week of endless drama with my girls getting in fights, all the kids asked to “sing one more song” for another 20 minutes (which could have lasted all day!). They were dancing and shouting and exploding with joy! It was overwhelming to see the presence of God in these kids lives expressed so freely.

Giving to Neighborhood Ministries:

- ◆ Please help us recover from the slowest giving time of the year – summer. Your faithful giving to our ministry is making a difference in the lives of many!
- ◆ If you need information on Arizona tax credits for donations to Neighborhood Ministries, please see our website: www.nmaz.net for forms and information.

Upcoming Dates/Events:

- ◆ Sept 17 Urban Workers: Training for Fall programs, 9AM-3PM
- ◆ Sept 19 – 22 Fall programs begin: Kids Life, Jr High Kids Life, Sr High Group, Moms’ Place

Looking Ahead:

- ◆ Dec 3 Christmas Parents Store
- ◆ Dec 10 Christmas Celebration!

For more information, contact the office: 602-252-5225, mark.baker@nmaz.net or visit www.nmaz.net

- **Kids Club:** a two-week day camp, with 500 1st -6th graders. The 4th grade consisted of 60 kids (the biggest class) and 5 leaders never showed up! The theme was “you can be God’s Hero”— focusing on how God used ordinary people to do His powerful work in the Old Testament as well as today! There were a couple times when half the class was raising their hands to ask questions about the story --- basically turning “teaching time” into a Theology 101 class! It really blew my mind how hungry they were to really know God.

Grateful to God,

Kit Danley
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