

**No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him. I Corinthians 2:9**

## A Fond Farewell

**Hope Willard Brooks**

(June 14, 1931 – February 15, 2013)

**Barbara Ann Nix**

(June 19, 1930 – February 25, 2013)

We were very sad to have to say good-bye to two beloved senior members of the camp family. Hope and cousin Barbara were preparing for another camp season and expected to help in the Route 130 Guesthouse. Over the past few months, we have reflected on these two women.

During their days at Wheaton College, Hope and Barbara shared a tiny room in the basement of the Willard home. As college students, they loved coming to camp each summer to welcome the new staff and campers.



Barbara and Hope were a wonderful team and their love for one another and their great faith was made even more evident as they worked together at Camp Good News for so many years. Their influence on the lives of staff and campers alike was powerful. I know...for I was, and remain a beneficiary of that love and faith.

After Hope and Barb's death, we received hundreds of letters of encouragement reflecting on these two servants of God.

*Greetings in the Lord's Name.*

*We haven't had the chance to meet, but it was with sweet sorrow reading about the home going of your mother, Hope.*

*As you know, I spent four summers as a counselor at Camp Good News and my wife, Nancy, spent two summers there. The first summer I was there I was saved, and called to the ministry two weeks later. I can still take you to the place in the Lower Campus on the pathway from the ball field where it happened. God spoke to me then even though I did not know that He spoke to people.*

*By God's grace, we have served the Lord in ministry since I was nineteen, and I will be eighty-six this month. All of this, because I was invited by your grandfather to come down and be a counselor.*

*Your mother was such a faithful worker all those summers and a wonderful Christian. Thank God that her rewards will follow her by all the people whose lives she touched.*

*Sincerely yours,*

*"Doc" Murdock*



*It is with deep and loving sympathy that I write to you and send this memorial gift to Camp Good News to honor these two dear Christian women.*

*I have, all my life, cherished my friendship with them and my association with Camp Good News. God changed my life through them and as a result of my relationship with the camp. I am forever grateful....*

*With my condolences and love,*

*Jacquie*



## Thoughts From Our Alumni

Camp Good News was established to guide and care for young people, and many return to say thank you. The following alumni letters will reflect the importance of the camp experience. This past January, the late Hope Brooks began correspondence with an alumni, Ralph, who sent the following message with his donation to Camp Good News:

*I was a camper there from 1943, 44, and 45. I never forgot the teachings and love that I received there.*

Ralph continues:

Hope, thank you for bringing back some memories and the update on your family.

I was brought up with an alcoholic stepfather; my mother did everything she could to provide for me. There was a lot of fighting going on between them both; it was not a good time for me growing up. I remember one day my mom sold some of our furniture in order to put food on the table. In 1943, when I was eight years old I spent my first summer at Camp Good News. My aunt in Vermont paid for the three years that I was at camp.

What a change in my life, I found people that really cared about me, a structured environment, love and plenty of great food. My counselors came from Wheaton College and taught me so much about the Bible and their love for Jesus Christ. One day my counselor overheard me using cuss words. I ended up chopping wood until I never wanted to see a piece of wood again. That was a lesson I never forgot.

A lot of memories have faded over time but I remember when a German prisoner of war escaped and broke into the camp store looking for food. I also remember going over to where the prisoners were kept and walking up to the fence where one of them gave me a German coin, I treasured that coin for many years. I also remember hearing the machine guns firing and the airplanes dropping practice bombs. One time, a hatch from one of the planes dropped close to our tent, after that there were military

[personnel] from Camp Edwards all over the place.

My best memories were when we would climb into the camp truck that had tall wooden sides and go to a church close by on Sunday evenings. Someone at the church played the trumpet when the hymns were being sung. I can still hear the music, "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus," "Onward, Christian Soldiers" and more. These hymns have stayed with me my whole life and to this day I love hearing them. I also remember your mom and your dad when he came home on leave and spoke to us.

In October 2006 I went back to New Hampshire to visit my best friend. As a surprise he drove my wife and me down to Camp Good News. We stopped at the office and then he drove me down to where the mess hall is. I walked all over and it brought back so many good memories that I ended up standing by the lake with tears running down my face. I shall never ever forget that day.

I was born in Malden and went through the school system there. My wife Brenda also graduated from Malden High School. Brenda is a great Christian woman and has so much love for the Lord; we have been married going on fifty-six years. We have been blessed with three sons and one son from Mexico we raised for several years while he went to college in Tucson. The Lord has provided us so much all of these years; we are so fortunate. I thank Camp Good News for the love and teachings that I received as a young child, that was the foundation that I never forgot.

Hope, it is worth it in having a place like Camp Good News, you bet. You and I were very fortunate to have been brought up in a wonderful time. There was respect and love for one another. The world has changed, but you are the shining light that is still there for a small child somewhere, like me.

May God Bless you.

Ralph & Brenda

# Long-Lasting Memories

Barbara Nix did such a good job with the camp laundry these past few summers. She kept in touch with many friends over the years, and Camp Good News received the following letter before her death:

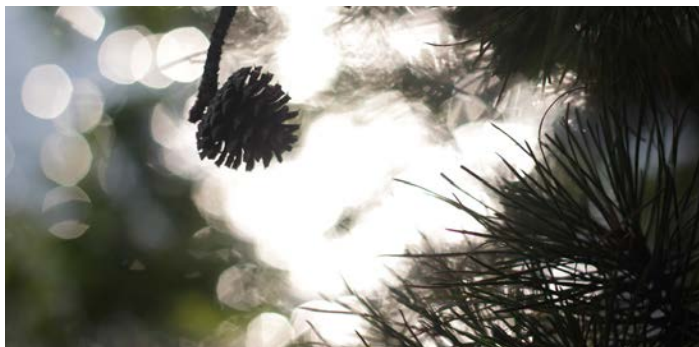
*Barbara and I stay in contact, God's blessing is that our friendship spans about sixty years now. I love her dearly. Her example as a faithful Christian and her invitation to be a counselor at CGN helped to change my life. I am certain that the work I now do as a volunteer leader for the Presbyterian Church USA is a result of the seed Barb planted in my life so many years ago ... that, too, being an act of God in my life.*

*I loved Gracie and Wyeth and Gert and my association with the whole Willard family. Two of the counselors I worked with who came from Baylor University continue to be part of my life. I have been truly blessed by CGN and I want that work to continue. I am sure God has more good plans for the camp. I only wish I could live closer so I could help out in the summers or visit more often. In 1976, I brought my husband and two children, a son and daughter, to see CGN. It was always my hope that one of them would be able to have a camping experience there. Now, I think of my grandchildren. Perhaps ... just perhaps ... the opportunity will open up for one of them to visit CGN with me. I certainly hope so.*

*May God's richest blessings be yours always.*

*With love, "Mugs"*

Right beside Hope and Barb in their efforts to support and grow the camp was mom's younger sister, Faith. Faith Willard later settled on Cape Cod to help her parents run Camp Good News. She and I were together in Bangladesh when news came that Hope was killed in a car accident. Barb was critically injured, but able to visit with her children until her death. After attending the funerals, Faith returned to Bangladesh to refocus her attention on the day-to-day demands of this ministry. She is a joy to be around; beloved by her HOJ children, friends, and colleagues. Faith shares some thoughts about her work with the children.



## Made in His Image

What a joy it is to see Jesus Christ move into a life and start the transformation, in other words, the sanctification process – making that life into His image.

Such a privilege we have working with orphans who come to us as infants or younger children under five years of age. By nature they seem to know how to steal or lie. They are highly skilled at these activities. One of our five-year-olds stole morning snacks from a poor village girl even though the girl is given snacks every day. We have had a hard time convincing them that it is wrong and they cannot do it. Do you think it made a difference? No! Made in His image. Are you serious?

One day I asked the children to describe a saint and the response was what you would expect. "Someone who always does good things," "Someone who never lies or steals," and so on. I happily explained to them that a saint is a person who has invited Christ to reside in his/her heart. Of course, I knew that Christ could make a difference! Often Dad shared with the campers the embarrassment he was to his parents (father – superintendent of schools; mother – music teacher), and how that all changed when he invited Christ to live in his heart. That was the beginning of the sanctifying process in his life, when God set him apart for His work. First God had to chip away at the things that were displeasing to Him. Striving for holiness will present many obstacles. However we know that having Christ in one's heart is the secret!

In Bangladesh, I work especially with the older teens and the challenge is convincing them of this truth. We encourage and help them get as much education as possible and several attend the local universities and are exposed to the world and all the tempting things it offers. I talk to them about following Christ and taking up the cross. It is often painful but there is joy in the cross.

What has happened? The atmosphere on the senior floor at Home of Joy is so changed. There is no arguing, unkindness and they all seem to be friends. One has even confessed to stealing and breaking other rules. Sanctification is a process, and we are happy to see Him beginning the process in some of our children.

Faith Willard

# Moving Forward

In a world rocked by suffering, crime, and tragedy, the reality of a loving God is a powerful anchor for today's youth. These previously referenced, unsolicited letters remind us that God can heal the broken hearted and change a life. The 2013 staff is excited to join the team and ready to teach swimming, boating, arts and crafts, basketball, soccer, and so much more. Most importantly, they are coming, prepared to invest themselves in the young campers coming from around the world, eager to develop healthy relationships that can last a lifetime.

It is great to have Mark Adams back as Head Counselor for the Boys Camp. Mark first came to Good News when he was a senior in high school. He returned for five summers and was the boys head counselor in the summer of 1983. His effectiveness in working with young people made him one of our most outstanding staff members. He was loved and respected by all. Mark is quick to point out the critical role that Camp Good News played in his accepting Christ as his savior, and then his choice to become a teacher, coach and director of Summer Programs at Breck School and then Princeton Day School. Mark has spent the last 24 years in Princeton, NJ. raising his family (Bethany and Stephen), teaching and directing the day camp at Princeton Day School. His passion for Christ began at Camp Good News and we are happy he will be returning to where it all started.

Mark traveled to Cape Cod this past week to help out with workday. He brought his assistant (Luke Hensel) and Luke's father (a contractor) to tackle some of the more difficult jobs. We are in the process of completing the Route 130 Guesthouse and repairing the tennis courts. Please prayerfully consider how you might get involved as well.



**Your donation will make a difference in the life of a camper this summer. Please consider contributing toward the following expenses:**

#### 1. New Guesthouse on Route 130:

• Shingle and paint the exterior	\$25,000.00
• New roof	\$19,580.00
• Floors and kitchen	\$9,786.00
• Interior sprinkler system	\$30,000.00

#### 2. Sailboats:

• Repair Hobie Cat and new Hobie sails	\$2,574.00
• Three new Sunfish	\$12,795.00

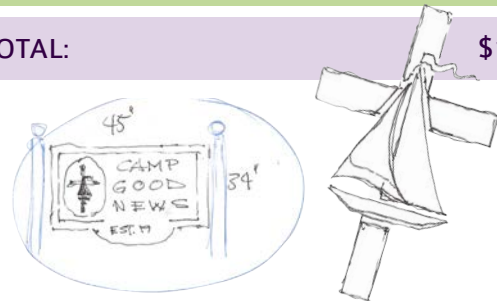
#### 3. Resurface the tennis courts

\$15,693.00

#### 4. New camp sign for the front gate

\$3,570.00

#### TOTAL: \$118,998.00



**Jane Brooks, MSN**  
President, The Society for Christian Activities  
Director - Camp Good News

**Stephen Willard Brooks, MD**  
Vice President, Society for Christian Activities

**Karen Carlson, PhD**  
Assistant Director

**Faith Willard MS in Counseling**  
Director Emerites

**Camp Good News**  
P.O. Box 1295  
71 Route 130  
Forestdale, MA 02644 USA  
☎ 508 477 9731 📠 508 477 8016  
✉ office@campgoodnews.org  
Web site: www.campgoodnews.org