



Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. Psalm 106:1

Thank you for your prayers and contributions to the work at Camp Good News. "Great is His faithfulness!" As we pray, we know that the answers are already on the way! We continue to be encouraged by how wonderfully God provides for all our needs. We thank you for your prayers and contributions that make it all possible.

Even in darkness light dawns for the upright, for the gracious and compassionate and righteous man. Good will come to him who is generous and lends freely, who conducts his affairs with justice. Surely he will never be shaken; a righteous man will be remembered forever. He will have no fear of bad news; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

Psalm 112:4-7

My grandparents wanted their children to share the Good News with others. They impressed on each one that they were called to holiness, not happiness, and would be happiest honoring God with their lives. So it was only natural for Hope, Faith, Paul, and Peter to pass this challenge along to the children, young people, and others God brought into their lives. Knowing they were given much, they were encouraged to consider how to pass the Good News along to others.

In Memoriam

1932 - Faith Willard - 2022

"Absent from the body. Present with the Lord."

Another pillar of Camp Good News went to be with the Lord on December 13, 2022. Her work on earth was done, and a new beginning dawned for Faith Willard.

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.

I Corinthians 2:9



As a child, Faith asked if she could attend a local camp down the road for a week. She cried the entire time. Her parents wanted her to come home, but she wouldn't think of wasting the twenty-five dollar tuition and stuck it out. From her youth, she was shy but determined, disciplined, and not one to waste. Faith adored her family. When her father left to serve as a Marine Chaplain in WWII, she saved his orange peels from breakfast that morning. Much later when working abroad, her parents asked her to come home and help them run the camp. She returned, build a house on Cape Cod, and became Deputy Director of Camp Good News in 1972 and Director in 1988, serving in that capacity for twenty-two years. While faithfully caring for her parents and working at Good News, she continued in her multiple overseas endeavors.



Before the 1970s, Camp Good News had separate programs for boys and girls. Since many of the oldest campers wanted to be together, Faith decided to start a coed senior camp for teenagers. Hence they began to run three camps simultaneously, sharing the beach, dining hall, and other key facilities. Faith masterfully coordinated these efforts with key figures like Gert Wunsch in the Girl's Camp, Paul Warren or Lon Beery in Boy's Camp, and Dee Wilkinson in the kitchen. Her ability to share the Good News while having fun with the campers made "Seniors" the largest camp. She introduced scuba diving, Saturday workdays, hilarious evening programs such as Kangaroo Court where Faith might be found guilty and sentenced to wearing a wig or silly outfit for a day, and overnight trips biking on Martha's Vineyard, climbing Mt. Washington, and canoeing down the Saco River. She relied on dedicated young people to bunk in with campers, lifeguard, and lead the camping trips.

It is hard to forget her friendly smile, encouraging comments, sweet fellowship, personal prayers, and extraordinary life. Faith's desire to share the Good News often led her away from the comforts of home and extended to students, campers, staff, and the most needy. She was frequently recognized for her outstanding community service. In the 1960s while working on her Master's Degree, Faith taught elementary school in New Rochelle, New York, for seven years. She spent about three hours every Tuesday and Thursday teaching girls sewing on a donated machine and hair styling. During her last year, the girls came to her apartment on East 66 th Street for Bible study. Faith was featured in an article in Ebony Magazine, which ran a story on Youth Development, Inc.: a small group of volunteers in the slums of East Harlem helping hardened gang members find love, faith, and discipline. Jim Vaus, an ex-con who came to Christ at a Billy Graham tent revival in Los Angeles, started this private, non-profit agency to enlist and reform gang leaders in an effort to curb gang violence. The girls division of YDI had a modern-equipped, popular beauty parlor headed by Faith. Area superintendents in New Rochelle recognized her with The Ideal Teacher award.

Faith went on to serve as a high school guidance counselor for most of her career in Massachusetts, Beirut, Lebanon, and the American Schools in Tokyo, Japan, and Athens, Greece. Many of her students from around the world attended Camp Good News in the summer. At every stop along the way most extra curricular activities involved sharing her faith: teaching Sunday school, leading a youth group, or teaching English. In Greece she volunteered at a school for the blind and in Japan at a program for adults with spasticity. The Bible was always her textbook. In 1978, while teaching at the Eastwood College in Beirut, she asked two co-workers to help her distribute about 10,000 Gospels to the Syrian soldiers during the Lebanese War. Heather Cowan and Hazel St. John became lifelong friends. "Dear Faith, one of my heroes, such a huge influence on my life, so grateful to Jesus for our friendship. She helped me so much in Lebanon." Heather



Most know of Faith's outstanding service to the destitute women and children of Bangladesh. Charlotte Willard's (1860 – 1930) biography, which recounted her work with orphans in Turkey, drew Faith to work with orphans. In 1975, she and her brother, Peter Willard, founded The Widow's Friend, Inc., a nonprofit organization to help the widows and orphans of Bangladesh. The project grew to include two women's embroidery centers, a school for the deaf, a girls' hostel, two medical clinics in Dhaka, Home of Joy orphanage and Home of Joy High School in Khulna. Faith spent half of her life traveling to Bangladesh twice a year with her niece Jane Brooks. She celebrated her ninetieth birthday with the children at Home of Joy in October 2022. Faith received numerous awards for her work in Bangladesh. In 1992, she received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Baylor University. In 1996, the Governor and Senate of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on behalf of Women and Children International recognized Faith's exceptional work in providing schooling, shelter, and care for needy and homeless people in Bangladesh. In 2015, she was awarded Alumna of the Year by Wheaton Academy. Christ was first in her life, but when we think about Faith, more than half of our memories are of a humorous nature – perhaps because she could tease, laugh, tell funny stories, and she was not religiously pompous. Peter Willard says that Jesus has more joy than anyone else because: You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy. Psalm 45:7

Faith had no sense of self-importance. In 2003, The Winter Sunday Magazine quoted her as saying: I'm nothing special, I'm just an average Christian getting ready to meet my Lord." Till the end, she enjoyed driving to Maine to see brother Peter or visiting the children at Home of Joy. She used a few key phrases during her life: "Work is fun." "The joy of helping others when there is nothing in it for you." And "Lord, we love you and worship you," when she prayed.

Jane Brooks

For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. Corinthians 13:12



Reflections about Faith:

James Luehman

Faith will forever be Miss Willard to me as she was my high school guidance counselor in Greece in the early 1970s. She was constantly reminded by the principal to keep her Christian views to herself. Referring to his occasional use of a curse word, she would respond, "Sometimes you slip and sometimes I slip." She hosted a Sunday night meeting at her apartment in Athens, which was part Bible study, part jam session and part just a hang out. It worked because she believed the truth was the truth and the Spirit would lead the format, whatever it was. Years after leaving Greece I reconnected with Faith through a note in a "Church Around the World" insert in the Sunday program. It recounted how she was working with Congressman Barney Frank to rescue orphan camel jockeys. I was not surprised. I feel fortunate now that my wife Kathy and I got to do a zoom call with Faith and Jane earlier this year to get the latest Home of Joy update.

Marcia Greene

I don't recall hearing Faith say "Work is fun," but I do remember the hilarious (and innovative) part of an outfit she wore to paint cabins during pre-camp: toilet paper wound around her head. Was it to keep paint from getting on her hair or to keep sweat out of her eyes? I was too in awe of this remarkable woman to ask. When God asked Faith to minister overseas, she simply got out her suitcase and went, and angels high-fived each other. What a life of faithfulness and service!

Fred Moacdieh

The world has lost a saint. Very few have impacted our Lord's kingdom in so many places as Faith has. I met Faith in the summer of 1983 at Camp Good News. I was a stranded Lebanese student unable to go home for the summer because of the civil war there. Faith took me in that summer and gave me the opportunity to serve at camp on beautiful Cape Cod. I will always remember her kindness, zeal, and passion for serving our Lord. I talked to her again a couple of years ago, and she sounded like the same Faith I saw thirty years earlier. God blessed her enormously, and she has blessed us. We will miss Faith greatly.

Kim Jocelyn Dickson

What an extraordinary woman and life! It was a privilege to have known her, if only briefly. I spent three unforgettable summers at CGN 1979 to 1981 where we were all touched by Faith's example of service and love.



Kathy Smith

I was a camper many years ago, during the Gert years and Faith years. I have so many fond memories of her, and her loving nature and heart. Her love for God, for those in Bangladesh, and just about everyone she came across. I was hoping to make it to the alumni reunion this year and couldn't. I so badly wanted my children to meet her and experience some of the magic I did at camp. I wanted them to see it firsthand, walk down the roads with me, swim in Snake Pond, boat, and yes sleepover in the cabins too with no electricity, no video games, nothing to distract them from a different life and a different time in life. I'm thankful for all I was taught there by Faith, Gert, Mr. Willard, and so many others, and for my time there as a child. RIP sweet lady, it's time for you to rest now. You've made an everlasting impact on so many people and so many lives in all your years on this earth, now its time to hold hands with God, and be at peace. Your work is done.

Mimi Jackson

I was a camper, CIT, and counselor for fourteen consecutive summers at Good News, then a proud aunt and mother to campers for several more. My experiences with Faith are too long to write here, but she and her dad (and so many others attached to that fantastic place) were an enormous part of my life, and forever will continue to be.

Ten Thousand Times Ten Thousand

Henry Alford (1867)

Ten thousand times ten thousand, in sparkling raiment bright,
The armies of the ransomed saints throng up the steeps of light:
'Tis finished, all is finished, their fight with death and sin;
Fling open wide the golden gates, and let the victors in.

What rush of alleluias fills all the earth and sky!
What ringing of a thousand harps bespeaks the triumph night!
O day, for which creation and all its tribes were made;
O joy, for all its former woes a thousandfold repaid!

O then what raptured greetings on Canaan's happy shore!
What knitting severed friendships up, where partings are no more!
Then eyes with joy shall sparkle that brimmed with tears of late,
Orphans no longer fatherless, nor widows desolate.

Bring near Thy great salvation, thou Lamb for sinners slain;
Fill up the roll of Thine elect, then take Thy power and reign;
Appear, Desire of nations, Thine exiles long for home;
Show in the heavens Thy promised sign; Thou Prince and Savior, come.



It's Always Been about the Kids Camper Robert

Thank you so much for the Camp Good News Story. It brought back the memories of my two summers when I was twelve and thirteen. The courts sent me for my alcohol problem. I'm in AA and haven't had a drink in thirty-four years, only by God's grace. What I remember most was the campfires when Reverend Willard would tell us stories about the bravery of the marines who fought and some died but were brought to Jesus by Reverend Willard. Maybe that's why I joined the Marine Corps in 1970. My memory is getting bad but I remember WWW (that's what we called him when he wasn't around of course) and am so glad I was able to go to Camp Good News and get Jesus in my life. On judgment day I hope you will still be leading young people to Jesus. Thank you and God bless the whole Willard family.

I can do all this through him who gives me strength. Philippians 4:13

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