

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

Dear Friends,

The New Year will soon be upon us. What Good News have you learned about this year? Camp Good News continues to have a colorful group of gifted people that come together each summer to create memories that last a lifetime. The camp program focuses on the campers, but everyone knows it's the counselors that make things happen. They can turn a bike trip or campout into an amazing adventure. Add to that this gorgeous pinewood place on beautiful Snake Pond, and the possibilities are endless. It's a spiritual boost, a get away to charge your battery for the coming school year. We were fortunate to have many inspiring children and staff this past summer.

Seeing young people laugh, sing, play, and talk together is part of the magic. Hopefully some of our most needy campers found respite from a difficult past and direction to bravely move forward with a better understanding of God's love. Others, often not knowing what to expect, traveled from distant lands in hopes of experiencing the wonders of Good News: campfires, whale watches, chapel, and the camaraderie of living, working, and playing together. Most everyone needed a good rest after the busy summer.

"Others" may be the key to our success. Caring for others is a huge step toward taking our minds and worries off ourselves. When Faith Willard first traveled to Bangladesh in 1976, she longed for an opportunity to help destitute women and children. Uncle Peter and Aunt Faith wanted to help campers at Good News and Chop Point learn the joy of helping "the poor" through prayer, car washes, and sponsoring orphans and widows. After all, who did Jesus come to preach to?

The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. Luke 4:18

Who did Jesus say we should befriend?



But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous. Luke 14:13-14

People who focused on others blessed the campers and staff this past summer. For instance, we knew the singing at chapel would be great if Lon Beery came. But we never guessed he would also run the dishwasher, lead the trips, and mop the kitchen floor every night! Andriy was a last minute addition to the Ukrainian team, but we didn't expect his selfless energy to swim, fish, bike, and play with the kids so much. The staff from Mexico was mature and willing to dance, sail, and do whatever was asked of them. It would be amazing if some of the campers and staff returned in 2024.

Thank you for your encouragement, prayers and support over the years. Winter is a quiet time here, the coyotes sometimes howl at night, and the leaves are mounting up around the buildings. But spring is around the corner and that's always an exciting time on Cape Cod. We would love to see many of you come for a session, visit, or the whole summer next year.

Cordially,
Jane

Jane Brooks

Let this be recorded for a generation to come, so that a people yet unborn may praise the Lord. Psalm 102:18

What a unique and memorable summer this was. As always, we had children and staff from around the globe. As always, we packed the days with swimming, canoeing, sailing, biking, fishing, soccer, arts and crafts, singing, ukulele lessons, tennis, archery, basketball, Bible study, trips to waterparks, whale watching, and hiking. As always, the food was great. As always, chapel was a time to come together to sing, learn of God's love for us, and worship Him.

We had over ninety campers (not all at once) and about thirty staff (not all at once) at camp this summer. Counted among those present for this, oh so special, summer were twenty-two children



Fisherman Nick

from Ukraine and eight teenagers from Ecuador, and staff from Scotland, Mexico, Korea, Bangladesh, New York, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Michigan, and Cape Cod. The Ukrainian children and staff journeyed for two days to get to camp beginning with a twelve-hour bus trip from Kiev to Poland followed by flights from Krakow to Boston. Some of them had lost their homes. Some had lost far more in the war. All of them had lost their innocence.

But for two weeks they were able to forget the war and the heartache. They were bathed in love. They had nothing but fun. One of the Ukrainian organizers, a cornerstone of the whole project, Kathy Gould wrote, "Many of these children had experienced death close to them. God used Camp Good News to swallow that up in victory and wipe tears from their faces." It was a precious privilege to be here and be a part of their lives as they bravely faced challenges we here in the United States have yet to face. While at camp they wrote the following:

*"Dear Camp Good News and all people who work here,
We want to say THANK YOU from kids and people from Ukraine. You made our dream something so good and big. You all made it HAPPEN! We cannot use the right words to express our gratitude, but we will be praying for your lives and ministries to prosper and multiply. This time was so wonderful and blessed: it was a time for us to heal, find friends, and to know more how great our Father is. You've shown us and these kids love, care, hospitality, comfort, and wisdom. This experience we will never forget. A million thank yous! Also thank you for such tasty meals every time and every day, showing us love in every detail.
With love and grateful thanks,*

Ukrainian children and their counselors, Alyona, Sasha, Roman, and Andriy"

What a unique and memorable summer it was.

Steve Brooks



Three Sisters from Ukraine

Staff Impressions

Thank you for organizing wonderful Camp Good News. It was a time of much needed relaxation and spiritual food for our children. Many of them did not know God. And in the camp they learned about God's love not in words but in deeds by seeing your love and care.

Life in Ukraine compared to last winter is still affected by the war, though we have electricity. Thankfully we shoot down most of the missiles and drones because of the help given by the USA and Europe. Children study in schools and when the sirens sound, they hide in basements and bomb shelters. This year many men are living in fear. They are afraid that they will be stopped on the street and sent to war.

Thanks to Camp Good News, the children and I had a break from fear and sirens. We were happy to see the planes overhead since only military aircraft fly in Ukraine, and they cause fear.

Thank you for your love to our children. Thank you for a super camp! We pray for you.

Andriy Lihodeev

Thirty Years Later

Having worked at Camp Good News in my twenties and early thirties, I must admit that I have a little bit of camp in my soul. I am sure many will identify with the feeling I get when I smell the salt water and finally see the Sagamore or Bourne Bridge for the first time each summer.

Coming back to the 85th Anniversary Reunion brought many of those memories back. I asked Stephen Brooks if I could return, and he said, "Of course." So, I decided to come back and volunteer last summer. I did so with excitement, but also with a little fear. Would these sixty-five-year-old bones be able to put up with the rigors of camp life? Would I connect with the counselors who were a third my age? As I drove onto the camp road, I certainly had some mixed emotions.

The fears were quickly put to rest as I met the wonderful staff. The counselors were so kind! Grace, Julie, and others in the kitchen made me feel at home. And of course, the kids were phenomenal! It was such a special joy to lead the music in chapel each morning and hear them praise the Lord so exuberantly and beautifully! Even the Ukrainian campers with limited English skills communicated through smiles and laughter. Working alongside Jane and Stephen Brooks brought back such great memories. They worked so tirelessly! It was a summer I will never forget.

Of course, things have changed a lot since I last worked at Camp Good News. Back when I worked there in the 80s and 90s there were a couple of hundred campers divided into three camps. Most of them were overnight campers. We were just beginning to add day campers back then. Now, the camp is smaller with mostly day campers. And I still can't get use to the Girls Camp switching with the Boys Camp! (Heresy!) But even with all of the changes, some things never change. The presence of God still permeates this place.

As I walked through the camp, I couldn't help but to have wonderful memories of hundreds of former campers, counselors, and those special folks who meant so much to me. Everywhere I turned, I was reminded of times with Faith Willard, Hope Brooks, Gert Wunsch, and Paul Warren (Okie!) and so many others. Each of them was a role model that influenced my life enormously. As I washed dishes and mopped the kitchen floor, I couldn't help but to think back with greater respect for Arthur Worm and all of his worker boys over the years. And as I washed toilets and sinks, I couldn't help but hear Faith saying, "Work is fun!" And when one is doing so in service to the Lord, it truly is!

Lon Beery



Lon & the Park Brothers

Reflections on the Reunion

Camp was a big encouragement spiritually for Kyle Murray. Here are some thoughts stirred by the 85th camp union. I came to the camp reunion during the summer of 2022. My parents had volunteered at Camp Good News for many years so my brothers and I could attend as campers. For many years since then, I was not serious about my faith. Being at the reunion was such an encouragement to me, and I have recently recommitted my life to Christ.

Being outdoors near the lake for chapel gave me a deep reverence for God. He spoke to me as we sang old familiar camp songs from our hearts. Singing before meals also meant a lot to me.

I enjoyed reliving all the activities at camp like swimming in the lake and sitting by the campfire at night. It was easy to talk to others who had come to the reunion, and I was so glad I came. My years at Camp Good News have given me a desire to work in the Christian camping environment in the future. I want to serve God with my life and am thankful for the part camp had in that process.

Kyle Murray

My Experience with Camp Good News

If someone were to ask me to describe why I love Camp Good News, I don't think I would be able to pick just one reason. Camp Good News holds a very special place in my heart. I have attended camp for three summers, I began going because my uncle Scott attended when he was young and my mother wanted me to go as well. At first, I was nervous to attend a place unfamiliar, but when I arrived I received a warm welcome from the counselors who assured me everything would be fine. Well, let me tell you it was way more than fine. That summer I never wanted to go home. I loved everything about the camp from chapel to sailing, the various activities, and making new friends.

I would say camp for me is a place to grow my relationship with God, make friends, and experience new adventures. Each morning everyone gathers for chapel where we sing songs and listen to a Bible teaching. I always appreciate starting my morning with God's Word and worship. Camp offers many activities daily; some of my favorites are arts and crafts, soccer, biking, swimming, and of course sailing. All the activities are available to campers who would like to participate. Another reason I appreciate Camp Good News is because of their love for international ministries. During the summer they employ counselors from all over the world. I was able to meet people from six different countries this year, which without camp I would have never met.

Each year camp gets better and better, this summer was my favorite of all. I bonded with so many campers and counselors that I hope will be lifelong friends. I improved my swimming and sailing, and most of all I grew my relationship with God abundantly. Every morning during chapel I learned more and more about God and the stories in the Bible brought me closer to Him. I wish to return in the upcoming years as a counselor and hopefully, one day send my own children to camp. Every summer spent at camp I will remember forever and cherish in my heart. I am forever grateful to Miss Jane and everyone who makes Camp Good News possible!

Scarlet Stewart

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

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