

# CAMP GOOD NEWS

FALL NEWSLETTER | 2025



*Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 1 John 3:2-3*

Another terrific summer at camp has come and gone. Children and staff went home with many wonderful memories that last a lifetime. Some things don't change very much from year to year. Decades ago, Martha from Ecuador and Luba from Ukraine learned to sail during pre-camp. After that, they learned to swim. Many Ukrainian staff and campers followed Luba to Camp Good News, and Martha paved the way for young people to join us from Ecuador for years to come.

It was surreal to have Martha back this summer with her twenty-seven-year-old son Cristopher. Cris came for pre-camp to help ready the grounds and learn to be a lifeguard. He reminded me of Martha in so many ways: cheerful, kind, hard-working, and friendly. Martha, a university professor, joined us for the last two weeks of camp. What energy and willingness to do anything. Laundry? Sure, let me work with the CITs assigned to that job. Kitchen? I'd love to help Grace with the meals. Sailing? Jane, you know I love to sail!

This past summer the staff dove into the activities with the joy of the Lord. Rather than focus on the inconveniences of cold showers when the water heater in Taj 1 kept breaking, bug bites from who knows what, or those long walks to meals and activities, everyone seemed to go with the flow, enjoying new friends and personal growth. Here are a few of their unsolicited letters:

## Staff

I want to express my deepest gratitude, first for trusting me and giving me the opportunity to serve as a counselor, and also to the entire staff, who at every moment showed patience, support, and willingness to guide me. I recognize that I made mistakes, as it was my first experience in this role. However, I feel truly blessed for every lesson learned and for the way God used each situation to shape me.



Cris and Martha

The camp was a time of joy and learning, but also a process of spiritual restoration. I laughed, had fun, and above all, I found a safe space where God spoke to my life and strengthened my relationship with Him. Moreover, I had the joy of meeting young people and brothers and sisters in Christ who have become dear friends – people with whom I shared unforgettable moments and who will remain in my life beyond this experience.

Now that I am back in Mexico and resuming my university studies, I carry in my heart every teaching, every piece of advice, and every word of encouragement I received. I am deeply grateful to you and the staff for your leadership, commitment, and dedication, which are a clear reflection of God's love. I pray that He continues to bless your lives abundantly and multiply the fruit of your work in every young person who passes through the camp.

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6*

With gratitude and appreciation,  
**Keyla Zoe Hernández Fortis, México**

Dear Jane and Steve,

I thank you for inviting me to this camp "Good News." I hope that many more different children can come here and hear about God. I really liked the Aqua Park, whale watching, shopping, all the activities where I could learn.

Thank you for giving me a Bible. Now I can read it in English too. Thank you for your kind, sincere hearts. For your love and patience with us! I will remember these wonderful two weeks for a long time. May the Lord bless you.

With respect, **Martha! Ukraine**

### Campers



**Parent** to a friend about her daughter's experience at camp:



Hannah and Alex

Her best friend is Hannah whose parents met at camp and fell in love and that's why she's at camp (Alex's words), and I think her mom's a lifeguard. She loves archery, sailing, and getting strong arms.

She asked for a Bible, and I forgot pillows. Working on getting her back to camp today as she's keen to head back after rehearsals and am washing her clothes before heading into work soon.

She thinks the point system for cabin inspection is rigged, lol, and adores her counselors. Loved going to fireworks. She asked me for a Bible and is both sad and happy that Jesus died on the cross for her to live!

## Liz and Ryan Martin

This summer Liz and Ryan Martin finally returned to camp with their four beautiful children. They'd thought about it and almost came before, but this summer they made it happen. What great leaders and friends they were to the staff and campers. Liz could bike, sail, and play soccer. She even found time to do her family's laundry and finish painting the outdoor trim on her cabin. Ryan is a powerhouse, yet gentle, soft-spoken and has a heart of gold. His chapel talks were practical and easy to follow. We all hope a summer pilgrimage to Camp Good News becomes a Martin family tradition.



Left to right back: Liz, Ryan, Steve, Gris, China, Steve  
Middle: Luca, Hannah, Caleb, Arpita, Keyla, Dani, Arianna,  
Daneila, Asher - Front: Moran, Johanna, Yade

## Arianna and Arpita

This is the time of year I prepare to return to Bangladesh to visit our seven projects there. For the first time this past summer, two girls from Bangladesh visited Camp Good News. Both were educated in English medium schools, so language was not a problem. Though the girls couldn't be more different, they have known each other since childhood, creating a wonderful bond. This month Arianna returned to Sandwich High School here on Cape Cod. Arpita will return with me to Dhaka on October 3. Two different lives with similar goals, but their paths will soon part. We continue to read the Bible together at night as they did with their cabin at camp. God is working in their hearts and will be with them wherever they go and whatever they do. Praise the Lord!

## Staff Update

Hi Jane! I sent my info to SIM USA, that missionary group you told me about! I'm hoping to go to their info session in North Carolina from November 13-15. I'm actually more interested in Maryknoll Lay Missioners and will attend their webinar next week.

I'm taking in some part-time lifeguarding work at my local YMCA, which is just a five minute drive from my house! The director already knows me because I took swimming lessons there to prepare for my lifeguarding class back in April and May! – Morgan

## Camp Good News 90th Anniversary Alumni Event Dayle Edwards

At the end of August, we welcomed about thirty Camp Good News alumni back to camp for a fun weekend of fellowship, remembrance, singing, activities, and lots of fun! The years of alumni spanned from the 1960s to the 2000s.

We heard from Jane Brooks, the director, who updated us on everything happening at camp and the 2025 summer season. We also heard from Steve Brooks, who shared a devotional message at our amazing chapel and church in the grove. Lon Beery led our singing, and we revived some of our old favorites including the Camp Good News song!

We relived a day at camp with activities from Arts & Crafts, archery, A-Field games, and tennis to a fun afternoon of swimming and boating in the lake. The campfire on the beach was a highlight with lots of sharing, singing, and s'mores!



**Alumni work project – Work is Fun!**

Here are some favorite things from the reunion by a couple attendees:

"My favorite was arts and crafts because it gave the feeling of being a child again in that Camp Good News safe space." – Julie Brown

"My favorite was reconnecting for sure! It was at least forty years since Darren, Tracy, Mel, Brenden, and I were all together! But it was a great boost for the soul!" – Scott Smith

"You know what, the very best memory was feeling the overwhelming presence of the Holy Spirit. I saw and felt the love of Jesus in everyone there. That's what was overwhelming. You don't get that everywhere you go." – Darren Valentine

We hope even more alumni will consider joining us for the next Camp Good News Alumni event!

**Mel Received the Good News Story at the Reunion**

I went back to Gideons International today and told my friend there about what I read in the Camp Good News story. In World War II, Rev. Willard accepted 1000 Gideon Bibles there for marines going into war. Visiting the Gideons and learning about these Bibles as I read Rev. Willard's description of the same story in the book was no coincidence. It was so moving; I gave her my copy of the Camp Good News book. – Melanie Waldman

Thanksgiving and Christmas will be here soon. May these holidays be filled with much love, joy, and peace as you celebrate with your family and friends.

With Warmth and Thanks,

Jane Brooks  
Director

**Jane Brooks, MSN**

President, The Society for Christian Activities  
Director, Camp Good News

**Stephen Willard Brooks, MD**

Vice President, The Society for Christian Activities

**Karen Carlson, PhD**

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