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Goodbye and Hello!

By - Carla Besco, Camp Program Director

GOODBYE 2016!

It was a very good year around here at Camp Copass. It always has us in a state of wonder and awe! God truly has plans, and when you follow them ...what you become witness to simply blows you away.

So much has happened since the close of our amazing summer....let's recall!

We said **GOODBYE** to our Blessed Assurance dorm, which had faithfully served Camp Copass for 40 plus years. We immediately said **HELLO** to our new Blessed Assurance dorm. Construction has been moving along... check out Brad's article all about it.

We then had to say **GOODBYE** to Jeremy Holland. It was a sad but happy day as Jeremy embarks on his next adventure with his precious family.

Can you guess... we said **HELLO** to our new Ministry Assistant Angie Smith.



The saying around here is, "If you leave Camp Copass you always come back to Camp Copass..." It appears to be true in this case. Angie is a returning staff member stepping into a brand new position. Come on by meet her and make her feel welcome.



So **HELLO 2017!** We have started breaking ground on a new gift shop and repurposing space to accommodate our ever changing needs! We are so humbled and thankful for God's plan and His grace upon Camp Copass.



Blessed Assurance

By - Brad Springer, Camp Manager

**"Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh what a foretaste of Glory Divine!"**

I bet Jim Angel sang that hymn when he built the original Blessed Assurance Dorm over 40 years ago. We were able to build upon the dirt, soil, and foundation that Jim originally used to build Blessed Assurance. For the next 40 years, this new building will house people of all ages as they come to Camp Copass to learn about Jesus!

I'm so thankful for Jim and Darlene Angel and for the vision they had for the original Blessed Assurance dorm.

The new building will be finished by the end of February and is already booked for the first weekend in March! It is a very

versatile building as it sleeps 60 people, has a meeting area for up to 150, a nice kitchen, and large front and back porches.

God has provided the funds to move from the completion of Blessed Assurance Dorm right over to building a new Gift Shop. The gift shop will have 2,000 sq. ft. of shopping with a small coffee bar, drink machines, and an 8' covered porch surrounding the building. It will be located in the middle of the camp. This building will be a gathering area that will bless our groups and camps for many years to come.

We are so thankful to the Lord for providing these new facilities at Camp Copass!

Guatemala Mission Trip 2017

By - Matt Keller, Summer Staff Director

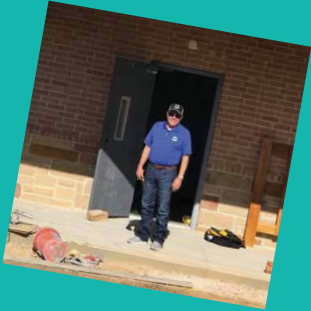
Campamento Rio Dulce in Guatemala was a great success this year!

2017 marks the third year that Camp Copass has conducted day camp for the Kekchi people in the Rio Dulce area. Three hundred fifty children and adults from outlying villages came by boat to meet at the campgrounds in a small village in the jungle. The children experienced all the fun of camp, including crafts, recreation, bible studies, and worship. Of course, they were taught the Gospel of Jesus Christ and had opportunity to respond. Thirty one children received Christ this year!

From the beginning of this endeavor, the goal has been not only to have camps in Guatemala, but to teach the people how to conduct camps and to support a ministry. Each year, we try to give more responsibility to the pastors and volunteers in Rio Dulce. The first two years we took eighteen people; this year we took only ten, in hopes that volunteers would step up to fill the gaps. On the first day of

camp, volunteers showed up but lacked the confidence to lead the activities. On the second day, some of the pastors called all of the volunteers together before camp activities started. This was an outstanding turning point and attitudes were visibly changed. After that meeting, they began to organize. Small groups of leaders would meet, brainstorming new ideas for songs and games. They increasingly took on more roles in the assembly and were able to connect to the children culturally in a way that we have not been able to do. The people of Rio Dulce displayed a desire to take ownership in their camp, and showed signs that in the future, they will be capable of running a successful camping ministry in their area.

Camp Copass would like to thank everyone that gave their time, money, and other resources to minister to the beautiful people in Guatemala. The team truly felt the prayer support from all of you. This wonderful work could not have been accomplished without your support.



Save the Date

2017 Summer Camp Dates



May 1-3	Keenage Kamp
June 12-16	RA/GA Camp
July 3-7	Youth Camp
July 10-14	TREK I
July 14-15	Mini Camp
July 17-21	TREK II
July 24-28	TREK III
August 5-9	Trendsettaz

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To plan a weekend retreat for your ministry group in 2017, contact toni@campcopass.com.

Day 4 of Campamento Rio Dulce is why we come to Guatemala. We call it Jesus Day, because He is the focus of every activity and lesson. Dozens of kids responded at the invitation (31 to be exact)!



Everyday I experienced frustration, exhaustion and anxiousness, but none of these things compared to the smiling faces, the enthusiasm and tangible love that the people of Guatemala had for our team, and just the memories that were made the entire week.



God made incredible things happen in Guatemala.



Forever the people of Guatemala will have a spot in my heart. The abundance of joy that comes from their hearts is unimaginable.



The work of the Lord in Guatemala is so very evident. The more blessings we see poured out, the more we realize just how deep the need for Him in Guatemala is.



There are no words that can define what Guatemala was like. God showed up and it was a blessing to be able to witness it.





Giving all effort, glory and honor to Him, while being His light in such a beautiful yet dark place is what we as Christians are all called to do.



Campamento Rio Dulce is a beautifully imperfect place, where imperfect people come together to worship a loving and perfect God.



These people will forever be in my heart and prayers and I hope God continues to bless them throughout their lives.



God is so good and so faithful to all who call upon His name.



Traveling to Guatemala with Camp Copass has been an amazing blessing for two years in a row. From

the beginning, our vision has been to empower and encourage the local people to take ownership of this ministry, and this year we saw that come to life! The relationships that we've been able to cultivate are starting to flourish as we see God's love at work. None of this would be possible without the love and support of those back here in the States.



Thank you Lord for an adventure that completely smashed my expectations. Thank you for the lessons, your consistency and most of all for your provision throughout this entire week.

Summer Staff Needs

Every year Camp Copass hires high school graduates and college students to be part of the staff and help out during the summer months.

Thousands of children and youth visit the camp during this time and our goal is to create an environment conducive to the Holy Spirit working in their lives. Our staffers are not counselors that work directly with the campers; rather our ministry is to serve and take care of the needs of others.

It takes a lot to feed over 700 campers three meals a day, five days a week, so the majority of the time spent is in the dining hall. Some of the other staff jobs include working in the concession stand, cleaning buildings and serving food. On Monday nights, some camps have a carnival which the staff help with; face painting, snow cones, cotton candy, and crazy hairstyles are a few of the activities we provide. We are also looking for

lifeguards and ropes course facilitators. The camp will pay the cost of certification classes for these employees.

Being a summer staffer takes a lot of effort but it is an important part of the ministry. Without us, the campers would not have a clean place to sleep nor food to eat, and the worship leaders would not have a receptive audience to tell them about the love of Jesus. A good attitude and work ethic is a must because the days and weeks are long, especially with the Texas heat. The job is rewarding; many staffers make lifelong friends. There are also opportunities for spiritual growth; every morning a different staffer leads in a short devotion and once a week there is a Bible study. At times the staff enjoys a night when the camp takes everyone out to eat.

If you are interested in being a part of a great ministry please go to our website and fill out an application today.

“Having grown up in a Christian home and knowing the Church since I can remember, I have had the privilege of seeing the joy that flows in our hearts when we know God. Camp is one of those places that you can see God's joy truly shine its brightest.”



WE ARE ROLLING OUT THE RED CARPET FOR

KEENAGE *kamp*

MAY 1-3, 2017

Please join us as we roll out the red carpet for our annual Keenage Kamp. We will be celebrating Old Hollywood and having all the fun we can have! It's time to take a break from the ordinary and travel back to a glamorous time of old. Dress like your favorite glamorous star or just your most glamorous self! Bring a friend and let's celebrate together. We will be hearing wonderful messages and enjoying some fantastic music. This always proves to be a time of great food, fellowship and fun...with a few dozen of your closest friends...

COME AND JOIN US!

WHEN: MAY 1-3, 2017

COST: \$95.00 DORM
\$125.00 ANGEL MOTEL
\$145.00 TALLY RETREAT CENTER

RSVP: 940-565-0050 | carla@campcopass.com



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Brad's Corner

After 21 years of serving at Camp Copass, , I'm still excited to be preparing for Summer Camp! Our theme this coming summer is "Anchored" with the scripture verse Hebrews 6:19: "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." Please pray for the thousands of young people who will be coming to Camp Copass for Summer Camp 2017!



We had over 35,000 people come through our gates in 2016 and we served close to 2 million meals in our dining hall! We hope and believe that 2017 will be just as busy. Whoever God sends our way, we need to remain diligent and faithful in pointing people to Jesus Christ!

God Bless!
Brad

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