

Fall 2013

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Copass Connection

It's Our Job

By Ronnie Coyers
Camp Copass Board President

It was a typical Monday at Camp Copass (if there is a typical day at Camp Copass). Trek Week II was about to start and that meant it was time to get ready for Carnival Night.

Unfortunately, our summer staff director, Matt Keller, was unavailable due to a family situation. Caleb Willis quickly volunteered to step in and coordinate the staffing of the carnival. That evening, I stood outside the recreation pavilion and watched as Caleb, quite effectively, got every job covered and every summer staffer involved. It was then that Caleb walked up to me and said something like, "You don't have a job, do you?" I quickly responded, "Yes, I do! I'm watching those water coolers to make sure they don't run empty."

You see, for a few weeks in the summer, my wife and I volunteer our time at Camp Copass, and I serve as the Minister of Hydration Engineering (don't you dare call me a water boy), making sure that ice water is available at strategic locations to help our campers deal with the summer heat. That's what I do, but as I considered Caleb's question, I was reminded that it's not really my job.

Brad Springer manages our camp and leads in development, fund raising, and all aspects of the camp, but

that isn't really his job.

Denise Springer, who I suspect is largely responsible for Brad's success, manages the office and handles the finances, but that's not her real job. Carla Besco plans, coordinates, and conducts our summer camp ministry, and somehow keeps most everyone happy, but she has a more important job. Toni Sidler coordinates our retreat ministry, but there is a greater job to which she aspires.

Danny Martin directs maintenance, Matt Keller directs our summer staff, Jeremy Holland handles food service (if we are having chicken strips, it must be Tuesday), Jainah Clark is our receptionist, Caleb Willis is in charge of setup, and the list continues. But, as you may have guessed by now, those are not their real jobs.

There are many functions and many responsibilities which must be covered at Camp Copass, but there is really only one job. That job is to participate in the life changing work being done by our Savior.

It is my pleasure to report to you that God is using Camp Copass to get the job done. This summer, hundreds of lives were forever changed by the grace of Jesus Christ. I don't know why God chooses to use chicken strips, carnivals, ice water, etc., to change lives, but I'm sure glad He does.

Let's keep doing the job!

June 16-20	GA/RA Camp
July 7-11	TREK I
July 14-18	TREK II
August 3-7	TRENDSETTASZ

June 30-July 4	Youth Camp
July 11-12	Mini Camp
July 21-25	TREK III

FORGIVEN
Romans 4:7-8



Summer Staff 2013

If you have been concerned about the next generation of young adults, we can introduce you to a group of staffers that may offer some encouragement. The 2013 Summer Staff has been a delight to work with, has displayed a positive attitude and an impressive work ethic throughout the summer. They have put in many long days from June to August, all the while growing in Christ, proving that this is not just another summer job but a ministry. Camp Copass is growing every year, and it is amazing to see how God is faithfully providing for the ever increasing need for quality staffers.



Thank you Summer Staff 2013 for an excellent summer. You were the hands and feet of Jesus this summer to over 9000 people! We love and miss you already. Remember“ you can do all things through Christ who gives you strength.”

Sand Volleyball/GAGA Ball

Every year we have been adding to our fun here at Camp Copass. This year we have added two new attractions that proved to be absolutely the most fun ever.



Our new sand volleyball court never saw a moments rest. There were churches out there morning, noon and night. Watching the campers interact with each other was absolutely priceless.

The laughter and smiles were too many to count. Thank you, Lord, for this opportunity to see the campers enjoying their time here.

Have you ever heard of GAGA Ball? It is the most interesting game around. It is like dodge ball on the ground, inside of a pit!

The campers played this game all day long. Watching them get along and cheer for each other was outstanding. Next time you are at Camp Copass you should give it a try!



Erin Keller: An example to us all

As you look at this picture I hope that it brings a smile to your face like it does all of us at Camp Copass. I would like to share with you about this precious girl. Her name is Erin Keller and her Dad is on staff at Camp Copass full time. She is 22 years old, the oldest of four children and I kid you not the life of the party. You may ask why would we want to share our sweet Erin with all of you? Let me explain...

This years camp theme was based on Philippians 4:13 "I can do all thing through Christ who gives me strength." Erin is a pure example of Christ giving her strength. This year Erin had a stroke and was diagnosed with MOYAMOYA Disease. This broke all of our hearts!

To look at Erin you would never know all that she is going through. Erin walks into a room with her arms open wide ready to hug everyone there....not just hug but actually sit down have a conversation and want to know what is going on in your life. She is the most concerned person about everyone else's welfare.

Erin will tell you that you are beautiful, patient, smart, kind, important....usually on a day that you are dealing with not feeling any of that. She will pray for you right then if she thinks that you need it. Helping is her favorite thing to do...you can



find her in the dining hall, passing out silverware, shoveling up ice for a snowcone at each carnival and dancing to the music with all of the campers.

Erin is such a strong example of the strength that comes from the Lord. Each year a camper/volunteer stands out to us...this year Erin is the one. We love you sweet Erin!!

We are praying for you!!

Feeding the Masses



By Jeremy Holland

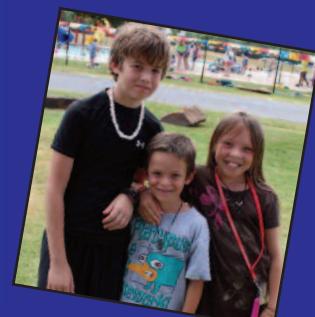
When Jesus fed the five thousand, He had the twelve disciples help Him distribute the loaves of bread and fish. He also had leftovers.

We had 9,029 campers between June and August, thirty kitchen staff, and a somewhat larger menu. Our goal is to surpass people's expectations of camp food, one I like to think we accomplished.

There was never leftover bacon, everyone loved the hot and spicy salsa that came with the quesadilla meal, and would come back for second and thirds of cookies.

It took a lot of hard work and long hours, so thanks so much to all that helped make it possible. Now the summer is over but our job isn't.

We will continue to serve God and, as always, the best camp food in Texas.



GA Camp Legacy

By Libby Quigg

For the last ten years, Kim McNeal has served as missions camp director; throughout her ministry, she has been its fearless leader and its most faithful advocate. Kim lead the camp leadership team with humility, integrity, grace, and fervent prayer.

Kim's favorite GA camp verse is "I move on toward the goal to win the prize. God has appointed me to win it. The heavenly prize is Christ Jesus himself." Philippians 3:14 (Nlrv).

She exemplified this verse, as she paid attention to every last detail of planning each camp activity. No matter what happened her focus was always on



how Jesus was going to reveal himself to the campers. Her legacy as missions camp director has impacted the lives of so many little girls and young ladies. As we think of all the GA camp alumni that are now doing

missions, my heart expands in my chest. Each year, more GA camp alumni are answering God's call and doing missions all around the world. Thank you Kim for your dedication and service at Camp Copass.

Let's do this

By Carla Besco
Program Director

The Staff at Camp Copass work all year long praying, planning, praying, mailing, praying, answering questions, praying, building, praying, reevaluating, praying, improving, praying...you get the point, in the hope that each child will see Jesus during their time here at Camp Copass.

As the month of July started we all had the attitude of "Let's do this" ... We knew that God was ready to use Camp Copass for His Glory and this summer has been no exception to being overwhelmed with the magnitude of our GOD. There were over 9029 adults, youth, children and families that passed thru the gates of Camp Copass this summer. You totally read that right ...nine thousand and twenty nine.

There were so many special moments this summer! As you work with all of these campers it hard hard to choose just one to share, so I want to share with you the number of decisions that were made this summer.

This is the number you need to remember and join us in prayer about. May God bring people into their young lives to grow their hearts for Jesus.

Total Decisions Made 717



With all of the laughter, tears, fun indoor and outdoor activities, bible studies and carnivals that we get to be a part of, helping them learn about our Mighty God is the best! This summer was no exception. What a blessing to be part of this great experience. Listed below are all of the numbers for the summer:

Summer Attendance Records

Camps	4743
Retreats	4286
Total	9029

The Trend has been set



By Calvin Clark

The trend has been set for Trendsettaz camp, with seven former campers returning to serve as counselors, six girls and one boy. Last year Richard Johnson was a fruitful seed for the counselors returning this year.

As camp directors we are most pleased with what God is doing with Trendsettaz camp. Amber Alburdy is a prime example of how God can take a disciple from youth to become a model servant

leader.

God is setting trends through Trendsettaz campers as well as college students who have volunteered over the years. College students like Whitney Bracey have been model stable leaders for young female campers. The campers lives are transformed and they get to experience God's love through leaders as well as one another; however, nothing is more exciting than the trends just mentioned.

We are excited to welcome First Baptist Weston back to camp and first timers Friendship Baptist church of the Colony. Camp numbers increased by a third this year and God set things in motion with the solid leadership of Candace, Mallory, Jainah and Mike and Manny - The Dream Team. ☺

I can't help but to think of the trends that will flow from this year's servant leaders and campers with great joy and appreciation to God.

To God be all the Glory.



From the Heart ...

By Brad Springer
Camp Manager

This year we saw God do amazing things at Camp Copass. God uses a lot of people to carry out the gospel message! We not only have a great full-time staff, but were also blessed with a wonderful summer staff. Our Summer Staff Director, Matt Keller, did an excellent job leading 25 of the best college students around!

We also had the enthusiastic, hard-working, always energetic DBU Rec Team for 4 weeks this summer. Serving at Camp Copass for the first time this year was the DBU Worship Team. The Worship Team spent 3 weeks with us during our Preteen weeks. They were just terrific and shared Christ's love with our children through worship.

Our own Program Director, Carla Besco, worked for months planning summer camps. She did an amazing job working with planning teams, children's ministers, speakers, nightlife events, and on and on and on! She is about to take a well-deserved vacation!

I want to also mention that we had great food prepared by our dining hall staff and led by Food Service Director, Jeremy Holland. One thing is for sure, no one left Camp Copass hungry! Like I said before, the Lord uses a lot of people here in the summertime. And how would we have camp if the air conditioners weren't working and the water pump wasn't pumping? Director of

Maintenance, Danny Martin never loses his cool while keeping everyone cool through well maintained A/C units...he's also an excellent Bible Study teacher during Youth Camp!

While summer camp is going on, there is continual planning for the weekend retreats in the summertime and through the rest of the year. Retreat Coordinator, Toni Sidler, keeps us organized and ready with calendars and schedules for all our retreats! When you call or visit our office, you are greeted first with one of the most amazing young people to ever work at Camp Copass, Receptionist Jainah Clark. She is always calm and ready to help in any situation that comes her way!

And of course I need to mention my wife, Denise, who is the Office Manager and Bookkeeper. During the summer she continues to manage the finances, the first aid station and the gift shop. I also want to mention our volunteers. Our Board President, Ronnie Conyers and his wife Susan, spent 3 weeks here ministering in whatever way was needed. Basil and Sharon Murphy also served by keeping our concession stand and gift shop running smoothly.

Thank you to all of the other volunteers who I might have not mentioned in this article. So, it with great THANKFULNESS TO GOD for each person who served this summer and for allowing Denise and I to be a part of what God is doing at Camp Copass!



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Brad's Corner

Restoring Joy

We are looking forward to Restoring Joy at Camp Copass! The Joy Dorm has served us well since 1956, but it is time to build a new building in its place.

We plan to tear the existing building down the first part of September and begin immediately building the new Joy Dorm. We cannot wait long for this to happen because we need the space that Joy provides.

At this time, we have raised half of the amount it will take to build this facility. Our plans are to build it without incurring any debt.

Please pray for the funds to come in to build this much needed building. Any donations received with "Joy" written in the memo line will go 100% toward Restoring Joy at Camp Copass!

- Brad



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