

March 2006

Dear Friends,

Let me begin by reporting on summer camp activity (from the southern hemisphere perspective that is). The second camping season held at Camp Gary in Lae, Papua New Guinea was a great success. A large number of unsaved young people attended, and the Lord drew many of them to Himself. I have included a report of the trip by Scott Ashmore, program assistant at THE WILDS.

Our CampsAbroad team to Brazil, consisting of Dr. and Mrs. Ken Hay and WILDS staff members Tim Meals, Doug Gorsline, and Joe Anderson, was able to assist with the first teen week



of Hope Ranch in Catlao. Dr. Hay writes, "We know of approximately 5 young people who trusted Christ or received assurance of salvation and several others who made good decisions. We subsequently learned that three young people were saved as a result of the testimonies of the staff and campers in another local church." Praise the Lord that missionary Bill Kieffer's dream of starting a camp is becoming a reality!



Also in January, Kelly, Gabe, and I flew down to Montevideo for a three week stay at Camp Emanuel. We had been invited by the EMU (Evangelical Mission to Uruguay) leadership to speak at a staff training week and two weeks of summer camp. We had a wonderful time ministering together as a family. Kelly spoke several times and played her flute, while Gabe doubled as camp mascot and free time activity for the female campers. It was very encouraging to see how the Lord is using Christian



camping to touch many hearts in Uruguay. We rejoice that several young people accepted Christ as Savior each camp week.

Praises: Our new promotional DVD for CampsAbroad was mailed out in February. We praise the Lord for this new ministry tool. Also the Lord has provided a CampsAbroad assistant for this summer.

Prayer requests: Wisdom and guidance as we seek to share the ministry of CampsAbroad with mission boards and missionaries this year. We desire for the Lord to direct us to the right places and people. Also, please pray for continued progress on our website.

Thank you for your involvement with CampsAbroad!

Matt Collier

Matt Collier
Director, CampsAbroad

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What would be a great excuse to fly south for the winter? Camp! Why not head just a little south of the equator to an island in the South Pacific to help run a camp—WILDS style! The opportunity to travel with CampsAbroad to Papua New Guinea (PNG) was an amazing experience. What a privilege to be a part of the tool of Christian camping thousands of miles away in a completely different culture! Who would have thought that the cabins, counselors, cheering, crazy activities, hikes, and Big Ball games all the way on the opposite side of the world could be just as effective in ministering the Word of God as they are in the United States?

What would be a great way to encourage the hearts of missionaries who have been faithfully serving for nearly 20 years? Camp! Jim and Carol Stackhouse are a faithful, hard-working couple with a heart for God and a great love for the people of PNG. They were encouraged through the camp ministry to see God use the people they personally trained (Bible College students and local church members) become a part of the camp staff, and to see God bring in nearly 100 teens. Many lives were changed through Camp Gary and over 50 teens gave their lives to Christ.

What would be a good way to take a guy that works at THE WILDS and stretch him and help him not get too comfortable in his own ministry? Camp! But this time, take him to the other side of the world and have him not just run camp, but have him teach and train others in philosophy, counseling activities, scheduling, games, and general how-to of camping. When you're forced to take what you do and break it down to just the nuts and bolts in order to teach it to others—well, it's not an easy task, but it is certainly a valuable thing! I am so thankful for the opportunity to have been an active part of the CampsAbroad team. The experience stretched me in my thinking, counseling, preaching, and the way I look at my ministry at THE WILDS.



What would be a great way to learn how to pray for a friend and co-worker in ministry? Camp! Having the opportunity to experience what Matt Collier experiences several times a year has been eye-opening and insightful on how to pray for the ministry of CampsAbroad. I was able to witness first hand how God uses CampsAbroad to help missionaries around the world establish solid camps to aid the local churches in evangelizing the lost and edifying believers. CampsAbroad needs your prayers—prayers for the logistical aspects, safety, wisdom, discernment, understanding, strength, health, and for God to work in hearts. Praise the Lord for raising up a very unique ministry to fulfill a definite need around the world!

What would be a great way to solidify in your own heart the benefit of Christian camping? You guessed it—Camp! Standing around a huge bonfire after the last service of camp and hearing the testimonies of the camp staff and campers is a life-changing experience. Hearing a camper say, “The Word of God was so overwhelming in my life, I couldn’t resist it any more” and “I found that no matter what, I could not hide from God’s Word” was unforgettable.

When you have the opportunity to take THE WILDS Bible-based philosophy to different cultures in different parts of the world and watch God work in truly miraculous ways, you begin to understand the benefit of taking people away from their everyday environments and saturating them with the Truth of God in the love of God. I am more convinced than ever that a truly incredible tool for the local church to use to see lives changed to the glory of God here and abroad—is Christian CAMPing!

Scott Ashmore