

## YOUTH CAMP 2010 – Day 1

Monday has come and gone and then some. What, let me back up and start from the beginning. In the beginning, God created - - too far. Sunday afternoon, July 11, 2010, sixteen brave souls gathered under the bell tower and prayed for a great week (Calvin did not pray, for if prays, he normally gets hurt – don't know why, but traditions are tough things.)

We travelled to Knoxville TN, staying at Riverdale Baptist – not really sleeping there, but staying there. Playing dodge ball was cool – but come on guys – 2 AM. Finally they laid down, 3am – finally they stopped talking – 3.30am – finally, quiet.

The alarm went off at 5 by mistake – and then up (not necessarily awake) at 6.30a!!!!

We arrived around 2 pm and went through the system processing – not too painful. But it is hot – two other campers have already passed out from not hydrating. Water, water, water.

Rain came off and on – and even hotter just after rain when water steaming.

OK – camp – Union University, great medium campus, girls rooms are better and they let us know it – but guys got it OK too. Food is - well – food. Remember campus food, yep – that's it. School pizza, chicken fried steak or steak product, and salad bars. I ate salad (believe it! Even a piece of broccoli) we have 38 churched and about 700 campers and counselors.

Celebration was a hoot – kind of a worship pep rally – Sidewalk Prophets got us going – Mike Huddleston – bless his soul – was called on stage to “dance before the Lord” – I am so glad the Lord looks at the heart, for his style was - well – you will just have to wait for the Matt Tuck demonstration back home.

The kids ...

Rachel and Emma are hard to pull apart. But they seem to be OK for there are enough guys to stare at. Hailey is hanging tight and seems to be having a good time. Becca is going retro on here bandana and pigtails. Adriana was all dressed up and looking fine – wore a dress (and took my outer shirt to cover her hair from the rain while she walked outside) Like most 6 & 7<sup>th</sup> graders – Madie is figuring it out and how she fits – it's cool to watch 'em reach out to each other. Cameron is taking lead in a lot –God has brought her along quite nicely and she will be a great lead for our youth. Bree is experiencing Christian Camp for the first time – seeing the silliness of hundreds of kids and scores of embarrassing things that youth leaders do. Yes – Tuck is quite the one to behold when let loose.

The males – Jacob is - well Jacob. My Christian rocker that walks to his own tune. If I could only get him and Mike to stop talking at night we might get some sleep – Calvin and Josh have threatened to pound them if they stay up.

Mike is getting into his rhythm – the 12<sup>th</sup> grader with confidence and a bit of Mohawk mentality.

Cathy Jones seems like a deer in a headlight (what has she walked into look) – thankfully Cindy G is here to keep us level – representing all you Moms out there.

Tuck – Tuck – Tuck – White and nerdy is all I can say. When he yells amen for a counselor getting a “Math” degree in college – need more be said.

And me – the weird (and loud) pastor. I am loving it.

At celebration, we all sang – “we are free” and that is this week – I see us stepping out and waning to be free from pettiness, free from worries and free to be what God wants for us. Our theme is “Kairos – defining moments” – we go through life with events that we look back upon that we know shaped or influenced us ... a mistake we made, a friend we had, a worship service where we “got it” about God, a loss, a song, whatever – this week could be one of those times. Pray for our youth – for God to draw them closer together, for attitudes to be turned away from “me-ism” to blessings.

Tuesday is here – morning has dawned. May God bless our time!