

Camp Reports 2010

P&DAYC

Thank you for taking the time to read this report. Should you require any further information regarding the work of camp please contact the camp committee chairman, Dave Landricombe (01752) 347409

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Senior Camp Report

[Nehemiah 8:8; 2 Timothy 2:2]

It seems a life time since we had the house party in March 2010; however I look back it is with good memories of those young people and officers who attended, in all 20 of us. It is right that we first of all acknowledge the goodness and faithfulness of our God and thank all those who prayed for us. As with much of the work during Senior Camp and Senior Camp House Party, the true success of the investment of time and effort can only be appreciated over the months and years ahead as we see young people mature into men and women of God. It is a privilege to be involved in creating landmarks upon which young people can build their Christian lives.

The weekend theme was a study of Peter's 1st Letter with the young people doing their own Bible Study in groups set within a framework of a series of brief notes and questions. Subjects covered included God's calling, suffering and hope, holiness, submission and joy to list a few.

Below are responses from some of the young people recorded at the end of the house party:

"Start to act in such a way that people can tell I'm a Christian"

"Not to retaliate when I am insulted or abused – 1 Peter 3:9"

"Trying harder to get along with other Christians in my church and learn to love others, because God loves us"

"From this weekend I am going to take away with me a different outlook on suffering. Before now I used to feel really down and wallowing when going through tough times but now I'm really going to try and focus on the positives associated with suffering. For example exploring what God's purpose is through suffering, instead of focussing on the bad stuff. And even though it's difficult I'm going to try and keep in the back of my mind that Christ suffered for me and it's a privilege to suffer for Him."

The weekend was an enjoyable time of fellowship, both for the young people and officers. In addition to the primary reason of Bible teaching, we also enjoyed a visit to Blue Reef Aquarium in Newquay, the variety and beauty of God's creation is amazing.

The practical aspects of the house party were well catered for with the officers combining well together. The food was as excellent as always and was well appreciated; therefore, the diet was postponed once more!

Again, I thank the officers who attended the house party this year and appreciated their support and fellowship. We look to the Lord to continue to work in the young people and us as we share in our home churches.

Senior Camp Report 2010

Senior Camp started with the arrival of a multitude of officers looking forward to; a week of little sleep, long days and short nights and more importantly, a joy of being able to serve the Lord in this another week of camp, Waiting on God's provision for the week and anticipating what He will achieve for His glory. The week started with the sun shining and then regularly demonstrated the typical 'Menadue Farm Micro-Climate' e.g. fog, rain and wind! However the officers at Senior Camp are a persistent group of individuals and adverse weather conditions didn't hamper proceedings.

Our Padre this year was John Allen from Belmont Chapel, Exeter and we are grateful to Him for bringing us God's word for the week. He took all his messages from 1 Timothy 4v 12 *Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.* He introduced the subject by focusing upon the opening statement *Let no one despise your youth.* He explained that just because you are young this does not mean you cannot be used by God. Then on each subsequent day he focused on the different aspects of Christian living mentioned in this verse; word, conduct, love, spirit, faith and purity. He looked at the negative implications of each word in the morning and then concentrated on the positive aspects in the evening. The evening sessions were broken firstly with an introductory talk from John then the campers breaking into their tent groups to answer a series of "agony aunt" questions that related to the subject for the evening. The campers were enthusiastic and enjoyed the interactive format and they responded positively to the opportunity to discuss the relevant issues. Campers were forthcoming with feedback and one individual said *"I have been challenged to change my life and wholly become a disciple of God and also I am searching for what His will is for my life."*

Our days mostly consisted of the officers meeting for prayer at 7.45 and bringing the day before God, John shared a thought for the day from Ephesians. Our activities for the week consisted of various walks (mountain hikes led by Chris) as well as trips to Holywell Bay fun park, Newquay. Padstow, the obligatory trip to Trethorne, a golf day, well afternoon during which we discovered that a certain nameless dairy farmer has been harbouring a hidden talent! As walking was the theme of the week, a murder mystery tour of Bude was also undertaken. Perhaps this walking idea was to lose the few extra pounds that we all put on because our appetites were well and truly satisfied. Our thanks to the cooks for their hard work over the week. To sum up I use Chris Bartlett's phrase 'steady – no issues' that seemed to be the order of the day even the week and once again we are grateful to God for his guidance, leading and provision for the week. As officers I would think we are all in agreement that the success of this week will be shown over the years that lie ahead as evidenced in our home churches.

On behalf of Chris and the rest of the officers I would like to thank you all for your prayers for the ongoing work of Senior Camp. Please continue to pray on for the Continual Spiritual Growth of Campers, future planning, and for those too old for camp, how best we support them in their walk with God.

Junior 1 Camp Report

Junior 1 Camp was held a week later than usual this year. I am not sure exactly how many campers we had but all were accounted for when we left! Our Padre was Andrew Brandon and he and evangelist Mark Perkins led the morning and evening meetings. The campers arrived during the afternoon in groups from different churches with most coming on the bus from the Plymouth and Saltash. They quickly settled themselves into their tents and met up with friends made at previous camps and started making new friends. It's the same for the officers too!

The general enthusiasm was not dampened by the rain that came in over Cornwall by the evening. Tea was followed by Camp Circle, a game of Tag Rugby played on the field (rain did not stop play!), supper and then down to the tents for sleep. The next day the sun was shining! Sunday was a typical day spent at camp. Mornings start early (particularly for the officers and especially for the cooks) with a cup of tea and Praise meeting. Then everyone gathered in the Barn for a lovely cooked breakfast, followed by the morning talk. Time was then spent clearing up, with the campers going down to their tents for Soul Food (a time of Bible Study led by their Tent Officers using Bible Study Notes as support). Although there is no shortage of things to be done at camp, many of the officers try to meet in the barn each morning for a short time to follow the same bible study notes as this is particularly helpful when chatting to the campers. Mid Sunday morning saw the campers and some officers walk down to Trebarwith Strand for a swim.

We had the luxury of a mini bus ride back up to camp where a traditional Sunday lunch was waiting to be served. In the afternoon "options" were available (board games, beading, card making, tile and face painting, model airplane making etc and yes they actually flew by the end of the week) and the camp Tuck Shop and Bible Book Shop opened up. Spending time on site like this, doing options, playing around on the field, or just sitting down and talking is a wonderful opportunity to get to know each other. After tea, each day, the Tent Officers spend time with the Camp Padre discussing issues relevant to his talk. This helps them to deal with any questions the campers may have and also to prepare for any involvement they may have in the evening meeting/camp circle (sketches/testimonies etc). Camp Circle is usually at 8pm if all goes to plan and lasts for about one and half hours. The music group lead the songs of praise and the singing was uplifting and got louder through the week as the songs became familiar to everyone. Andrew Brandon and Mark Perkins led the meetings and in various ways (talks, bible teaching, memory verses, quizzes, sketches and DVDs) ensured that everyone knew what it was to be a Christian, how God loves us and can forgive our sin and how important it is to trust God with our lives, to put him in charge. Andrew and Mark were particularly keen to ensure that the campers were prepared for their return home and that they had the "tools" ready to use to continue to grow in their relationship with God.

Generally the weather was unpredictable – some sun but with plenty of rain and cold winds too. This meant that some plans or activities had to be changed. Monday was extremely wet and instead of the outdoor field sports there was the enjoyable "chocolate inspired" indoor games and quizzes. The coach excursions were to Bude, Padstow and Harlyn Bay. We walked to Trebarwith to swim, to Tintagel for the Man Hunt and friends and family were able to join us one afternoon at camp to see for themselves what happens, to join in our worship and to share a BBQ. We had a midnight feast (but not actually at midnight!), played sport, sang, prayed, laughed, talked, ate lots, and had great fun. We were exhausted at the end of the week!

On the Saturday morning during his usual "Wrap up" talk Camp Commie Bob Perkins announced his retirement! Bob's commitment to camp is long standing – from his days as a camper himself at Morthoe, up through the ranks to camp leader and organiser. Bob still sleeps under canvas at camp still has an adventurous spirit and he has been an inspirational Leader full of energy and enthusiasm. Although he will sadly no longer be Camp Commie he assured everyone he would continue to be involved with Junior 1 and come along to camp. We need to pray that someone will feel called to take over from Bob. We also ask for prayer for the campers that they may continue to grow in their faith and develop a lasting relationship with Jesus.

Junior 2 Camp Report.

How could you describe junior 2 2010? Fun? Enjoyable? Happy? Fulfilling? Blessed? All of the above!! God blessed us immensely with the 42 campers we had this year. On the whole, it was a real pleasure to spend the week with them, and see God speak to them. As the week went on, their level of attention to the Bible talks got better and better, with a real sense of God's presence in the barn after the final prayer on several occasions. Mark Lacey (Padre) spoke about different aspects of Solomon throughout the week, giving a clear gospel message and a challenge on living a Christ filled life in relation to money, relationships, worship, being joyful etc. In the evenings we considered Solomon's Way, Wisdom, Work, Worship, Witness, Wealth and Women.

During the mornings quiet time, the tent groups looked at the 7 things that the Lord hates in Proverbs 6 v 16 – 19, with an example of this from the New Testament being spoken about after breakfast. We thank the Lord that 4 young people became Christians during the week and many challenged to carry on strongly. One girl was heard to say "I need to sort myself out." Many questions were asked on many subjects with some of the young people opening up about difficult home circumstances and problems that they face.

There was a relaxed atmosphere throughout the week and we thank God that as a team of officers everyone pulled together, especially when the high winds and steady rain joined us on Thursday night! The young people enjoyed a varied programme of swimming, crafts, treasure hunts, a great morning of water based games where the tent officers were soaked! A few of the campers chose to bake 65 muffins for supper that night – delicious! After camp circle on Monday night, armed with a "deluxe" hot chocolate we headed out onto the field and lay down on a giant tarpaulin. It was a beautiful, clear night and a perfect setting to remind not just the campers, but each officer also that the Creator God who made each magnificent star also lovingly created each one of us.

*Please pray that what was heard won't be forgotten, and will continue to be thought about and acted upon.

*Pray for those who opened up about their challenging home lives.

*Pray for those who became Christians and those who were challenged to carry on strongly.

*Please pray for those of us as officers to be encouraged to carry on the youth work in our local churches week after week.

Camp Report Junior Explorers

Explorers' camp has one advantage over the other camps, the children, in the main, are all small. Not quiet, but small, and when it's wet and they have to spend all day in a barn, that's a real help to the leaders. When we woke up on Wednesday it was raining and when we went to sleep it was still raining. At least there was no question about what we should do or not do. We all stayed put and enjoyed watching 'Monsters and Aliens' battling it out in the morning and various hockey teams doing the same in the afternoon. Games with the parachute were very popular and the tuck shop and book shop had plenty of customers. That day summed up the spirit of this year's camp – let's get on and enjoy ourselves, whatever the weather – and we did.

There were ten boys and twenty five girls on site and their days followed the pattern of other years, more or less. Less with regard to sports activities, this all had to be held indoors, apart from a brief visit to the field for a tug of war. After breakfast, Padre - Mr Jim – encouraged the children to do calisthenics (look it up) with the choruses, then he told a serial story which was followed by Quiet Times in the tents; free time, games and crafts took us up till lunch. Apart from Wednesday, there was an outing in the afternoon. Camp circle took place after tea. The rain was occasionally blown away by the wind, so we managed a muddy-in-places walk to Trebarwith, a challenging treasure trail at Boscastle and a quick trip down to Tintagel on Thursday morning for the manhunt. Four hours at Trethorne and an hour at the swimming pool at Camelford were both very popular with the children.

The tents were given names from Toy Story. Points were given at the daily tent inspection and for sports activities and crafts. There were also plenty of opportunities at camp circle and through the day to earn points from Mr Jim. (Jim McMasters) There was a lot of rivalry between the two boys' tents - Slinky Dog and Mr Potato Head - who eventually took both first and second prize. I must say that all the tent officers deserved prizes too for their 24/6 care of the children, definitely a task for the young and able...

The theme of Padre's talks, both morning and evening, was the law and the gospel. The children learned, through the Ten Commandments, that we're all sinners and need a saviour. The campers (and some of the officers) learned the commandments off by heart - and with choruses, pictures and stories, the way of salvation was explained simply and clearly. Jim's way of teaching was by constant repetition and quick-fire questions about **everything** we'd either sung or listened to. It worked and through the week he developed a real rapport with the children, in spite of his accent and somewhat quirky humour. Jim's major concern was that the children *understood* why they needed to be saved and two little girls did trust the Lord. Many at camp go back to homes where there is no concern or interest in spiritual things - we must continue to pray that the seed of the gospel, sown in their young hearts will remain and eventually bear fruit.

At the early morning prayer and teaching time for the officers, Jim concentrated on the value of a child – how the Lord viewed children and saw their future potential, continuing with the issue of *our* potential. We need to aim for high standards in our spiritual lives, walking day by day in the Spirit and 'keeping in step' with Him, Galatians 5. 16-25. Finally, we must praise the Lord for another good year at camp – the work is demanding and there are fewer to do it - pray that the Lord of the harvest will send more workers up to Menadue. Whatever your talent – camp can use it!