

Rebellious ducks, or something like that

Continuing the medical theme from summer camp, enter the 2012 4th and 5th grade winter retreat held right at our church. The older kids get to go all the way to the camp in Michigan for two days, but as a cost-saving measure for the parents I am sure, this crowd gets one night with no travel necessary outside of being brought to church. That suits me just fine and allows more to come who otherwise would not. I know of one family for sure whose junior-higher wasn't going to be able to go to his retreat though his younger brother was at ours.

I arrived Friday night just a smidgen late and check-in was well underway. In fact, most of my cabin was already settled in and watching the opening movie which entertained them while waiting for the official start. I joined my colleagues upstairs and helped settle in the stragglers. Did I mention that Friday was the day of a major snowstorm? After driving on snow-packed roads from Algonquin to Elgin and back home, I and a hundred moms, dads, and other leaders slogged down the roads to make this event, the only one not canceled. But I am sure parents would brave even more to ~~be rid of their young-~~ ~~uns~~ give their brood an opportunity to draw closer to our Lord and Savior. Though there was one cabin that had several boys missing by the time the main event started, mine was complete (at least it was by dinner time when the last trooper arrived). I even had a couple of repeat campers from summer, one of which I hadn't seen since then as he attended the church's school, but not regular church on the weekends- at least the one I serve at. Even my junior leader was the same. Yep, Mad Cow Disease was represented in full. What? Oh, yes. Remember the medical theme I mentioned? Well, all the cabins were named after diseases and cures. Most girls

would never go for a cabin labeled SARS or mad cow disease, so they naturally got the cures while the boys proudly represented their diseases.

Once the movie was shut off in the middle (sorry for those who may not have seen it before...) and rules had been gone over, it was time to get into things with a game of course. That game was Duck Hunt.

Creative Block

Call it a New Year's resolution if you like, but I am embarking on a new, exciting creative venture. Details will be coming as they progress. Let's just say that I am planning to put my gifts to good use here in the near future. As I have been pondering how best to use these gifts, I have been brainstorming A LOT but am having a bit of an issue with actually turning these ideas into something concrete and worthwhile.

On my other ongoing pursuit, my voice lessons continue to prosper. As I expected, one of the hardest pieces (ok... THE MOST difficult) is one that is quite deceptive. Literally beating my head over it ☹ Rather reminiscent of that little School House Rock show I was involved in a few years ago. Songs you grew up with but when you are faced with performing them, they present quite a challenge. However, whoever said that I did anything easy? I'm always up for a challenge.

Otherwise, everything else seems to be passing for whatever is normal for my family. No one has been checked into the "Hilton" since New Year's Eve and he Jeff was released Monday in time to watch the Buckeyes flounder. Now thanks to some great decisions made by a previous coach and members of the team past and present, OSU will not be eligible for post-season football for another year.

Hope everyone has rung in 2012 safely, healthy, and lovingly.