

# Counting down

It is June already and it looks like warm weather is finally here to stay. Two weeks ago we somberly said goodbye to the 5th graders, sending them off in a prayer as we laid hands on them. They finished not only the 4th/5th grade ministry, but moved out of children's ministry altogether to student ministries where they will spend the next seven years. This weekend, the third grade room remained dark, as it will for the next two months or so as we welcomed them as the new fourth grade. At our church 3rd grade and up get bumped in June for camp reasons, but the younger kids have to wait until August. I guess it is a little strange, the first weekend or so in June, to be called a fourth-grader (for example) when many have not yet finished third grade at school.

We also kicked off our summer series, Transformers. Yes, we are borrowing off of a popular movie theme (yes it was a cartoon first, but seeing as how many of their *parents* weren't even grown up at the time, let alone their own existence...). However, the name is where similarities begin and end. Unfortunately our worship band moved up with the old 5th-grade or out (the college-bound ones) so we are working on replacing them. Hmm. Actually, it was the Saturday night band that is gone, but we still did the song videos instead of the normal worship at 11:15 even though those band members were still present- I wonder why?

Saturday night I think we need guy leaders now in a big way. I was the only one there, along with two gal leaders. I know one will be coming back in a few weeks, but we could use more. My "small" group was twenty-some boys- ideally, groups should be about six or so. So anyway, the lesson was one on being rooted in Christ, and not comparing ourselves to one another. As Paul wrote to the Phillipians, he had much call to call himself better than others as he was a "Hebrew of Hebrews," a Pharisee, and zealous for his religion. Instead,

he counted it as loss, rubbish compared with his identity in Christ. As His, we are equal no matter our station, our jobs, our finances, etc.

Moving on, did I mention camp? Oh, yes I did. Less than two weeks, and I am making trip #7 out there with an all new group! There is much to be excited about, but one thing tops all others. Every year we get something new. In the past additions have included a lodge building, a zipline, pontoon boats, and a waterslide (thankfully I started there the year *after* they got permanent showers...). Well, this year apparently we got something a bit different. Raise your hand if you ever wanted to be a hamster after watching them roll around in their hamster balls. That's right, our new addition to camp is in the form of two giant inflatable ~~hamster~~, err-*people* balls called Zorbs. Here is a random video found on youtube:

and from the inside:

Now **that** looks exciting. I hope they don't roll it down too steep of a hill though. Imagine what would happen if one got sick in one of those... Or, best not to imagine.

Anyway, a new year at church, a new post. I hope you enjoyed it. ☐

I really will try to post at least once more before Camp 2011. I mean it. That I will try, that is. ☐