

Camp: day 2

I guess if I am to not forget important details about camp, I will have to post a little more often. I have been working more lately (for less, may I remind you, during training) and when I have been off I have not felt like posting much. Anyway, on to day two. My alarm was set for 7:15, but I woke up at 6:45 due to my junior counselor who wanted to take a morning shower. Personally, I'm an evening shower person when at camp- taking my shower after lights out. It is good to get out of the clothes I have sweated in all day and wash the day's residue off. So David got up at 6:45 for his shower and I tried to get back to sleep, which I think I did ten minutes before my alarm. Okay then, everybody up, I finished getting shaved and dressed and headed off to the senior morning staff meeting. The kids got dressed, teeth brushed, and headed to the flagpole raising with David. Jim went with his boy Diego to the flagpole. Not much to say about the meeting- we talked a little, prayed, and the kids came in for breakfast. We sat down in our spot from dinner last night (which by the way would be our spot for the entire week, for the first time in five years) and chowed down on our hot breakfast, eggs and sausage I believe.

Bleah. If I keep writing in this sort of detail I will never finish the post. Here, let me post the daily schedule and try to focus on the highlights:

7:30 AM Wake Up

7:50-8:00 AM Flag Raising

8:05-8:40 AM Breakfast

8:45-9:45 AM Spiritual Check-Up (Teaching)

10:00-10:45 AM Physical Therapy (Game)

11:00-12:00 noon Instructionals

12:15-12:50 PM Lunch and Mail Call

1:00-2:00 PM Bed Rest

2:15-3:15 PM Instructionals
3:30-5:00 PM Canteen and Free time
5:15-5:25 PM Flag Lowering
5:30-6:15 PM Dinner
6:30-7:15 PM Physical Therapy (Game)
7:30-8:30 PM Spiritual Check-Up (Teaching)
9:00-9:40 PM Canteen and Campfire
9:40-9:55 PM Cabin time
10:00 PM Lights Out!

Right after breakfast, as you can see, was the teaching time. Well, as you probably learned from last time, this starts off with worship. Actually, it starts off with an up front game where someone from each team comes up and plays a crazy game such as eating strange food or toilet-paper wrapping. I don't remember what the game was but overall this week they weren't as exciting as in the past. Did I mention that this whole time was outside? They built a sort of amphitheater a few years ago with tiered bench-seating and step-logs. Aside from the stage, it fit rather nicely with the woods around it. One of the worship songs was a song that would become the theme song for the week, sung at every worship time- ten times over the week. I don't recall the title, but it's about sharing our faith and in the chorus they yell "we won't be quiet" (about our faith) and "we won't deny it." I don't much care for the music, but the lyrics were sound. As for the teaching time, the first memory verse was given, ***Romans 12:2- "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."*** In fact, this is our theme verse for this summer given the release of the second Transformers movie. We were back in Luke 14 and talked about the brain. Well, the mind, but "brain" fit better under the medical theme.

So with that done, our team along with another team were told to get on swimming gear for the game and meet on the game

field for a game of wipe-out wiffleball. This is a game where the kids get wet. Really wet. They had a hose connected though a filter to the nearby pond affectionately known as leech lake. Lots of leeches- and some water moccasins. No swimming in *that* pond. So with the hose they would wet down the slip-n-slide between home and first base (a giant inner tube that was safe to slide into. All other bases were toddlers' wading pools filled with water. The hose was also used to douse the batter between pitches, and sometimes the kids waiting to bat- no mercy. We won the game in the end after taking an initial beating, and lucky for us our two instructionals were at the swim front so the boys wore their swimming trunks until free-time in the afternoon. This year the camp received two pontoon boats, at least one of which was for free. God has blessed our church many times over with such gifts, including the camp itself. So John, one of the camp directors and family pastor at my church met us at the swim front (the boys had to check in with their numbers and "boat in") with one of them. The ride was beautiful what with the sunny day and things to see. There were some swans, a dam, a couple of islands, and more. All this in the giant pond. Yes, pond- apparently it is man-made and referred to as pond rather than lake. Hmm.

Well, the afternoon brought us the first bed rest time. This is a Michigan law that every camp has to follow- an hour of bed rest each day to keep campers from heat exhaustion and the like. During this time kids were required to stay in their beds in the cabin. They were allowed to read, play a quiet game with someone in the next bed, or sleep. David and Diego chose to sleep. I cleaned a bit which would become a daily ritual. We actually won cleanest boy's cabin for this day. They jokingly (I hope!) called it least disastrous when they informed us. Following bed rest we hiked back to the swim front for canoeing. Not much to say here. They learned how to get in a canoe and how to paddle. We were out for a good twenty minutes or so following instruction. I got in a canoe

with two of my red-banders (non-swimmers) as required for them to go out in a canoe. It was a nice time. Then it was free time. Guess where they spent free time? The swim front! Since we were already there and already in swim gear it was easy. We had to "boat out" then "swim in" since boating was done. Besides swimming, kids got to play "nuke-em," baggo, or tetherball; lounge around on the many chairs, or get a snack at the canteen.

After dinner it was time for the final group game and lesson. The game involved a giant basket and a lot of balls. The object was to get as many balls in the opposing basket more points for the big balls!) as they could. I have no idea who won that game. The lesson pretty much went as day one. The focus was on Mark 4 with the parable of the soils, with the focus on the hard soil, or hard heart which those who have not come to Christ have. Those who hadn't accepted Christ yet were encouraged to talk to their leaders. Small group again (yes we had it in the morning too even if I didn't mention it) and it was time for the evening free time on the big court. I know the schedule mentions a campfire, but that was only for two of the evenings- one for the girls, one for the boys. Monday was time for neither. Tonight most would leave a little early to hit the showers, though one of my cabin decided he would go for morning instead.

This is a long post, so pics to follow in another post.