

2011 Converge



90 students feel led to a life in missions

127 Kids accepted Christ for the first time



252 Renewed Commitments

God changes lives.

My desire is to never lose sight of this. We can plan games and strategize about devotions or bring in great speakers, yet it is the Holy Spirit and God's calling that does the work of transformation. Many people speak of the special atmosphere at Bluewater Covenant Bible Camp, but God's story is about His continual working to bring people to follow His Way. Bluewater is beautiful, but it is only the setting in which God works. Camp is one of the great vehicles in helping to change lives of youth and adults. Maybe it's because of the lack of negative influences or the inability to connect to media or being in the midst of beautiful setting, we find that that camp has been an important part of a persons' faith journey. Our summer was filled with many amazing stories of God working. From the healing of a staff member's knee to no camper hospital visits. God continued to have an incredible influence upon people.

A great accomplishment was the elimination of our \$400,000 debt. I must admit that my proposal was to start saving for a new boat through our auction monies. However, a board member's wisdom was to suggest

creating an emphasis upon our loan and to make a statement to the people that we seriously wanted the debt relieved. From this point forward the proverbial snowball started rolling down the hill. First, a "Matching Gift" of \$25,000 towards the auction was given from a donor. Second, the excitement from the Women's Retreat and people who could not attend that brought in the full \$25,000. Third, was the graciousness of the donor to offer another \$25,000 towards the Men's Auction. At this point, I started to get very excited and realized that we may be able to eliminate our debt by the end of the summer. To complete the unexpected, the Men's Auction came in with close to \$15,000, plus another \$1,800 from our Fall Women's Auction and.....

I will leave you with another story of the effectiveness of camp. We dealt with some bullying at one camp, but after the third day and hearing the Gospel and spending time with the speaker in the dining hall, the person

"If I had my life to live over again, I would live it to change the lives of people, because you have not changed anything until you've changed the lives of people."
- Warren Webster speaking at the Urbana Missionary Conference

gave their life to Christ. However, it didn't stop there...this person then found the camper, myself, and the counselor to ask for forgiveness and apologized for the attitude.

We know God's story is powerful, but then we witnessed it's transforming potential in the life of this camper. This is the reason behind our facility, programs, and relationships.

-Chadwick Persons, Camp Director

**BLUEWATER
COVENANT BIBLE
CAMP IS DEBT
FREE!**

Living Water

Micah Rude

My interest in the country of Uganda came in 2006 when I saw the Invisible Children documentary. My wife then visited Uganda in March, 2008. In a response to what we learned, we asked Bluewater campers to help. Since 2009, Bluewater campers have, in addition to other missions projects, given money to help men, women, and children in Uganda. This year we had every camper walk with their cabin to Wabana lake, fill up a pail of water, and bring it back to camp. When hit with the fact that our 1.8 mile journey is really nothing compared to the millions who walk further than this everyday, the campers responded with generosity. The campers gave over \$2,300 to Living Water International to help dig wells and educate communities on the importance of clean water and good hygiene. To learn more about the world water crisis or to join us and give, visit www.water.cc

Uganda Water
\$2,317.32



Missions in Motion: \$300.00

Russia Camping
Offering: \$1,301.28



Bluewater Offering:
\$1763.56

Total youth campers: 928



Total Family Campers: 424



Total Summer Retreaters: 655



Total campers: 1976

A Letter from the Program Director

In Luke's gospel account, Jesus says to His disciples, "If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" This summer the staff was committed to asking our Father for more of the Holy Spirit and He answered. I stood amazed at the end of each camp during our staff meeting, listening to counselors recount stories of campers making radical changes throughout the week. Stories of healing brought to campers in painful circumstances. Kids leaving camp with a new found hope when they came filled only with despair. Stories of campers who knew everything in their heads but now made a commitment to live out this life that Jesus has called us to – in their families, schools, teams, jobs, etc. This happened, no doubt, because of the Spirit

working in them and through us. We love the campers but know that God loves them more. He has been working in their lives before camp and will continue that work as they go home. We get the opportunity to catch a glimpse of this work each week at camp. The camp setting is such a unique experience and I believe that God uses it to do what only camp can do. Walls are broken down and relationships are built with old friends and new friends in a matter of days. This is why I stand amazed at the end of each week and the end of each summer. I thank God for the gift of His Spirit. God is good.

-Micah Rude

God Changes Lives

