



**CAMP
MEMORIES**

1949 ←



CAMP STAFF FOR 1949

Camp Director - - - - -John Haring
 Business Manager - - - - - Andrew Meng
 Registration - - - - - Albert Betz, Pauline Miller
 Deans of Men - - - - - Ed Boliantz, John Ebinger
 Deans of Women - - - - - Esther Boliantz, Emily Pamer
 Secretaries - - - - - Leona Vogel, Martha Shurance
 Area Supervisors- - - - Ed Kinkel, Joe Haring, Bob Hill
 Musical Director - - - - - George Pamer
 Recreation - - - - - George Parabutsky



ARRIVING AT CAMP

Monday, August 1, 1949

Only the sky is blue on this Monday, August 1, 1949. Anyone can see signs of joyful anticipation on the faces of hundreds turning off from the main highways to the road leading to a camp along Lake St. Marys, Ohio. All of us who had attended our previous camps had looked forward to this for a whole year.

Turning into the camp grounds, we are delighted to be welcomed by an efficient reception committee who usher us to the registry while they park the steady stream of incoming cars. Here is service with a smile!

It is surprising how many fellow pilgrims, who live thousands of miles apart, are here to have lunch together at 11:30, the very first day. All afternoon we meet familiar and new faces but never strange ones, because everyone is here for the one common purpose, to enjoy uninterruptedly one week of real Christian fellowship. In spite of the number, the campers appear like a big family arriving for reunion. This spirit is so evident that one little girl says, "Here everybody acts just like life-long friends."

After lunch the teaching staff, headed by Brothers Ed Baer and Trefon Sagadencky, met to assign class rooms and topics for the following days. Our hard-working friend, Bob Michel, loses no time in getting the camp choir started. With zest he attacks the toughest wrinkles in rhythm and harmony, correcting our blunders good-naturedly.

After supper (army style) we gather in the spacious and comfortable auditorium for a general meeting where we are welcomed by our Camp Director, Brother John Haring, who gives an inspirational talk introducing the thought of having Jesus Christ as our Camp Director. Dr. Allman, who is in charge of Camp St. Marys, also gives a brief talk welcoming us to camp, following which the various committees are introduced and rules and schedules explained.

Since it is not possible for Brother Henry Michel to be present physically, he speaks to us on a tape recording. He reminds us of the need of divine guidance for this camp session and points out the danger of depending upon the blessings of the past.

Brother Tony Betz also speaks to us on the spiritual purpose behind this camp and his talk is followed by the closing prayer by Brother John Popp.

After a long and busy day of getting settled for a wonderful week of Christian fellowship, we are all glad to retire to our respective bunks.



WHOSOEVER WILL, MAY COME



ON HAND TO GREET YOU



GOING TO ASSIGNED CABIN



PARK IT RIGHT HERE



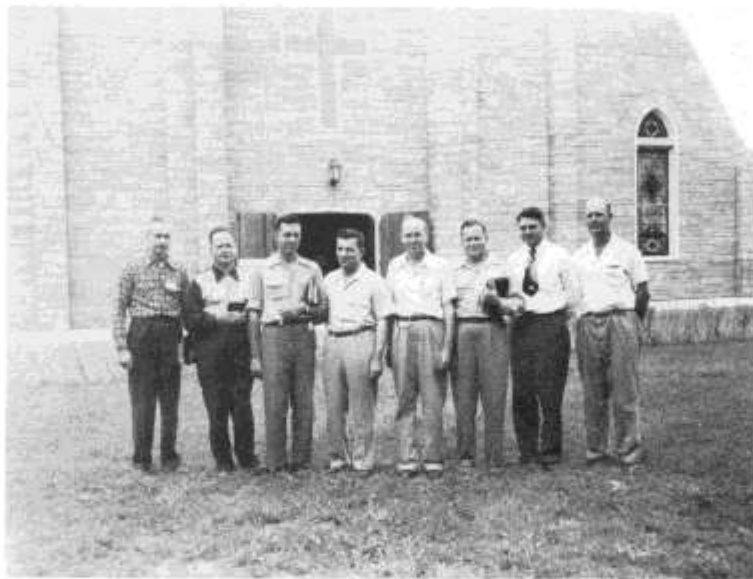
SOME CAME BY SEA



SOME CAME BY LAND



CAMP ELDERS



SOME OF THE TEACHING STAFF

MORNING DEVOTIONS

Tuesday, August 2, 1949

I hear music! Am I dreaming? Someone says, "That means 'Get up!'".

Everyone seems to be up this morning. We didn't have a camp fire last night so there seems to be a lot of ambition.

In a short time the cabin doors begin to slam as people swarm from all parts of camp toward the island. Surely these are students who love to hear the words of their Master. Some of the drawing interest of two thousand years ago, that drew men and women to the temple in Jerusalem to hear one Jesus, seems to be evident in the lives of these this morning. One can tell some people that Jesus is dead today, but not these people. Indeed, it is a very impressive sight at 6:30 A. M., with the sun peeking over the horizon, to see the campers walk eagerly across the bridges to the island for morning devotion. As the heaven brightens above us, we sing praises to His name, "Count your many blessings, name them one by one", and hear Him speak to us through man.

Brother Bob Knecht is Chairman of the day and following the scripture reading and meditation on God's Redeeming Love, a number of brothers who are moved by the spirit offer prayers. Indeed, these periods of devotion set aside in the early morning hour are of the richest moments of the week! One can feel the spirit moving in the hearts of those about us, offering prayer and a few words of the wonderful Gospel Story; we can so feel the nearness of the Master that, figuratively, one can almost touch the hem of His garment, finding inward calm, peace and love.

During this time of devotion on the island, there is also another devotional assembly in the "upper room" where those assemble who especially want to support the teaching staff. Here, too, is evident in reality the words "where two or three are gathered together in My name, there I am in the midst of them". There is no singing in the upper room, but the prayers are many, often on behalf of a certain soul on someone's heart, or about a certain problem, and the Lord's answers are certainly to be expected when one feels the sincerity of the prayers!

The Portland Men's Choir, under the direction of Brother Dan Haring, presents a program of song this evening.

Last comes the camp fire which is reached by a leisurely walk to the far side of the camp, where, near the grove of trees, a fire crackles which not only warms the body, but the heart also, in the cool of the evening.

MORNING DEVOTION ON THE ISLAND



RETURNING FROM DEVOTIONS

BIBLE STUDY CLASSES

Wednesday, August 3, 1949

The Bible says, "Give instruction to a wise man and he will be yet wiser."

Today, as we separate from the general assembly to our respective class rooms, it is good to know that we are about to learn eternal truth! Man's fleeting philosophies change but God's Word "liveth and abideth forever". Scientific discoveries change science books but not one "jot or tittle" shall be removed from God's Book!

The lesson this morning is divided into three quarter-hour topics, namely: 1 - Our great poverty; 2 - Our liabilities; 3 - What Christ brought.

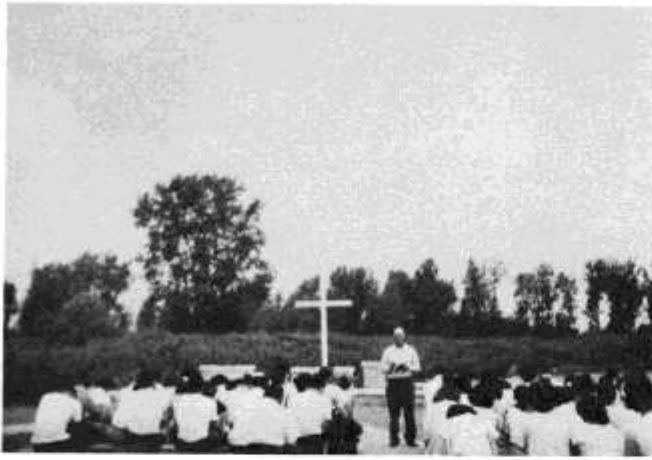
How lovingly God's Word speaks through the flatter chatter of the world to tell us we're spiritual beggars and paupers without one possession that is worth possessing. How heart-breaking it is to see ourselves as God sees us today: clad in tattered garments of "filthy rags". Through business eyes we see our liabilities. In the bank book of heaven our standing shows bankruptcy.

The lesson lovingly, yet truthfully, shows us now that we need to have help from someone who has SOMETHING. I sit now in such beggarly unrighteousness but the teacher is saying there is a "righteousness which is of Christ". "Yes, it's true", he says, "there is freely a 'robe of Christ's righteousness'". "But", I say, "doesn't it cost a price?" How it thrills me as he is reading from God's Word that "cannot lie"--the price is not "silver and gold, BUT WITH THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST".

"But, teacher, how about my bankruptcy?" "Son", he says, "why don't you open the treasure-chest of the 'unsearchable riches of Christ?'"

As the classes dismiss we seem to feel a note of common thought that "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction." (Prov. 1:7)

This evening we hear an interesting program of songs by the Highland Choir and the "Four Squares", a duet by the Frey twins, Betty and Letty, and a program by the Syracuse Group.







CLASS ADJOURNED!



THE LORD ANSWERED

Thursday, August 4, 1949

The chimes ring out the melodies of two beautiful hymns to wake us from short but sweet slumber. This is the middle of the camp week already and everyone who can get into the stride is found on the island for devotions or at the first serving for breakfast. There are always new faces and happy ones. We notice them particularly so among the trotters in the cafeteria, the teachers in the various classes--yes, even the preachers portray a joy in serving here! Every morning we discover that there is a new chairman for the day. New hope follows each new day, for this is an inspiration and not a concentration camp. It is a voluntary gathering of the redeemed singing a new song in their hearts prompted by the same old love--the very first one that stems from the Master.

The schedule moves along smoothly and following the Bible classes we all get together in the main auditorium where some of the various questions, which campers had put in the question box the day before, are answered in public. We will list a few here.

"Nowadays most sects teach that all you have to do is just believe to be saved. Is repentance necessary? What about short conversions, repentance on the spot?" Brother Steve Burcar answers this one, basing his statements on Acts 16:31; Mark 1:14; 15; 6:12; Luke 13:5; Acts 17:30. The stress is on the logical sequence of faith, repentance and more faith with works.

Brother John Popp is asked to clear up the following: "Many people are afraid that they have to confess their sins before church. Explain!" The scripture used here is Mark 1:5; James 5:15. The conclusion is stated in a reassuring manner: "Since scripture does not teach us to do anything like this, therefore we do not practice it."

One of the younger set expressed a popular feeling by asking the following: "Why can't I wait until I graduate from high school to accept Christ?" Brother Paul Virkler counters with a question of his own: "How do you know that you will graduate?" Heb. 10:26-31.

There are natural questions like: "What is wrong with smoking, dancing, etc.?" "Why does there have to be a devil?" These remind one of Sunday School. Some show signs of deep thinking. This one, for instance: "Why do our married couples tend to become less active in the Lord?"

The daily question and answer period is from 10:30 to 11:15 A. M. All questions are answered directly by scripture quotation whenever possible which proves healthy for the spirit because it leads to a more thorough searching of the scriptures. In this we do well to copy the more noble Bereans.

Added attractions today are a jolly, good watermelon feast at 3:30 and who would want to miss this! This evening we are enjoying a special musical program. There are solos in Organ-Solovox, Trumpet, Accordion, and several Violin duets and trios, as well as a voice solo by a talented young girl from Union City, New Jersey. This is surely one of the finest things to which young people can devote their time and energy. Sweet music falling softly on the soul is as wholesome to the spirit as dew is to flowers.

WHAT SAY THE SCRIPTURES?



CAMP FIRE

Friday, August 5, 1949

Friday, the fifth day at camp, follows the usual daily routine with Bible study classes followed by a question and answer period held in the morning. In the early evening we hear a very inspiring program being presented in the tabernacle. During the course of the program, we hear from the Canadian, Peoria, Tremont, and Wharton groups as well as the Krutzig sisters from St. Paul, Bob Michel who renders us several solos, and a duet by Olive Wilner and Virginia Meier. The evening assembly in the tabernacle is concluded with a meditation by Brother Walter Meyer who speaks on the fifth chapter of the First Thessalonians.

In recognition of all birthday anniversaries occurring during the week, we are served two beautifully decorated cakes brought especially for the occasion from Uncle Dan in Mansfield.

After this cake party we leave for the camp fire which has proven to be one of the most inspiring activities of the whole camp meeting. It is quite a distance to the camp fire and as we walk on our way we notice a steady stream of cars which are carrying some of the older folks who, in spite of their advanced years, are determined not to miss any part of the blessed gatherings which we have thus far enjoyed. Here, around a crackling fire under the star-filled heavens, we sing songs which fill the air with notes of thanksgiving, praise, and honor to a gracious Heavenly Father whose love has made it possible that we can gather here and spend this blessed week together.

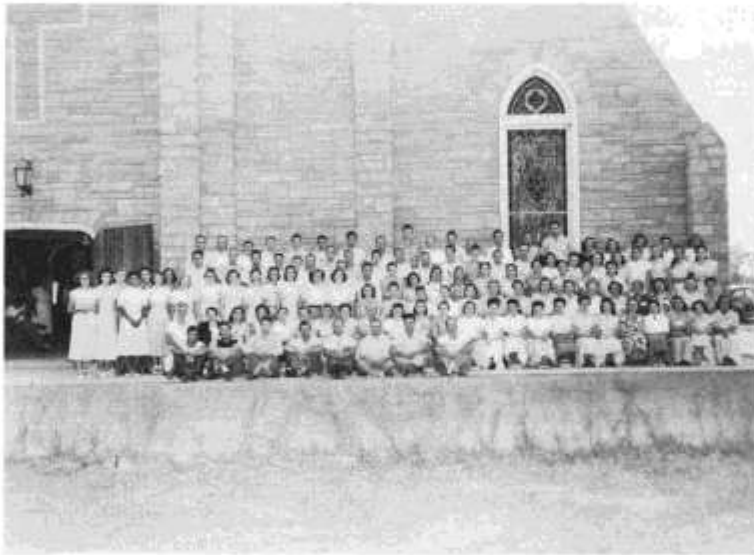
This evening after singing a few songs, a brother asks all those who have found their Lord and Savior since the first camp meeting to line up on one side of the fire. What a truly joyous sight to behold! Roughly counting, there are about seventy-five souls standing in this group and this is not nearly all of them. There are many who can't be here for one reason or another. I am thinking particularly of two brothers and a sister in Mansfield, all of whom lived only a short time after they had been baptized into the fold of Christ.

The group sings the song "Since Jesus Came into My Heart" and afterwards several give short testimonies. The group then sings a very soul-searching song, "Years I Spent in Vanity and Pride". More testimonies are given when the souls are asked to describe Jesus in just a few words. Many inspiring comments are given including "new business partner" and "unseen school teacher".

After more songs by the entire group, our camp fire is brought to a close. What a wonderful feeling is in our hearts to think that tonight we have seen living testimonies that the arm of God has not been shortened and that Jesus is the same yesterday, today, yes--even forever. May God grant that if we meet again and the same request is made, many more may be standing with those who tonight have filled the summer air with those memorable words, "What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought, since Jesus came into my heart."



EVERYONE ENJOYED THE CAMP FIRE



THE CAMP CHOIR

"WATERMELON FESTIVAL"





HUNGRY?



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



SNACK TIME

SABBATH

Saturday, August 6, 1949

Another day breaks and as we prepare for the day we realize our wonderful week "at the feet of Jesus, listening to His Word" is drawing closer and closer to its end.

We are thankful for the weather which has "really been with us" and an employee of Camp St. Marys makes the remark that "These people must live good lives because it hasn't rained all week." It had been raining every few days at camp previous to our arrival and the first of the week, when we arrived, the signs of this were evident with muddy places here and there and we realize how unpleasant it might have been had it rained.

Bright and early, cars are coming in constantly bringing new campers for the week-end--some returning again for the week-end after having spent a few days with us earlier in the week. The various committees--registration, reception, program, etc.--are really kept busy trying to take care of the newcomers as quickly as they arrive.

Veteran campers of the week are greeting newcomers here and there, telling them of the blessings and highlights of the week. As we recall some of the statements made by the campers, we realize that anyone who was seeking a blessing should surely have found it.

One brother states that to him camp is like the mountain where Jesus took Peter, James and John and Peter liked it so well that he expressed himself "Lord, it is good to be here."

Another old brother and his wife--though young in spirit--have a testimony which is really an inspiration. They say that this week they have felt the closest to heaven that they ever have and they have indeed felt the warmth of the love of God in their hearts.

I believe many of us feel this same way when we stop to realize that we have really been free of the world and its cares this week--no radios, no newspapers--and satan and his temptations have little or no power in the face of all the fervent prayers which are constantly being offered.

Here and there folks are quickly snapping a few hurried pictures which they didn't take time for earlier in the week--everyone realizing that soon will come the parting.

Schedules are not changed today and will all the busy hustle-bustle we soon find the day almost gone. After hearing a fine little program presented by the Beginners' Class and a short program by the Mansfield Choir, we again assemble around the camp fire for that wonderful short gathering before retiring for the night.

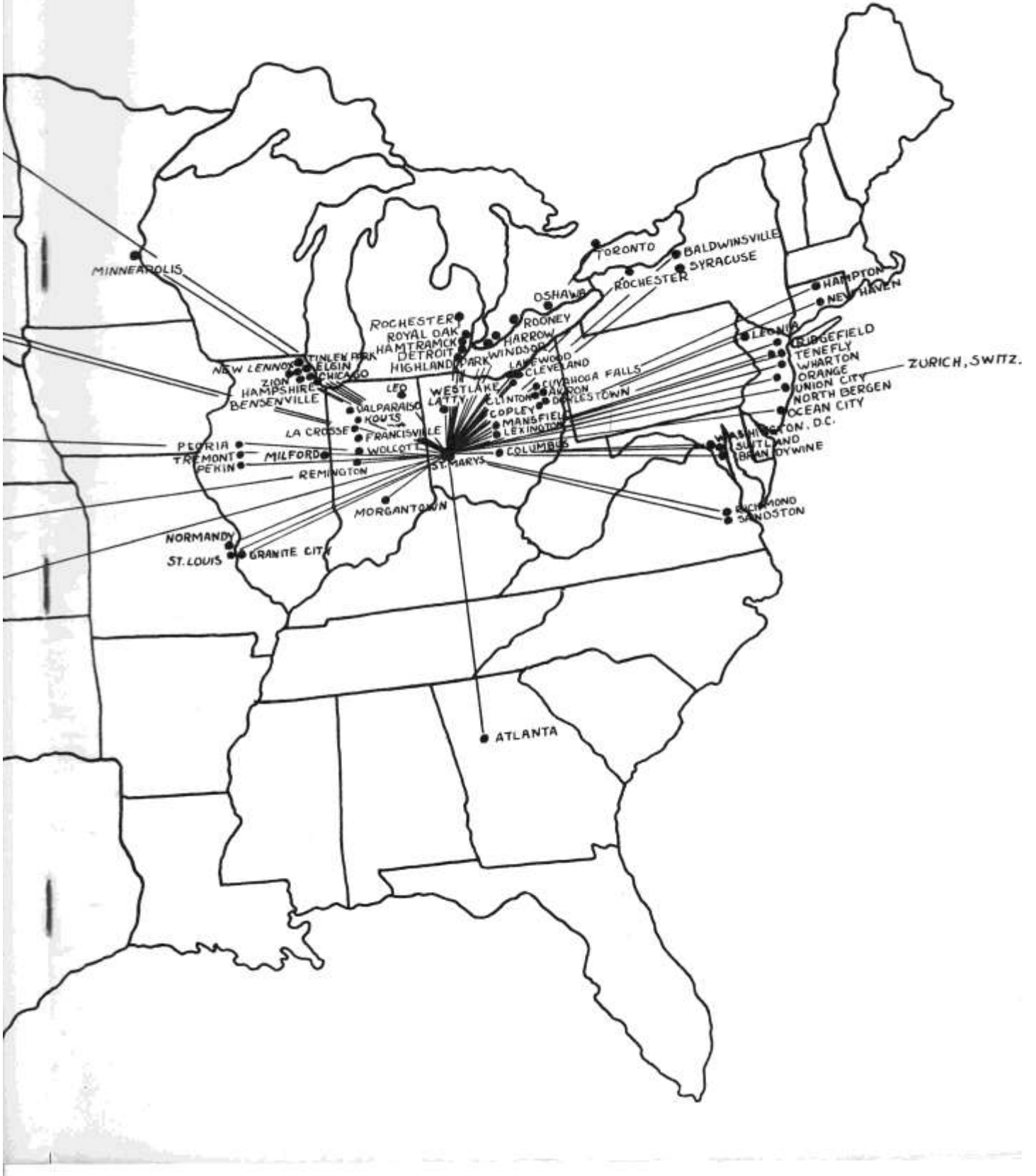
GOOD FELLOWSHIP



... and they came



e from far and near!



THREESOMES



JUST PLAIN BOYS!



INTERMISSION



HAPPY CROWD



YOUNG & OLD



SMILES & SUNSHINE



TWAS A HAPPY DAY



FAMILY SHOTS



CAMERAS



CAMP CONTESTS

The contests for "Camp Motto" and "What I Like Best About Camp" again brought many entries, and we share with you the ones which took first place in each contest.

WINNING CAMP MOTTO

"Seek Him prayerfully,
Then serve Him carefully."

By Kay Koprince

WINNING ESSAY ON WHAT I LIKE BEST ABOUT CAMP

DEVOTIONS

The hymns awaken us to Thee,
O Thou, Who died on Calvary,
We wake to start a blessed day,
And hope to do all that You say.

We cross the water to the isle,
And pray to Thee a little while;
We sing a hymn, or two, or three,
And receive a blessing, all from Thee.

A brother who is then inspired,
And who must surely have been hired
By our most holy, gracious Lord,
Speaks to us mostly of a reward.

We look up all the scripture texts,
And often wonder what comes next,
No matter where it can be found,
It inspires those all around.

All too soon the time goes by,
We sometimes often wonder why--
The work of God must needs go on,
So other hearts can soon be won.

By Martha Jerep

A WEEK AT CAMP

What a wonderful experience
To meet here from far and near.
With God's children make acquaintance
Who to all our hearts are dear.

We come here to learn the goodness
Of our Father from above.
Who through Christ, our loving Savior
Offers HIS REDEEMING LOVE.

If we heed His HOLY SPIRIT,
Heaven's Kingdom we'll inherit,
If we open our Heart's door
We will learn WHAT CHRIST CAME FOR.

Of the good news and glad tidings
Which the Angels did proclaim,
In the fair meadows of Judah
Heaven's blessings richly came.

POOR, IMPRISONED, BROKEN-HEARTED,
BLIND AND BOUND IN MISERY,
HEAR THE ROYAL PROCLAMATION;
ZION'S KING CAN SET YOU FREE.

But you must in deep contrition
Recognize your POVERTY,
You owe Christ your life and substance
This is your LIABILITY.

If you weigh what you are giving
On the balances of God,
It can never be comparing
With the riches CHRIST HAS BROUGHT.

Will you heed GOD'S INVITATION?
And accept HIS FRIENDLY CALL?
By the Gospel's proclamation
He extends to one and all.

Did you ever ponder on this?
Hear it now in verse and rhyme
God will never break His promise
Also gives the GIFT OF TIME.

This is important, however,
That you plead with earnest fervor
To be freed from Adam's fall
You must NOW ACCEPT GOD'S CALL.

It is every Christian's PRIVILEGE
If burdened with grief and care
If in need of strength and courage
Bring it to the Lord in prayer.

Adam's fall and sin and JUDGMENT
Which caused our eternal loss
Is atoned, since Jesus has spent
His life and blood on the cross.

All those who His love have tasted
The redeemed in Christ the Lord,
Who to God their life have offered
To toy with sin, can ill afford.

Those who now their hearts will harden,
Their own lives and ways prefer,
Will be missing Jesus' pardon
And receive their JUDGMENT HERE.
(2 Thess. 2:11)

Why live in a false delusion
About the JUDGMENT TO COME?
Flee the world with its confusion,
Be prepared WHEN JESUS COMES.

Our salvation is God's purpose
This is every CHRISTIAN'S JOY,
CHARACTER and all GOOD VIRTUES
For the Master to employ.

Even if with tears we're SOWING,
Though our hearts in anguish grieve
On that HARVEST-day with singing
Joyfully we'll BRING OUR SHEAVES.

What a blessing and a comfort
Overwhelms the heart and soul
When our earthly course is ended,
We've kept faith and reached our goal.

May the Lord both bless and keep us
And His Grace in us increase,
And be present with the faithful
With His countenance and PEACE.

F. T.

The above poem was written through inspiration of the Scripture
Text - Isaiah 61:1, the words typed in capital letters being the
daily lesson themes.

EVERYBODY IS HAPPY



IT WAS A PLEASANT WEEK



RECREATION



RECREATION



PRAISE YE THE LORD!

Sunday, August 7, 1949

Again we awaken to a new day, to the tune of the beautiful hymns played on the chimes, realizing this is the Lord's Day--the blessed day of rest. Last night, for the first time in the history of Camp St. Marys, every bunk and bed was occupied and many campers slept in hotels, tourist homes and some even in cars. As we assemble for devotion, for breakfast and for morning worship in the tabernacle, we see more and more new faces of people who came yesterday or early this morning. It is a great inspiration to see the chartered bus from Columbus arriving filled with the fine representation of the membership and friends from this little congregation!

The greetings are warm and heart-felt and all seem to be waiting, in pleasant anticipation, for the one thing for which about one hundred and forty persons were working diligently all week--the program by the camp choir. The program is divided into two parts and in the morning we hear such wonderful words as: "I bow before love's power unending, revealed to me, O Christ, in Thee." The words are sung with wonderful harmony to the old, old melody we all know so well. As the audience sits very quietly in expectation, the choir continues its program under the direction of Bob Michel with his wife, Corrine, at the piano. As we listen to further numbers, our souls and spirits are elevated and our thoughts are truly of God's Redeeming Love and the wonderful week He has made possible for us to enjoy in such sincere fellowship.

As the choir sings "My thoughts are ever turning to my celestial home" we think over the wonderful messages, testimonies and lessons of the week. We pray that during this coming year we may be elevated to newer heights in our spiritual lives, to live closer to the Lord, so that one day our works will not be found wanting in the balance. May we return more than the talent originally given in trust to us!

The choir continues with "To Christ on Golgatha, my spirit fain would go to ponder on His words and His exceeding woe" and we can visualize, though in a small measure, the extreme price paid for our guilt and we pray that we shall not put the Lord to shame by our sleepiness or slothfulness. Other wonderful hymns are given and soon it is over.

During the morning worship, Brother John Simon tells us that although he has addressed many groups and visited many of our congregations, this is the largest assembly of believers and friends he has ever spoken to and we realize suddenly that this is the largest assembly of "our own" in which we have ever participated! It is awe-inspiring--moving one to deep thankfulness for the wonderful love of Jesus!

Inasmuch as there are approximately twelve hundred people on the grounds now, it is necessary that the noon meal be served at three settings and the experienced and willing "trotters" of the different days of the week all pitch in to see that the meal is served quickly and efficiently. Many of the visitors who came just for today brought their own baskets, and chairs are placed on the large grass plot in front of the tabernacle.

This afternoon we hear a fine program by the Akron Men's Choir under the direction of Brother Carl Graca. Afternoon services are from 2:30 to 3:30 and then the choir gives the last part of its program.

The choir sings the following anthems: "Exaltation", "Hallelujah, Amen", "Pilgrim's Chorus", "O Lord Most Holy", "The Creation", and "Great and Glorious", which are received so favorably by the audience that some repeat numbers are requested. Although it is so hot we can hardly stand still, we repeat two of the anthems for the audience.

While the choir is still assembled, the suggestion is made that the audience stand and we all sing "Blest Be the Tie that Binds" inasmuch as many visitors and campers are leaving immediately for their journeys home. It is certainly something long to be remembered to hear this rendition of this wonderful parting hymn and we really feel sorry that now has come the time for more and more of us to say "Farewell" as we must leave.

In closing the Sunday evening meeting, Brother Philip Braun expresses appreciation for the work that was done so willingly by all who participated in making this camp week a success.

It has truly been a wonderful Lord's Day and we will ever be grateful to our Heavenly Father for allowing us to feel His wonderful love!

FAREWELL

Monday, August 8, 1949

Today is Monday and there is a sort of wistfulness hovering over the camp for it comes so hard at the heels of a whole week of Sundays. The crowd is thinning for already last night some spoke their loving farewells and returned to their respective fields to do battle against the influences awaiting them there to challenge their renewed strength or take away some of the blessings they gathered this past week.

No doubt, the series of lessons bringing God's redeeming love to us from the scriptures has awakened in many a fuller consciousness of our great poverty and His untold wealth. Many a throbbing heart now sees more clearly the Christians' growth and feels more intensely the Christians' joy and shares more fully the privileges, responsibilities, and comforts of the true believers. As we check our cabins for stray articles, everyone of us feels the firm conviction that during this past week the Lord has spoken to us. He has searched us, and we have seen the need of greater Christian fruitfulness. The "How" and "When" of God's call was made plain enough. The warning of judgments to come was also distinct. Now we go, some of us already translating these teachings into our very lives. This is the important but not the easy part.

Now we gather once more for the last time this year on the "Island". A touching prayer of thanksgiving arises there invisibly but unmistakably to the Father and to the Son in whose name we had gathered. How kindly He spoke to us in many ways, graciously reminding us time and again that "by this the world shall know that you are my children if you have love for one another." This fact becomes plain that we do have a genuine love of Christian fellowship with one another no matter from where we are. We gather to form a solid chain of campers, practically encompassing the whole island. As firmly as our faith in Him, we hold hands together and all join in the singing of this wonderful old hymn, "Blest Be the Tie that Binds". There is nothing quite like it. Tears roll--good tears; then follow the individual farewell wishes--a few words of mutual appreciation or an understanding look from each brother, sister and friend. Time flies as we make the round and return over the bridge and out of the gates, scattering in every direction as we go on our way.

Many were the prayers that paved the way for these blessings. Now, on our way back, more prayers arise here and there on the highways, on busses and trains. We are wondering about the many who heard the call of the Lord this week. Those who listened-- will they keep in touch with Him? How many will come through true repentance and surrender their very lives to this wonderful Savior? We feel some of the Lord's sadness when we think how some of these dear young people will have a ready excuse to postpone all this at the first beckoning of the old stamping grounds on the wide road of the millions. Yes, we campers have much need for our Savior and we have reasons to believe that He has some use for us. It is true that these camp meetings are all so temporary, but so are our jobs, our houses, our very lives here. Sometime we shall camp eternally with the host of the redeemed with our own now familiar Lord Jesus, then ruler of the earth. Meanwhile let us walk "worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called". (Ep. 4:1)