

## Letters from Word of Life Campers 2008

Thank you, Richfield Springs Bible Church from Jared Stein

“Thank you for helping fund my trip to Word of Life Island. At the Island every day was filled with fun. The food was delicious, and after lunch we got to pick from swimming, play a sport, go on the rock wall, go to a sign-up event, or hang out with my new friends at the snack bar. The competitions between the red and blue teams were such fun to do, and at the end of the week it really didn't matter who won.

At the Island the sermons were wonderful, and the speakers always knew what they were talking about. The message was clear. Every day more kids got saved! The week I spent on the Island was one I will never forget! “

Jared

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Dear Church Family,

Thank you for helping me to go to Word of Life Ranch! I had a really good time and made lots of friends. I also got a lot out of it spiritually!

There was a new speaker there this year, Professor Tom Davis. He told really funny stories about his life, and caught everyone's attention. We mainly focused on Psalm 23. We studied the characteristics of sheep and shepherds, how the sheep are like us, and how shepherds are like Jesus. The shepherd would watch over his sheep at all times, careful to not lose a single one. Shepherds loved their sheep so much they would die for them, fighting off predators. He would move the ram out of the path of objects, and fence the sheep in at night.

People are like sheep because we are stubborn, easily frightened. We have our dangers, and we follow our one shepherd. Our Shepherd is Jesus, because He takes care of us, leads us in paths of righteousness. He loves us, and He gave His life for us!

I learned that I am loved and cared for, and that I need my Shepherd. I am grateful that I could go to Word of Life Camp, and have fun learning more about God's Word. Thank you again, and I love you all!

Rory Byrnes

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Dear Richfield Springs Bible Church,

It was great at the Ranch! I made ten new friends! When we went to dinner, I played "Around the World", which is a basketball game. We told each other jokes, and went down the slip-n-slide. We had to do the most stylish slide. We had a magician come in and do tricks like making a cloth go from one cup to another. It was awesome! Then we went on the water slide. I did a wheelie on it! Best of all, I learned how God is our Shepherd, and how God does everything for a reason. Thank you for all your contributions that allowed me to go to camp and grow closer to God.

Drake Winnicki

Dear Bible Church Friends,

I would consider this summer to have been my favorite time at Word of Life. Every year gets better and better, but this year was just amazing!

There is so much to love about Word of Life. There are great counselors, fun tournaments, activities, and meetings that just touch your heart, and strengthen your soul. What I love most is all you learn, and how much this place can strengthen you in so many ways! The minute you step on the Island, you can feel God growing in you! Just within a few days I felt stronger spiritually, mentally, and emotionally.

The counselors this year were just as great as last year. I was really close to one. Her name was Amber Warkentien. She was just an amazing counselor, so much fun, and always got me into all the activities. But what I liked the most about her was that I could talk to her like I had known her my whole life, and could trust her with everything I said. She and I would go aside and talk about what we wanted to accomplish in life. She would ask me about my relationship with Christ and how I was doing with reading and studying the Bible, and if my life was affecting any of that. She just was able to give me so much spiritual assurance, yet it surprised me that she is only a few years older than me. I don't think I've ever made so many great friends on one week before! The people you meet at Word of Life are just amazing. Everyone makes you feel great, and aren't so judgmental like the kids I go to school with. I just wish our world could be like Word of Life. Being here made me realize how bad the world is getting. Oh, if everyone could just find the Word of God and stick with it!

Now this year I wasn't having as many problems before camp as I did last year, but my main problem was how I was living my life, and not behaving the way a Christian should! In God's book I was breaking a lot of rules that at the time didn't seem important to me.

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Two main topics in one of the meetings that week happened to be exactly what I needed and were on purity and spiritual maturity. There was a big meeting on purity. It focused on how we need to stay pure, not just for ourselves, but for God. We need to be pure, because that is what God wants for us. The title of one section of the meeting was “Developing a Heart for Holiness”. There were three D’s in this session. They were Devotion, Discipline and Decision. Devotion was for knowing God’s heart. Discipline was for thinking God’s way, and Decision was for following God’s plan and trusting in God. The next part was, “Can God forgive me?” Three steps they gave us were; 1. Confess, and forsake your sin. 2. God will forgive and cleanse you. 3. Don’t doubt your forgiveness. If you doubt your forgiveness, then you doubt God! The last part of this session was “The Heart of Holiness”. And this part spoke about God’s desire for us. This particular meeting was the best one that week! As people walked out of the pavilion that night, they had a new look on their faces. It was just such a strong meeting and message, and really made you think about what you were or could be doing. That night I learned the affect of what I was doing, and I decided that there needed to be improvements in my life!

The meetings about spiritual maturity were great too. They gave us three themes to the Bible. These were 1. The Way to God – 2. My Walk With God – 3. My Witness for God. And there was a quote given to us to keep us going. This was – “I will not quit! – By God’s grace I can do it!” The two types of religions that were discussed were a “vain, worthless religion and a valiant (pure) religion”. For the vain religion there was the denial, the deception, and the declaration. For the valiant religion, there was a tongue that is controlled (communication), a touch that is compassionate (conduct) and a testimony that is clean (character). They said that character is the most important, In this session there were four S’s. They were salvation, situation, solicitation, and solution. The three P’s that we discussed were problem, purpose and process. They said that everyone wants the triumph of faith, but God says we cannot have this until we have the tests and trial of faith.

The topics this week were just amazing! And the way they explained made everybody want to listen, Camp has always had a big impact on my life. The greatest impact was last year, but this year it encouraged me to get back on track. It helped me get closer to God and helped me strengthen our relationship and made me realize that I needed to change some things, and the wisdom to do it, with God’s help. I want to thank the whole church for helping out so that my little brother, Drake, and I could go to camp again this past summer. And I want to thank everyone who wrote me while I was there. I loved and appreciated it all very much! Thank you all!

Kayla Winnicki

