

CAMP SHAMROCK NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 19

DECEMBER 2004

Do you remember what you got for Christmas five years ago? How about three years ago? Even last year? Do you still have any of them?

One thing about Christmas gifts is that they are meaningful at the moment, but few of them are memorable. My favourite Christmas gift was when I was 10. I got a Tom & Jerry nightdress case! I loved it! Unfortunately the dog ended up playing with it one day and left Tom with half an ear and one eye! It's long gone now but the memories still remain.

Christmas is a time for giving, for getting, and for memories. However time fades memories and gifts get broken, destroyed or lost.

There is only one gift that we can receive that can never be destroyed and will last forever. That is the gift of forgiveness through His son. What a gift! Not only can we receive every spiritual blessing that Jesus has to give, but we also receive Jesus—living in our hearts, giving us peace, joy and love.

As Christmas draws to a close for another year and gifts get left behind with the memories, let us never forget the most important gift that is with us always.

Take care, have a wonderful season and I hope to see you in the New Year.

Sheba



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Thank God for His Son--His Gift too wonderful for words."

II Corinthians 9:15 TLB



Some time ago a man punished his 5-year-old daughter for wasting a roll of expensive gold wrapping paper. Money was tight and he became even more upset when the child pasted the gold paper so as to decorate a box to put under the Christmas tree. Nevertheless, the little girl brought the gift box to her father the next morning and said, "This is for you, Daddy." The father was embarrassed by his earlier overreaction, but his anger flared again when he found the box was empty. He spoke to her in a harsh manner, "Don't you know, young lady, when you give someone a present there's supposed to be something inside the package?" The little girl looked up at him with tears in her eyes and said, "Oh, Daddy, it's not empty. I blew kisses into it until it was full." The father was crushed. He fell on his knees and put his arm around his little girl, and he begged her to forgive him for his unnecessary anger.

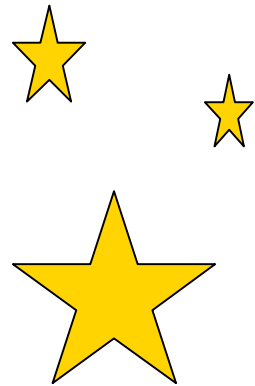
is An accident took the life of the child only a short time later and it told that the father kept that gold box by his bed for all the years of his life. And whenever he was discouraged or faced difficult problems he would open the box and take out an imaginary kiss and remember the love of the child who had put it there.



same love with others.

In a very real sense, each of us as human beings have been given a golden box filled with unconditional love and kisses from our friends, our family and more importantly God. There is no more precious possession anyone could hold. Keep it close to your heart and use this special time of year to share that

Remember....

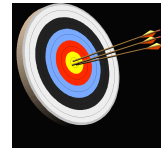




A big **THANK YOU** to all those who arrived down at Crawfordsburn Country Park on 23rd October to brave the cold weather and join us for our Camp Reunion.

Altogether we had around 20 people who turned up for some more fun and adventure. Activities included a climbing wall, archery and a very muddy assault course.

The Archery was fun, although I wouldn't like to have been standing anywhere near some of you the way those arrows were flying! Only one person was good enough to hit a bulls eye. Congratulations!!



You older kids should be ashamed of yourselves for allowing the wee ones put you to shame by getting to the top of the indoor climbing wall first! It really wasn't that high you know! I'd love to have seen you's at the outside one.

I think the highlight of the day was the assault course which nearly everyone had a go at and they all ended up mudded to the eyeballs! There's no fun without mud when it comes to assault courses.

It was great to see everyone again and do some catching up on what has been happening with you all since Camp 2004. We had a great day there and we hope you all enjoyed the time spent together.

For those of you who couldn't make it we're sorry you missed out. But...if you're interested in doing something similar on a weekend basis, Clark, Gayle and Ciara are hoping to organise a Youth Weekend in Avoca Manor in February. For further information contact Clark.

The Power of Prayer

Diane, a young university student, was home for the summer. She had gone to visit some friends one evening and time passed quickly as each shared their various experiences of the past year. She ended up staying longer than planned, and had to walk home alone. She wasn't afraid because it was a small town and she lived only a few blocks away. As she walked along under the tall elm trees, Diane asked God to keep her safe from harm and danger.

When she reached the alley, which was a short cut to her house, she decided to take it. However, halfway down the alley she noticed a man standing at the end as though he were waiting for her. She became uneasy and began to pray, asking for God's protection. Instantly a comforting feeling of quietness and security wrapped around her, she felt as though someone was walking with her. When she reached the end of the alley, she walked right past the man and arrived home safely.

The following day, she read in the newspaper that a young girl had been abused in the same alley just twenty minutes after she had been there. Feeling overwhelmed by this tragedy and the fact that it could have been her, she began to weep. Thanking the Lord for her safety and to help this young woman, she decided to go to the police station. She felt she could recognize the man, so she told them her story. The police asked her if she would be willing to look at a line up to see if she could identify him. She agreed and immediately pointed out the man she had seen in the alley the night before.

broke down and

When the man was told he had been identified, he immediately confessed.



The officer thanked Diane for her bravery and asked if there was anything they could do for her.

She asked if they would ask the man one question. Diane was curious as to why he had not attacked her.

When the policeman asked him, he answered, "Because she wasn't alone; She had two tall men walking on either side of her."



Don't underestimate the power of Prayer! People think that in this day and age there is no longer the need for prayer as modern technology can provide us with everything we could ever dream of. What they don't realise is that prayer is the most powerful tool a person can possess. It's a tool that should be used daily, not only for inner strength but also to enhance your relationship with God. Use it always, you may be surprised at the results!

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Avoca Youth Weekend ~ Following the great success of last years youth weekend in Avoca Manor, Ireland, Clark and the youth of the Dublin congregation are hoping to do another weekend in February 2005 with the same sort of activities as last time. For further details contact Clark.

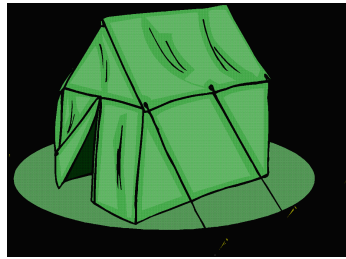


Camp Shamrock 2005 ~

The dates for camp 2005 are;

Boys ~ Monday 11th July to Tuesday 19th July

Girls ~ Thursday 21st July to Friday 29th July

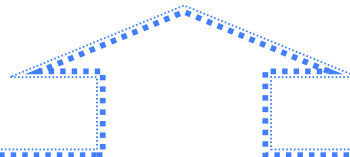


We would really love to see you all back again for another week of fun and frolics. Feel free to bring a friend too! Our activities will be similar to last years but we hope to introduce some more exciting stuff too so make sure to keep the dates free. More details

about camp will be in our next newsletter.



www.campshamrock.org



Our website has recently been updated so be sure to take a look to see if you're there! We also have a section called, '**Where are they now**' with photos from previous camps as far back as the sixties. If you know anyone who may have been to camp a long time ago and may be interested in this section, please give them our address. It may bring back some good memories!

Our aim at Camp Shamrock is to protect the children from the never-ending prejudices that are in this world. We endeavour to implement good practices throughout their time spent there, set good standards and in doing so, try to build a better future for the next generation.

For further information regarding Camp Shamrock, please visit our website at

www.campshamrock.org or contact

Bert Ritchie, 14 Craigaboney Road, Bushmills. BT57 8XD (028 20731180) or Sheba Clinton, 26 Ashton Drive, Coleraine, BT52 1NW (028 70327296)



A copy of this Newsletter will automatically be sent to all campers each time it is printed. (Approximately every three months). However if you do not wish to keep receiving this, please let me know by completing the details below and returning to me.

I do/do not wish to receive any further copies of this Newsletter.

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____

Please send me a copy of the application form for camp 2005 YES NO