



CAMP SHAMROCK NEWSLETTER

Celebrating 40 years 1966 - 2006

www.campshamrock.org

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Camp shamrock has changed my life in many ways. You meet people from many different countries and towns and get to spend time together. I have made many new friends at camp, learnt new songs, and learnt new languages! During my first time at camp, we had people from Italy, Holland, Latvia, USA, Ireland, N. Ireland, Scotland, England and Zimbabwe. Imagine meeting these people from all over the country and spending great times together! Where else could you do it!

It's now February, and there's only four months left to camp. It's that time when you look in your diaries and pencil in the dates for Camp Shamrock. July may seem to be far away but time flies guys. Lets start to prepare for camp now.

But one thing I am asking you guys this year, tell a friend, invite them to camp. Let them come and share the fun with others. If you invited someone to Camp Shamrock think of how many there would be and how much more fun you would have? Why do you want to have fun yourself and leave others out.

Camp has been going on for 40 years and many lives have been changed. Some have got married because of it. See how great camp is? Some of the people I have met have become lifetime friends. When I read the emails from you guys on the website, it shows that you really don't want to miss camp. Bring a friend, or your enemy and become friends at camp.

We only don't have fun but we have the chance to see the beauty of God's nature and we get to be encouraged spiritually. We are brought closer to God with lessons from the Bible.

Guys lets hope to meet at camp shamrock in July. Let me remind you the dates again, 9 - 17 boys and 19 - 27 girls.

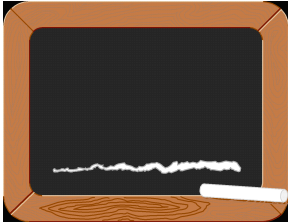
I will bring a friend and hope you do too.

Take care, until we meet at camp.
God bless

Fred Abraham, Zimbabwe

Believe in God

This is a true story of something that happened just a few years ago at a University in the States...



There was a professor of philosophy there who was a deeply committed atheist. His primary goal for one required class was to spend the entire term proving that God couldn't exist.

His students were always afraid to argue with him because of his brilliant logic. Sure, some had argued in class at times, but no one had ever really gone against him because of his reputation.

At the end of every year, on the last day, he would say to his class of 300 students, "If there is anyone here who still believes in Jesus, stand up!" In twenty years, no one had ever stood up. They knew what he was going to do next. He would say, "Because anyone who believes in God is a fool." If God existed, he could stop this piece of chalk from hitting the ground and breaking. Such a simple task to prove that He is God, and yet He can't do it." And every year, he would drop the chalk onto the tile floor of the classroom and it would shatter into a hundred pieces. All of the students would do nothing but stop and stare. Most of the students thought that God couldn't exist. Certainly, a number of Christians had slipped through, but! For 20 years, they had been too afraid to stand up.

Well, a few years ago there was a new student who enrolled in the University. He was a Christian, and had heard the stories about his professor. He was required to take the class for his major, and he was afraid. But for three months that year, he prayed every morning that he would have the courage to stand up no matter what the professor said, or what the class thought. Nothing they said could ever shatter his faith...he hoped.

Finally, the day came. ! The professor said, "If there is anyone here who still believes in God, stand up!" The professor and the class of 300 people looked at him, shocked, as he stood up at the back of the Classroom. The professor shouted, "You FOOL!!! If God existed, he would keep this piece of chalk from breaking when it hit the ground!" He proceeded to drop the chalk, but as he did, it slipped out of his fingers, off his shirt cuff, onto the pleat of his pants, down his leg, And off his shoe. As it hit the ground, it simply rolled away unbroken.

The professor's jaw dropped as he stared at the chalk. He looked up at the young man, and then ran out of the lecture hall. The young man who had stood, proceeded to walk to the front of the room and shared his faith in Jesus for the next half hour. 300 students stayed and listened as he told of God's love for them and of His power Through Jesus.

This is a compelling story, which proves to many people that you shouldn't mess with God! Trying to prove Him wrong will not prove anything. God is in control and always will be. The ending has already been written!

What is the Everglow?

Well, from what I've heard everybody who took the (long) journey down to Avoca had no regrets. We had a blast at the youth weekend! It took a while getting there but in the end the kids thoroughly enjoyed the experience, made lots of new friends and more importantly learned more about God.

The aim of the weekend is to take us on the journey of life, finding out what makes it meaningful and amazing and understanding our true purpose.

Our first speaker for the weekend was Kyle Kophamel from Dublin who spoke of how he grew up with everything only to be told one day that his parents were moving half way across the world and he was going with them. He spoke of how his life changed in the space of a few weeks and just how it made him realize that life is not all about possessions.

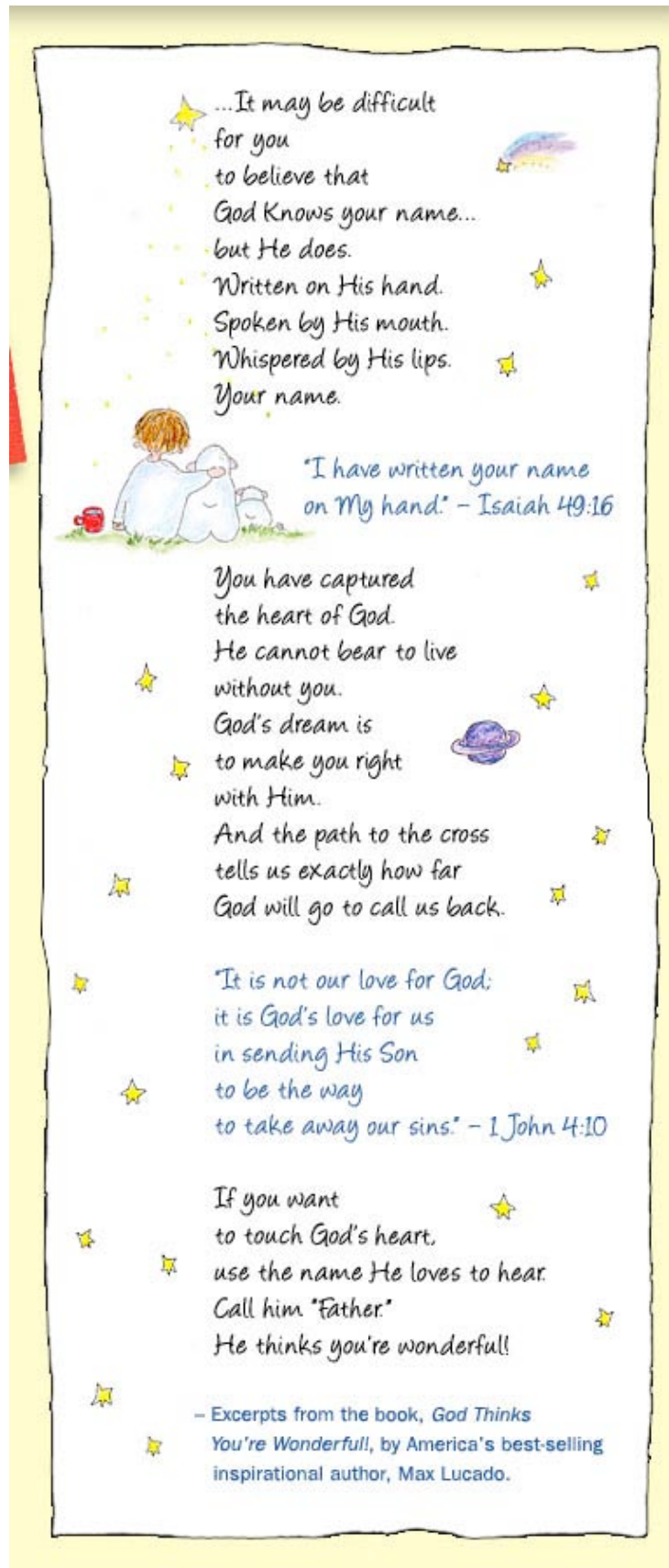
Next up we had Peter Maguire from Dublin who spoke about one of his friends who thought that life was all about having fun with your mates, doing drugs, drinking, smoking etc. Unfortunately one day he went too far and ended up dying. Peter made us realise that there is more to life than this also.

Later on the Saturday night we had Chris Perrey from Morley who told us about that missing piece of life which people often search for....the Everglow.

Finally we had Mark Hill from Loughborough who finished off the weekend's lessons on 'the possibility of the impossible' Why settle for second best when you can have everlasting life through Jesus?

The youth weekend was a great success and so a big THANK YOU goes out to all those who helped organise it in any way. Also thank you to all the kids who arrived – especially those who travelled from the UK to be with us. We appreciate it! We hope you had a great time and remember, camp is only round the corner!!!

We hope to have another weekend at the end of May to get you all in tune for Camp 2007, so keep in touch with us and we will provide more details as soon as possible!



Why I believe in God

This is a truly amazing letter which was written by an 8-year-old named Danny Dutton, who lives in California. He wrote it for his third grade homework assignment, to "explain God."

I wonder if any of us could have done as well...?

EXPLANATION OF GOD:

"One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grownups, just babies I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers."

"God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times besides bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off."

"God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have."

"Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in my town. At least there aren't any who come to our church."

"Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him. But he was good and kind, like his father, and he told his father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said O.K."

"His dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important."

"You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time."

"You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God!"

Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway."

"If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared, in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids."

"But...you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases."

And...that's why I believe in God."



Dates and Information

Camp Shamrock

MAY YOUTH WEEKEND

We may have a youth weekend at the end of May this year to get us all ready for Camp 2007. So – make sure and keep us up to date with your address and phone numbers and we will contact you all closer to the time with more details.

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Celebrating 40 years

CAMP SHAMROCK 2007

Here are the dates for Camp 2007!

Boys camp ~ 9-17 July
Girls camp ~ 19-27 July



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.

BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE

- ♣ Protecting our children
- ♣ Setting good standards
- ♣ Implementing good practice

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

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