

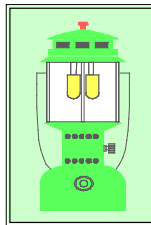
CAMP SHAMROCK

Newsletter

Issue 15

September 2003

“A LITTLE LIGHT



FROM THE PIT.”

Hello there all you campers! For those of you whose first year this was at Camp Shamrock, this is just a wee newsletter to remind you of the fun we all shared at Camp, to keep you in touch with everyone and to let you know details about any future events we will be organising if you want to come to – including Camp Shamrock 2004!

We really hope you all enjoyed yourselves at Camp this year and that you have learned a lot more about God in the process. The relationships we all form at camp are very special, unlike any you will form throughout the year...so keep them precious.

I hope that the friendships you have all made at camp this year will continue to grow. I have been coming to camp now for 19 years and my closest friends are the ones I met at Camp. More importantly I was given the opportunity to see God working in a way I hadn't seen before through the service of the staff on the field.

My prayer is that you will all share these same great memories over the years and that Camp will be as special to you as it has been to me.

This newsletter is for your benefit so if any of you want to share any of your memories of Camp please let me know. We have one in this issue and I would love to see some more in future issues.

Take care and I hope to see you all soon.

Sheba

MEMORIES FROM CAMP 2003



COMPETITION

A few years ago when we started doing this newsletter we held competitions! Unfortunately we didn't get much response from them so they stopped. However, this is an excellent one for you which I hope all you artists will have a go at.

Brad, who most of the boys will know from camp, is currently setting up a **CAMP SHAMROCK WEBSITE**. It will feature details about camp, photos from this year's camp ~ and of course years gone by. It will have a history of the camp and a page for people who have been to camp many years ago to be able to get in touch with us. Hopefully it will get bigger as time goes on but for now we're looking for a **CAMP LOGO** for the website.

The idea for the competition is that we're giving **YOU** the chance to design the logo! It can be anything you like relating to Camp Shamrock. The winner of the competition will then have the opportunity to see their logo on the website! This will also be "the" logo for camp in years to come and we hope to get a flag and maybe T.Shirts printed with the logo for next year's camp.

If you're interested in taking part in this competition please make sure your logo is on a page at least A4 size – which is the size of this page. This is so we have enough detail to get it printed out. If it's too small we won't be able to use it.

The winner of the competition will be announced in the next newsletter, which will be out around Christmas and of course the logo that wins will be used from now on at the top of our newsletters as well as the **CAMP SHAMROCK WEBSITE**.

Please send all your entries to **Sheba Clinton, 26 Ashton Drive, COLERAINE, Co. Londonderry.**

N. Ireland, BT52 1NW ~ **before** the end of November. This gives you plenty of time to get creative!

Camp Shamrock in the eyes of Rosalind Duran...



As the summer comes to an end, I always find myself looking back over the past few months with my main focus on my time spent at camp.

I've been going to camp for as long as I can remember and throughout the year I can't wait until camp again or the next youth weekend to reunite with the many friends I've made there over the years.

It's only now as I reflect on my life that I really acknowledge the huge impact that camp has had on me. I truly believe that if it wasn't for me being sent off to camp all those years ago I wouldn't be here right now writing this. I doubt that I would still be attending church or if I would have any interest in God at all because that's the way my life seemed to be headed!

A few years ago I had a group of friends who probably weren't the best people for me to be around! I still went to church every Sunday but outside of the few hours I spent there, I was a completely different person. I was just acting the way all my friends did, I wasn't being myself- I wasn't happy! I knew that the way I was living was wrong and thankfully, I still always had God in the back of my mind!

Then one day I was told about a youth weekend in Glendalough (Feb 2000) so I decided to go along (mostly just to see all the friends I usually wouldn't see from one year to the next.)

There were a number of different speakers throughout the weekend but the two I remember mostly were Peter Maguire (my soon to be cousin-in-law) and Peter Dunn. They were both talking about their experience with God and being a Christian as the theme of the weekend was "A new beginning."

Peter Dunn mentioned the topic of "Judgement Day". He explained how, when the time comes that you are standing there in front of God, it's YOU there- not you're friends or family or anyone else there holding your hand. Only YOU!! That seemed to really hit home with me. I had been thinking about being baptised for a long time prior to Glendalough but what seemed to be holding me back was the thought of my friends. What would they say? How would they react?

But those questions just seemed to fade away. It was true what Peter had said. It was MY faith- MY choice! I wasn't going to let anyone jeopardise my chance for a relationship with God- a new beginning!

So I spoke with a few different people at the weekend including my cousin, Lynette, and I was baptised, along with four others that night!

It was an amazing experience and definitely the most important, yet easiest decision I have made or will ever make!

It seemed however, that the few months following my baptism, nothing really changed. I never expected to immediately have some miraculous change inside me- but I kind of expected something?!

A few months past and I realised that being baptised was just the first step. I had to make the change!

There isn't any specific thing or time I remember in which I did change, it just sort of happened! I grew up and began to take God and my relationship with him a lot more seriously!

Then a year or two past and things started getting really tough again! Only one or two of my friends are Christians (apart from my friends from camp) and there are barely any youth at all in my congregation so I find myself pretty much alone any time I'm struggling with anything. Being a Christian doesn't shield you from hurt, pain or temptation but it does give you comfort in knowing that God is always there for you- He won't let you fall!

So I prayed a lot and really just let go and let God take over my life and from doing that I've made some really strong friendships and over the past 10 months or so, I've really grown as a Christian. Of course I'm not perfect. I still slip up and make mistakes but especially this summer at camp, I've found that if I surround myself with the people I know and love in Christ, I can get through anything!

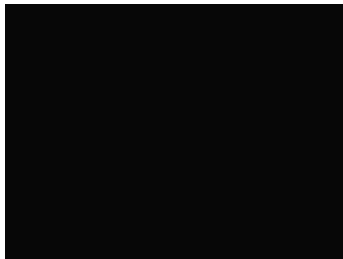
And all this happened from a little girl going to camp and meeting all the amazing people and true friends that I see there year after year!

I love you all and I'll see you soon!

Rosalind xxx

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love and in purity."

1 Timothy 4:12



When I say... "I am a Christian" I'm not shouting "I'm clean livin".
I'm whispering "I was lost", Now I'm found and forgiven.

When I say... "I am a Christian" I don't speak of this with pride.
I'm confessing that I stumble and need CHRIST to be my guide.

When I say... "I am a Christian" I'm not trying to be strong.
I'm professing that I'm weak and need HIS strength to carry on.

When I say... "I am a Christian" I'm not bragging of success.
I'm admitting I have failed and need God to clean my mess.

When I say... "I am a Christian" I'm not claiming to be perfect,
My flaws are far too visible but, God believes I am worth it.

When I say... "I am a Christian" I still feel the sting of pain,
I have my share of heartaches So I call upon His name.

When I say... "I am a Christian" I'm not holier than thou,
I'm just a simple sinner who received God's good grace, somehow.

This poem, supplied by Jennifer Stoves, says it all. Many people feel that living life as a Christian is boring. It's nothing like that! It's always a struggle, just like life in general, but at least as Christians we know that we always have God to help us in our time of need. Just because we're Christians we don't profess to be good people. Remember, we all slip up – but God knows our hearts and will help us through any crisis, if we ask him in prayer.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WE may be having a **youth weekend in late October 2003** but we're not sure yet if it's possible. However if you would be interested in coming to it, please contact Sheba via email or telephone and she will contact you closer to the time. Details are below.

YOUTH WEEKEND IN AVOCA MANOR ~ SOUTHERN IRELAND ~ This will be a great opportunity for the youth of Ireland to meet with the youth from Scotland and England for a fun packed fellowship weekend! It will be the St Patricks Day weekend in

March 2004. Further information will be printed in the next newsletter so watch this space. Keep it free!

Don't forget that until we have our own website up and running, the newsletter and further information about Camp Shamrock can now be viewed on Brad's website at www.gboutreach.org There is a link from it to get into Camp Shamrock. I would encourage you all to check it out, as there are some great pictures from this year!

As always, if there are any changes you think we could make to improve the camp for you, please let us know. We can certainly look at any ideas you may have. Please also let me know if you are moving house so I can post your newsletter to your new address.

For further information regarding this Newsletter or Camp Shamrock please contact;

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Phone: 028 70327296 (call after 6) or 07989 279 103 Email: shebaclinton@lineone.net