

CAMP ARNES — A PLACE TO GROW

AND ALSO A PLACE TO WATCH OTHERS GROW TOO.

The week started with six campers, a counsellor and me, a cabin buddy. My basic duty as a cabin buddy was to sleep in the cabin and be an extra counsellor at night. The rest of my day was filled with my regular duties as activities staff. Girls in paintball are a funny bunch, they're tough, but still girls. They play just as hard as the boys, get just as muddy and are just as proud of their battle wounds. With the girls spending most of their day up at outpost playing paintball, I did not get a lot of time to interact with them besides in the evening. As the week progressed I gradually got to know the girls a little more, and those that I already knew, a little more deeply.

On a typical Thursday night at camp in the Wigwam, the speaker will invite the campers to make a choice and ask Jesus to come into their lives. The campers are also invited to stay back in the wigwam and talk with their counsellor if they so choose to ask questions about God and life. I decided since I was a cabin buddy that I would stick around to see if their counsellor Krysta needed any help. I joined the girls on the floor and sang along

with them as worship songs were being played. I looked left, and there was Krysta with two campers, sitting and talking. Something great was going on in their conversations. I looked around again, and there were two of our other campers sitting and talking together. I decided to join them and as I sat down, they kept talking intently, with no notice of me.

As I joined in on the conversation, I realized that one camper was explaining to the other how God had changed her life and that it is not always easy, but that her life makes so much more sense with God in it. Both girls finally notice me, and the one camper asked "How do I ask for forgiveness so I can have God in my life too?" As I was about to answer, the first camper started to explain and told her that we can help and

that we will pray for her too. It was so cool to see a camper teaching another camper about God. The next day was Friday and our last night. In typical camp tradition the Challenger Girls Leader had planned something fun and yummy for our last night after wigwam. Our cabin went and enjoyed our delicious dessert.

A short while later the girls came and asked us if we could head back to our cabin, not because they were bored, not because they were tired, but because they wanted to read their Bibles! At first I was suspicious, but we got permission to leave and headed back to the cabin.

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SENIORS RETREAT 2008

For the last 10 years I have had the incredible opportunity of hosting Freedom 55 Plus at Camp Arnes. This one week camp has become more like a family reunion as each "camper" has found a special place in the hearts of the Wear family.

This year's speaker, Laurie Barth and his wife Edna showed us love from the book of Ruth, and Anita Warkentin blessed us with her gift of music. What a great time we had!

As we all know this summer's weather was not camp friendly, and senior's week was no exception. After day two we started to plan the second Ark!

I am looking forward to next year's retreat, August 31-September 4, 2009 with Laurie and Edna Barth as our guest speaker. Hope to see you then!

- Shauna Wear



Rain kept activities inside but many games were played and friendships strengthened.



Mary Pauls, after going down the Zipline.



SUMMER 2009

There is no season like summer! As we look back on this summer we are only more excited for next summer. The months of summer are usually circled on most of our calendars as a time to relax and recharge from the busyness of the rest of the year. I know this to be true through conversations I have had with the many campers, parents, volunteers and staff members who spend time here at Camp Arnes each summer.

They rave about how the Camp Arnes experience refreshes their pursuit of happiness, nourishes their drive to achieve and refills their fuel for life. As the summer of 2009 draws near, I look forward to more memories made and more lifelong friendships started here at Camp Arnes.



Some of the new attractions for 2009 are the addition of a human foosball court, two new sumo suits, and a revamped Stoker program; one-week camps just for 14 & 15 year olds complete with activities like "I want to be a rock-star!" Summer 2009 is going to give you the "Fuel for Life!"



This year's banquet also included many activities for the young at heart.



FALL BANQUET

Saturday, October 4th, marked the date of Camp Arnes' 38th Fund-raising Banquet. The evening was full of fun with camp activities, visiting with friends, musical entertainment by Derek Zelstra & Band and an inspirational message from David Balzer. To top it all off, a delicious meal by Bergman's on Lombard.

It brought immense joy to us to see so many people come out for the evening in support of Camp Arnes and the lives that are affected by its ministry. The theme of "Living out Loud", was shared as an encouragement that Camp Arnes is a place that lives out opportunities for kids to grow; as well as find hope in the midst of a challenging world. Through out the evening, we were reminded of how many of the experiences and truths kids live through while at camp last them a life time. Many of these experiences are placed like cairns or alters, that people return to at crucial points in their life.



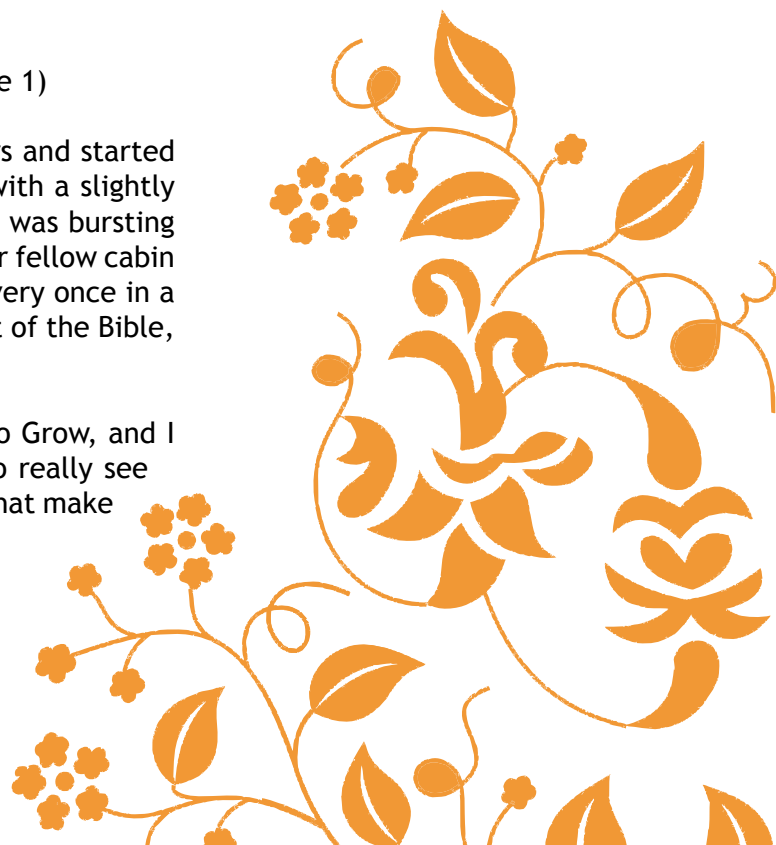
The evening raised a total of \$68,900 through sponsors, offerings and a match from a generous donor for all donations over \$150. Thank you, to all the banquet and table sponsors and to those that attended to help make the evening a great time!

A PLACE TO WATCH OTHERS GROW (continued from page 1)

As soon as we were in our cabin, the girls split up into pairs and started reading and studying the Bible together. A new Christian, with a slightly more established Christian. I could not believe it. My heart was bursting with joy that these thirteen year old girls were teaching their fellow cabin mates about God and life and how God fits in their lives. Every once in a while they would ask for help in explaining or clarifying part of the Bible, but the rest was the campers teaching another camper.

I have always read and heard that Camp Arnes is a Place to Grow, and I have experienced it myself, but this summer, I was able to really see others grow, not just in a few small ways, but in huge ways that make choirs of Angels sing.

- Glenda Rempel, 2008 Summer Staff



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If you would like to subscribe to our e-newsletter, just log on to our website, look for the blue bubble and enter your email address. This is a great way to keep updated on what is going on at camp!



Camp Arnes will be celebrating 60 years in 2009. If you are interested in being a part of the planning committee, have some stories or memorabilia you would like to share, please give us a call. Contact Lisa Dawood at 338.4647 for more information.

Hey Campers, you are not going to want to miss



ULTIMATE DAY

NOVEMBER 28, 2008

Ultimate Day is coming up and it is not too late to turn in your registration forms. Friday, November 28th, is SAG Day...which means...NO SCHOOL! Instead of bumming around at home, why not come to camp for a great day of fun! Bring a friend and show them all the things you did this summer! Can't wait to see you there!

If you need a registration form or would like more info, visit our website or call the camp office 1-888-642-7618.

Ultimate Day is for our campers & friends who attended Challenger Camp, Ranch Camp, Paintball Camp or Canoe Trip (grade 6-9).

YES! I would like to help continue the ministry of Camp Arnes!

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