

## The Life Preserver

What a day! Today, the campers arrived right on time just before lunch. It was so great to see many returning campers but it was even more exciting to see the looks on the faces of the new campers as they got off the bus.

We had lunch, a little rest time and then camp got started. We had activity centers and swimming in the afternoon followed by Chapel right before dinner. Bible Teacher Jeff did a great job as always.

After dinner, we split the girls to go back to swimming and the boys got to play some "Amazing Race" style water games around camp and at the big field. We enjoyed a beautiful sunset as the kids feasted on watermelon to end their busy first day.

Tomorrow is one of the longest feeling days at camp. It's a full day so be praying for these kids (and the counselors) get a good night's sleep so they can be ready to take on Tuesday.

Here's a great story from our scribe... It's one of many reasons why we do camp! Thank you for your continued prayers.

Why do we serve at RFKC? Because of Emily, and children like her! Just listen to her story and hear her heart about the difference camp made in her life.

Emily has four siblings, and one is a twin sister. They were all placed in foster care. The happy day came when she was adopted, but tragically she was abused by that family.

It was during those very dark days that Emily came to RFKC. She remembers it all. The love. How safe and included she felt. She held tightly to the momentos she brought home like a drowning person clinging to a life preserver. Those items were hope to her. A tattoo on her arm proclaims the verse she learned while at camp - Jeremiah 29:11. Today she quotes it clearly and with conviction. "For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD, "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

Now Emily lives with her older sister. She works as a teen helper at RFKC, and she brought that old album of photos so lovingly put together by her counselor. Flip through it and you'll see "Aunt Lena", and other faces of those who served. An especially treasured picture shows Adam Cook escorting Emily and her twin sister to the tea party because the girls didn't want to be separated.

We know that lives are transformed at RFKC, but it's an especially sweet gift when we actually get to see a life saved by God through the work we do. All praise to Him who is the true Life Preserver!

Blessings everyone!

Darren Edwards,

**OFC Director**