

## TRANSFORMATION & TEA PLEASE

Thursday is another big day for the camp. The kids and campers get to make final decisions on their activities in the morning. Do I want to go to Imagination Station, go fishing at the lake or make something in woodworking? When it's lunchtime, the activity centers are closing up for the week.

It was also a BIG afternoon. It was Royal Tea Party day. The girls got to dress up in their "Say Yes To The Dress" dress picked from the day before, wearing tiaras and bows. After such a special tea party, the girls got to top it off with swimming. The boys got to swim first and then they got to participate in "Dude Royal". The boys got to participate in a special Bazooka Ball event for the first time ever at this session of camp. It was great!

Be praying for the kids as they start to think about going back home on Friday. Some of the kids have already started to act out and we just need to pray for them. Ask the Lord for a good night's rest and for a good return to their homes.

Pray also for the counselors and staff as tomorrow can be a very emotional day. We will covet your prayers.

Thankful for a great week of offering hope to these kids. They have found their way to our hearts!

Here's a great story from our scribe:

The fourth day of camp arrived with a bright hot sun rising over the tree line. Today we were reminded that it is still summer. Yup it was hot. And yet, most of us would say it has been a pleasant week temperature wise.

If celebrate was the word for yesterday, today it has to be "transformation".

All eyes were set toward 1:40pm on the schedule, "The Royal Tea", evening gowns, tiaras, bedazzled flip flops and make up. Young ladies transformed into Cinderella princesses. The affirmation and individual attention is life giving to these little girls. It is sad to say that some of them have never had this kind of attention. Just the invitation to dress up and not only feel special but to actually be special at a tea party hosted by some older women in their honor. Young hearts, eternally transformed.

Allow me to tell you about a young first time camper named Mickey (not her real name). She is seven. Stepping off the bus into all of the excitement of getting to camp, meeting her counselor and new friends was too much for her to bear. She froze, wouldn't speak and ran off. It was hard not to think she would not make it through the day. But she did. Her counselor jumped in, B-Mod came to support. There was much prayer. Tuesday came and went, and she was still here.

Wednesday, the birthday party, the big celebration, the MP3 player with all the camp songs on it. She was all in now. This was now her camp. At breakfast today she caught a support staff member by the arm. Getting her attention; she began thanking her for; this camp, the MP3 player, the cup cakes last night, the food we get to eat, her counselor. The staff member who shared this story with me said Mickey thanked her for everything she could think of and then said Amen at the end. Yes, amen and amen.

ABBA's fingerprints are all over this. I'm reminded of the passage in Ezekiel; "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh." (Ezekiel 36:26 NIV)

It is a sweet thing to sit here on a Thursday night, having witnessed real transformation right in front of my eyes. And to realize it is not just the kids that have been transformed here at camp. Thank you, simply doesn't say enough.

Blessings everyone!

Darren Edwards,

**OFC** Director