

A NEW PERSPECTIVE THIS SUMMER



Sal Santiago,
ISC Board Member

This summer was another example of God's love conquering the biggest challenges, bringing down the largest walls and breaking the chains of sin! This year was the first time in over 10 years that I haven't volunteered at least one week at camp. Not being there personally was very troubling and made me feel like I was missing out on what God was doing. Every week I received personal updates about the happenings and goings at camp. With each update, it made me feel more envious of the people who were experiencing camp first hand.

I recall that during the first week I received an update about two brothers who had their differences. Through God's love and their counselor's challenge, these two brothers were able to reconcile their differences and grow as friends. Another week I received an update that on the second day of camp, two young ladies broke down in tears as

our house worship band sang "Good, Good Father." These young ladies were so touched by this song because their own natural father had abandoned them. Yet this was a teachable moment. Kurt did not miss the opportunity to listen, encourage and explain how their natural

He loves His creation, no matter what their color, race or creed.

father may have failed them, but God the Father would never leave or forsake them. Another week I received pictures of young men and women spread across the campground reading their Bibles and learning to apply what they were taught

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Director's NOTE

In my humble opinion, this entire year for ISC can be boiled down to one simple phrase: "HE KNOWS BEST." As we prepared for and facilitated another summer of camp, God's provincial and perfect plan was once again on full display. He placed us at an amazing camp facility, provided an awesome staff, and put all the pieces in place for His Spirit to move. As I shared in our weekly camp e-updates, we watched 16-year-old boys with no church background give their lives to Jesus, and by the end of the week say things like, "I am now able to face my fears to things I never faced before." Young ladies confessed things like, "I did not know who I was when I came here. Now I know who God is, and now I believe in Him and me. My counselors helped me understand the Man of God, his love for us, and his help for us. I don't want to be the same person I was, I now want to be happy." Every week our campers made life-changing decisions for Christ. When Thursday night came, we watched broken young people raising their hands in victory and worshipping our Savior. Our leadership and staff are far from perfect, but once again God's grace made ISC a perfect place for our campers to meet Him and experience His love.

Kurt Schwarz
Executive Director

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all week long. The adage “a picture is worth a thousand words” never meant more than that day I received those pictures. Seeing young adults who are coming from not-so-ideal circumstances reading their Bibles for themselves and exploring their own relationship with God ... is simply amazing!

In years past I had witnessed these types of things personally and it always evoked an emotional reaction – often tears of joy! What was most amazing is that despite my not being present my reaction was no less emotional. In many ways, these reports were the highlights of my week. They inspired me to pray bolder and more

frequently. I envisioned God singing from Heaven; with every harmonic tune, I saw heart-shaped musical notes falling down on the campers. It was God’s way of saying He loves His creation, no matter what their color, race or creed.

When I thought I’d be relegated to just being a spectator, God surprised me! This year I had the opportunity to view camp through the lens of my wife’s camera. Since my wife spent a whole week at camp, I visited camp several times during her stay. I helped her film and interview campers. Being my wife’s roadie, I moved her camera equipment around. My task allowed me to eyewitness many amazing



Counselors' CORNER



Eric Hamlet
East Stroudsburg
University

Marketing

I never expected to be impacted so deeply, spiritually, and emotionally in the way, I have been while serving at Inspire Sports Camps. Children who arrived with guarded hearts miraculously opened up to God, leaving my shirt soaked in tears some nights as they allowed Jesus to touch their lives. This camp goes beyond sports and fun because it gives children the opportunity to see Jesus clearly, in addition to providing counselors an environment dedicated to serving Christ.

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moments, but two, in particular, jumped out at me. The first was when my wife's camera drew focus on a group of young women hugging, crying and encouraging each other. These young women most probably didn't know each other before this week, but there they were carrying each other's burdens, hurts, and pains. And best of all it was clear that God and refused to allow their circumstances to define them. In another moment, the camera focused on an older brother who had walked the distance of the gym, seeking out his little brother, wrapping his arms around him and whispering something in his little brother's ear as he cried "forgive me."

The camera confirmed what God's amazing work looks like behind the scene. When I thought I would miss out on camp, God used my wife's camera lens to focus on what truly matters to Him – His little lambs. And He taught me a lesson I hope I don't quickly forget – God's love is greater, deeper and more vast than I could ever imagine and that it is the only answer for this world. Stephen R. Covey, the author of "The 7 Habits

of Highly Effective People," shared this identical perspective when he said, "We must look at the lens through where we see the world, as well as the world we see, and that the lens itself shapes how we interpret the world."

They trusted God and refused to allow their circumstances to define them

Our camp sees the world through the life and death of Jesus Christ. And there is nothing impossible for Him. That's why our camp is privileged to be used by God to transform one camper at a time.

Counselors' CORNER



Zion Divino
Liberty University
Cinematic Arts &
Software Engineering

Inspire Sports Camps has my heart; it makes it, breaks it, and fills it! There is nothing better than being able to experience God move in these kids' lives who have never even heard of Jesus before. I've been serving on staff for two summers and that is always the best part of camp!

THANK YOU!

You make ISC a reality for inner-city young people all across the Northeast.

On behalf of the campers, staff, and our entire leadership team we “Thank You” for your relentless prayers and generous support.



*If you would like to make a donation to ISC and sponsor campers for 2018, you can do so with the attached “**Sponsorship Letter**” or by clicking on the “**Support**” page at: www.inspiresportscamps.com

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