

Here is your first 2010 summer update from Northern Frontier!

We just finished our first week with campers. The staff has risen to all the challenges we presented to them at Pre-Camp Training. Ministry was great – fun was had in spades – the singing has been loud and wonderful (perhaps better than any of the 16 years I have been the director), and the message of Christ has been clearly and regularly proclaimed.

On that note, this spring and this summer, I have heard of four dads who received Christ at Northern Frontier – two last year, one three years ago and one several years ago. I also found out last night that another dad led his son to Christ on the camp road on their way out of camp last summer. His son asked to receive Christ, so dad stopped the car and the two prayed right there. Who better to lead a boy to Christ than his believing dad. I thank God for this proof of Northern Frontier's continued strong ministry.

Tonight the Battalion staff played a new game with the campers. The staff dressed up in different costumes and had "special spoons." As the game progressed, the counselors would change costumes. I didn't get all the rules, but the report was that it was GREAT! I love the creativity and the staff's focus on making each camper's time at Northern Frontier the best experience of his year.

This Spring, I asked many of you to pray for Kitchen staff. God answered. We have in our kitchen this summer a professional, culinary school trained chef, two students in culinary school (one doing an internship with us), a young man who works in catering, and a kitchen assistant. The food and the food management are outstanding. Thank you for praying.

Related to that, a past Northern Frontier staff member and missionary to China, Dave Parshall, is our Service Crew Chief this summer. He, also, is doing an absolutely outstanding job – and he is speaking at our worship service tomorrow morning. Thank you for praying. God does hear.

So much is good, but we do have one significant concern. Our camper-week numbers are down over 60 from the same time last year. That means we will have about 8% less ministry to people this summer. That is frustrating to us. We've hired a full staff to minister to the number of campers we had last year plus few more. We did not anticipate this year of lower numbers after the slight increase we saw last summer. As the director, I also recognize that this significantly lower camper number will affect us hard in the area of finances. Donations are coming in well, but our second source of income is camper fees – and it is the larger of the two incomes. Please pray for both these needs. The best answer is for more campers to fill the coming weeks. That would meet both ministry and financial needs. Encourage folks to come experience the ministry at Northern Frontier. Should camper numbers not increase, please consider helping the financial shortfall with an extra donation to the general fund or the scholarship fund. Thanks.

The first sets of Tree Climbers have come and gone. More arrived today. Let me close with a few selected answers on the evaluation forms we ask the boys to fill out.

To the question, "What was the most fun thing you did at camp?"

Campfire

I jumped off the high dive!

To the question, "What was your least favorite thing?"

Sleeping

Walked too much

Having to hit my head from bugs

To the question, "What will you tell your friends when you get home?"

You should come to Tree Climber Camp!

We saw a frog in the bathroom!

To the question, "Can you think of anything we could do to make Northern Frontier better?"

Have hobo dinners every single night

A loop dee loop slide into water.

Make sure there is no bugs

Aren't they great?! Tree Climbers will light up your life if you give some time to listen to them and watch them.

The staff is terrific. The message of Christ is being strongly proclaimed. Relationships are strong, and the ministry is powerful and effective. I hope you will pray for Northern Frontier – for the challenges we are facing and for the ministry that is happening right here - right now!

Thanks.

In Christ,

Ralph