

“This was our best meeting of the school year!” exclaimed Kiersten, as we cleaned up from Phillipsburg High School’s last TFC meeting. How rewarding to have that stamp of approval from our own daughter!



We started with Sloppy Joes, hot dogs to roast in the fire pit, and lots of chips. Cake and ice cream followed to honor everyone with May and summer birthdays.

By the time we finished eating we had enough teens for two matches of a favorite game called

Trash Can Wars. Forming a circle around a large trash barrel, teens lock arms. The object is to pull the circle until someone bumps the trash can or two players break hold. In either case those players are out. Regroup the circle and go again. The last person standing is the triumphant winner!



Needing rest from this exhausting game, we went indoors to watch a video promoting TFC Camp, and sang favorite worship songs. I took one last opportunity to challenge this group to **“Guard Your Heart” from Proverbs 14:32. “Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the well spring of life.”**

Guard your heart against unhealthy dating relationships. Guard your heart against unhealthy friendships. A favorite quote of mine is, “If you lay with the dogs...you will get fleas.” Guard your heart against unhealthy input from TV, movies, and the internet. Guard your heart from unhealthy music. Guard your heart against laziness. Use the extra time you have to help around the house...serve others...be a blessing.

Be intentional about growing in your faith...read your Bible, pray, get involved in your church. Just because TFC takes a break during the summer we shouldn’t take a break from God or from growing in our faith.

It had been a warm day so all evening the teens were antsy about getting to the water games. After my talk we went back outside to wind, clouds, and a 15 degree drop in temp!



Did that discourage eager teens? Not on your life! Within minutes the water balloons were



flyin’, squirt guns shootin’, and water buckets fillin’!!



The passion for flinging freezing well water wanes when shivering with goose bumps. It was the shortest water fight in all my years of youth work! Soon we were all huddled around the blazing fire pit. There we visited, laughed at school stories, roasted marshmallows, and had a wonderful time just being together. It was memorable. It was encouraging. It was a great way to end the school year. After the teens headed for home about 10:00, we had to agree with Kiersten that it had been the best meeting of the year!

On April 23 Lavada's dad, Willard, turned 90! On the same day his great grandson, Zac, turned 20. In honor of their birthdays Lavada, her brother, and sister hosted a reception. We were blessed by the 100 people who came, many we hadn't seen in a blue moon. And it was an extra special blessing to have 7 of Willard's 8 living brothers and sisters attend. Willard's family is leaving a great legacy of faith...one that will go on for many generations to come.



Please continue to pray for our mission trips this summer. The Dominican Republic Team will be gone June 1-8. God's Mountain Team will be in Missouri May 25-May 31. And the Mississippi trip is scheduled for May 25-June 6th.

Thanks for praying with us that God will provide the funds for a few team members who still need financial support. We appreciate your prayers as each team puts final details together. When we first set the budget gas was hovering around \$2.50, so we budgeted \$3.00. We never dream prices would climb to \$4.00. We are praying that gas prices will continue to fall. Because of the potential flooding in the Mississippi Delta area, we decided that it wouldn't be wise to go there. So after much prayer the **Mississippi Team turned into a Tornado disaster relief team**. We'll be going to Arab, Alabama and work with the Nazarene Disaster Relief. Thanks for praying as our staff scrambles to find a place for the team to stay and all the other arrangements that need to be made.

As we think of you our hearts are filled with joy...joy because of the relationship we have with you. We cherish that so much. Joy because of all the prayers you offer up in our behalf to our Father. And joy because of the sacrifice of your gift.

With Tremendous Joy,

Dan and Lavada