

Where are they now?

Since they became adults, Anthony, Tony, and Steve have taken very different paths in life. Anthony is a police officer for the city of St. Paul. Tony is the owner of a fast food restaurant. And Steve works as assistant director for Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center. But some years ago, these "three amigos" were at summer camp together and "we were more like brothers than friends." The trio still keeps in touch, and on occasion, they reminisce about their days at camp. "That was such an impressionable time for all of us," they say.



A fireside chat with George Verley

EDITOR'S NOTE: George Verley loves talking about summer camp. Though George spent 28 years as Executive Director at the Union Gospel Mission, he says some of his fondest memories are of the kids he met as Camp Director at Snail Lake. Here are some of his favorite recollections ...

It's "over the hill," all right

One day, George had a group of boys who were looking for something to do, so he said, "Let's walk to camp!" After about a half hour, one youngster, Bobby, started complaining, "I can't go any further; I need someone to carry me." "Come on, Bobby, you can do it," George encouraged him. "Camp is just over the hill." It wasn't until years

later that a grown-up Bobby found out just how far he had really hiked that day — 12 MILES!

You never know

One week, George was put in charge of eight boys who were "real headaches." The first three days of camp,



Camp wouldn't be complete without story-telling around the campfire.

he could hardly find them. He was so discouraged. When camp was over, the boys had a chance to share their experiences at camp. Two of the boys revealed that the night before leaving, they surrendered their lives to Christ — much to the amazement of their parents! "Can we go back to camp with you, George?" George promised they could — but after he spent one night away from them, just to recuperate!

George Verley says he learned a lot of things at camp. He learned that no child is so bad that his life can't be changed. He learned that if you provide a setting (like summer camp) where kids can see a different side of life than they saw in town, maybe they would come to know God. And one more thing: "If you're willing to be used (by God) and invest your life in a young person, there's just no greater reward than that."

Heaven sent

During World War II, Jimmy's mother ran the Day Care Center for the Mission. One week, it was the girls' week to be at camp, and Jimmy's mother had to make a visit. Which meant Jimmy had to make a visit. George remembers, "All those girls everywhere — that little guy thought he had died and gone to heaven!"

Little Jimmy thought he died and gone to heaven.



Twin Cities



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DOUBLE the friendships DOUBLE the fun!

Your gift will be matched to send kids to camp

Ready for some great news? A group of long-time supporters has offered the Union Gospel Mission a generous matching grant. Here's how it works: Right now, every gift from friends like you doubles in value up to \$16,518 — automatically! — to help send needy kids to summer camp.

Kids like James get to see life from a whole different perspective.

What this means is that more kids like James get to see life from a whole different perspective — with God squarely in the middle.

James is a young boy who spends a lot of time alone in his room after school. Gang activity is all around him in his Frogtown neighborhood. On occasion, he's even been approached to join one gang or another.

At one time, there was



When you give to send kids to camp, your gift automatically doubles — which means even more boys and girls get to enjoy life-changing fun.

no positive alternative for James to consider. Then he came to our summer camp for at-risk kids.

At camp, he was introduced to fun activities. Kind and thoughtful counselors. And the love of Jesus.

James has blossomed

since coming to camp. And all because friends like you made it possible.

With this matching grant offer, you have an opportunity to double your impact — immediately — to help even more deserving kids like James get to camp.

THE *Heart* OF THE MATTER

A MESSAGE FROM KEN PETERSON,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



A drunken mom, a camp nurse, and a lesson for all time

Want to see the real heart of summer camp? Years ago, we had a farm gal from Iowa who volunteered as camp nurse. One night, a little 8-year-old girl came down with a fever and rather than keep her at camp, the nurse offered to drive her home.

When they arrived at the girl's home, in a housing project on Jackson St., a young boy came to the door. "Is your mom home?" the nurse asked. "She's across the street, at the Dew Drop Inn," he said.

The camp nurse had never been to a bar in her life. But she couldn't just leave the girl with her younger brother. So she went across the street, ventured inside, and found her mom was dead drunk.

One little girl's life. — redeemed by God's grace, and caring friends like you.

Instead of leaving the youngster with her brother, the nurse brought her back to camp, where she put the little girl in a cot in the infirmary and cared for her all weekend.

That, in essence, is what the Union Gospel Mission's summer camp at Snail Lake is all about. Caring for kids growing up in hurting homes. Doing whatever it takes to show them Christ's love. Making them feel loved, and accepted, and helping them to see that God has a wonderful plan for their lives.

And the little girl? She grew up, got married, and had a daughter who graduated from college last December.

One little girl's life — redeemed by God's grace, and caring friends like you who give to make it possible for them to go to camp.

Thank you for giving, and helping to change young lives!

Gratefully,

Ken Peterson

Summer camp: Life-change starts **HERE!**

Away from impoverished neighborhoods, kids see a whole 'nother world



An afternoon in Snail Lake can be soooo refreshing, especially when summer temperatures soar into the 90s.



Friendships that start at summer camp often last a lifetime. Just check out the "Where are They Now?" story on page 4. Camp friendships — like memories — do last a lifetime.



Positive adult role models are so important to kids growing up in impoverished neighborhoods. They can provide a sounding board for kids who are scared, or simply feel trapped by their circumstances.



Many young people are so impacted by summer camp that when they're older, they come back as counselors, just so they can impact the lives of other kids from their neighborhood.



When you're roasting marshmallows together, sleeping in the same cabin, and splashing around in the lake with your new best buddies, summer camp is absolutely the best place to be in the whole wide world.

Your gift doubles — AUTOMATICALLY! — when you help send kids to summer camp!

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