

Summer 2008

loving kids • bringing hope
transforming lives

Stepping Stones

Summer is coming quickly! While we prepare for the inevitable craziness, I remember last summer that many kids were eternally impacted through events and the trips we took.

A few weeks ago Isaac, a Chaska TH youth, realized his need for Jesus and gave his life to Christ. I was greatly encouraged to remember that it was during a North Shore trip for middle school students last summer that he showed spiritual interest, and even talked about being a "Christian." But he didn't take the step to follow Christ. By the fall we discovered that Isaac, at age 14, was starting to do drugs and becoming sexually active. At that time his family was also getting involved with Jehovah's Witnesses, and we didn't see him around TreeHouse for a few months. As staff continued to pursue a relationship with him, he came back around and has now accepted the grace and forgiveness of Jesus Christ.



I am certain that Isaac was spiritually challenged last summer, and those challenges were stepping stones bringing him closer to commitment to Christ. Our summer trips help get kids outside their comfort zone to experience new places and activities, and be encouraged as they succeed in ways they never thought possible. Many of the deepest, most meaningful conversations we have with kids occur on trips. They are in a place to listen and see the grace God offers them through a relationship with Him.

This summer I am again taking youth camping. I am leading high school students to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Our outfitter has graciously discounted the price of the trip to one-third the regular cost which makes the trip even more of a possibility. Despite the greatly reduced price we still have significant costs. **We don't want anything to keep teens from going along and having spiritual "stepping stone" opportunities as Isaac did.**

Please ask God if you can help make this trip and others possible by providing scholarships for kids. Last summer, you were very generous and gave over \$600 to scholarships, ABOVE your regular giving. Thank you so much for those gifts! **They were used solely to provide teens like Isaac an opportunity to take one step closer to a relationship with Christ.**

Thank you for your prayers and communication. I am encouraged to hear from you via email, phone calls, and comments on the website (www.danschmoyer.com). Please keep praying for TreeHouse and the Chaska kids as we continually look for stepping stone opportunities to share the truth of God's Word, leading to a transformed life.

Dan