

The Tour

Recently, I was guiding a group of people from a supporting church around the camp. We loaded up in our little bus that holds about 14 people and set out on an hour long tour with the purpose to explain who we are, communicate what transpires here, and answer all the questions that would arise as we made our way around the facility. I move about this place each day and, at times, I miss the beauty of Dunkin as I am in a hurry to get from point A to point B. Very rarely do I intentionally just drive around to catch the artwork that is all around us. One of my favorite pictures is catching the sunrise peeking over the hammock on the east side of us early in the morning.

I can remember Brother Mickey guiding these tours himself years ago. Behind each building or area of landscape there was a sweet story to tell of someone who offered support or helped with making the impossible a reality. He would communicate these stories of old with a twinkle in his eye, fully recognizing that it was the Lord who did it through the individuals that He had sent to us. It is truly amazing to hear how the pieces fell together in the Lord's time. It's hard for people to imagine that there was nothing here at one time besides empty swamp land. To us, it is a slice of heaven on earth; Dunklin is a small piece of God's Kingdom and we are grateful for Him choosing us to be such a special part.

There are many sights to see and stories to share about the physical surroundings, but there is something even more precious to witness and hear about and that is the beauty that lies within each person whom resides on this camp. Whether they are on staff and have been here for 20 years, or they are the newest man in the program, a redemptive story is there for the telling. As I drove this loving group of people through our community to see the program, the story became more evident with each man that we drove by. The new life in Christ that is transpiring in each one of these men is the love story that craves to be highlighted.

Three different men were asked to enter the bus and share their personal stories of being rescued, redeemed, and restored with this intrigued group of onlookers. I sat there myself, listening intently, realizing that I don't always stop to notice the beauty and I don't always slow down to hear and see the real artistry that is going on all around me.

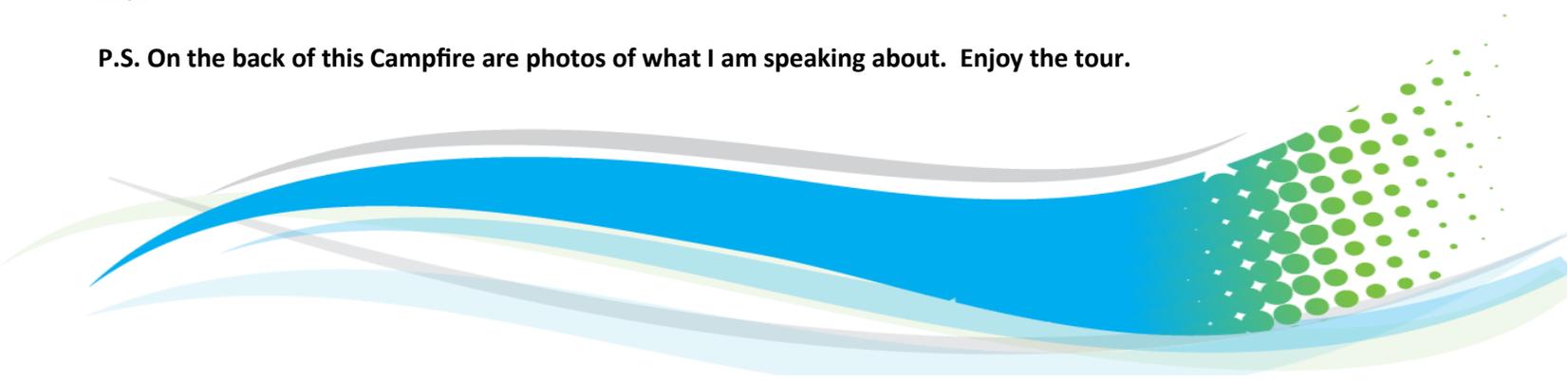
I believe II Corinthians 3:17-18 denotes best what I am speaking about. Paul wrote, "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." That's the most precious story that never fades.

In His beauty and for His glory!



Nick

P.S. On the back of this Campfire are photos of what I am speaking about. Enjoy the tour.





"Taste and see that the Lord is good"
-Psalm 34:8



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