



Hello Friends and Family!

We are finally catching our breath after a busy summer and it was an epic one! I think this was by far one of the best summers we've ever had at camp. Let me share with you some highlights.

We started out the summer welcoming Royal Family Kids, which is a camp specifically for kids in the area who are in the foster care system. A group from Edgerton comes out for the week and runs it, and they do a fabulous job with it! It is so fun to see the kids playing and getting poured into. They get to experience lots of fun things, like a fancy tea party, laser tag, petting zoo, lots of crafts and a huge birthday party where they are all celebrated and given gifts. The whole idea is that they are all part of "God's Royal Family". We look forward to having them back again next year!

Then, we started rolling into the Lost Timber weeks. We had kids from last year return that have been completely transformed in their demeanor and attitude. It's so amazing to see how the Holy Spirit works on hearts – throughout the week, as well as throughout the year. The last few years we have seen long waiting lists and so this year we added another week of camp. The extra week took some pressure off and we had room in most weeks of camp, but over all we saw record attendance. What's way more exciting, however, is that we saw 111 campers making decisions to follow Jesus!

Now, let me dig into that number a little bit. You might not realize how impactful that is. That is 30% of the kids attending camp that are understanding Jesus in a new way! Some of those are a brand new realization of their need for a Savior. Some of those are realizing for the first time that it's not just about acknowledging that they need a Savior, but that He wants a daily relationship with them. Some of them are admitting that they have not been walking with Jesus and need to make a change in their lives, and have committed to do that. In all, that's 111 kids that made a decision to walk with their Lord and Savior and that's what camp is all about!

On top of those decisions we have many other kids that have already made those decisions and are growing in their relationship with Jesus and it's SO amazing to watch it. When they come to camp, they are immersed in an environment that focuses on Jesus. The distractions of life are taken away. No phones, no computers, no distractions just lots of Jesus and some really awesome people that love Him. Camp is an environment where following Jesus is attractive and when campers see others in love with the Lord, they get excited and want the same for their lives. We all need that sometimes – to get away from the distractions that take our mind away from Him, and fill ourselves with HIM! It's what we're here for! That is what you are investing in and I can't thank you enough! It's making a difference in the lives of many children, including our own!

Although Tessa had asked Jesus to be her Savior many years ago, she made a huge connection this summer at camp and realized that she wants to have a daily, life-altering relationship with Him! What a blessing that it's affecting our kids in a huge way! Our children LOVE camp and the environment so much and they cried when it was over – literally.

"To know the love of Christ"
- Ephesians 3:19



After Lost Timber camps were finished (6 weeks back to back), we welcomed Camp Grace back to run 3 weeks of their programs. They had a great summer as well and many campers there also made decisions to follow Jesus.

This summer was packed for sure; ten straight weeks of non-stop ministry. We were exhausted by the end, but God was faithful and gave us the energy and short breaks that we needed to get through. It's so satisfying to look back and see the work that God allowed us to be a small part of. That's what keeps us doing what we do. We are very thankful for friends who let us use their cabin when we can escape, and churches who gift us with family outings so we can connect as a family - such a blessing!

Now, we are settling into the fall and that means the start of year two of Ahlquist Homeschool. That's a pretty lame name. Let's go with Ahlquist Academy. Yeah, that sounds much more official!

- Emma has started her 8th grade year and will be playing volleyball and basketball this year. She is getting used to her new glasses/contacts and braces. Praise the Lord that insurance covered these expenses!
- Tessa began her 6th grade year and will be doing dance, basketball, and soccer this year. She's our social butterfly, and she's lucky to have her best friend right in Chandler so they can connect often.
- Boaz got to be an official camper this summer, and he loved it! He has started his 2nd grade year and did some A-ball this summer, and will continue playing soccer. Even though he says he wants to go back to public school, he loves all the free time to play.
- Max gets to do some preschool this year and he's excited to learn his letters. Before he even started school he said he hates it, but he's really enjoying it now that he has started. I wonder which kid put that idea in his head, hmm...

This fall, we have a lot going on at camp! We have 3 retreats, a Youth Night of Worship on the hillside, a Movie Night on the ballfield, the annual Pumpkin Hunt, a Youth Leader Seminar, and a few guest groups! Not to mention – HUNTING! We are excited about another season in the tree stands! Aaron calls it our therapy time. Ha!

Please be in prayer over our fall as this is definitely going to be the most packed it has been! But we are excited to see how God works this fall and continues to grow and bless this ministry! Thank you for being a blessing to us and camp!

Aaron and Emily Ahlquist



A rare moment together during camp!

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