



# THE MISSIONARY

Central Union Mission



August 2003

## *Kids Conquer* Camp Bennett!

By Melissa Hilker

*The campers love coming to camp, and when asked if this is their first year, they respond with pride, "No, I came here last year, and the year before, too!"*



**W**hat place, other than summer camp, can children completely fill their days with friends, games, swimming, crafts, horseback riding, ropes courses, nature trails, sports, singing, learning about Jesus, "and of course food—breakfast, lunch and dinner," as one camper emphasized. For hundreds of inner-city children each summer, summer camp becomes a reality as they are given a chance to leave the city behind, traveling 20 miles from Central

Union Mission to Brookeville, MD for a week of fun, friendship and God sightings at Camp Bennett.

The campers love coming to camp, and when asked if this is their first year, they respond with pride, "No, I came here last year, and the year before, too!" Camp is definitely the time of their lives. Camp director, Colin Seager, commented, "It is so exciting to see God at work in these young lives. This year the children are making their own Grand

Prix race cars, with a race tournament at the end of each week. In addition, we have the Fellowship of Christian Cowboys bringing horses for the children to ride, something many of them have never done before. There are so many fun things for the kids to do here, we just pray that they leave having experienced God's amazing love first hand."

Considering that Christ is included in everything that happens, from campfire meetings, to horseback riding, to the ropes course,

the campers are definitely sure to experience God's love at some point in the week. The horses that are brought to camp are from the Christian cowboys, so you can be sure Christ is shared with the inhibited, first-time riders. Christ is also shared before the campers take off on the ropes course. In fact, last year our "Camper of the Year" award was given to Paulo who, while high in the air on the ropes course, became scared and realized

*(continued on page 3)*



FROM THE DIRECTOR...

We are enjoying probably our best camp season ever. Camp Director Colin Seager recently noted, "Children are opening their hearts to the Lord, and also sharing deep, deep hurts with their counselors." It is so exciting to see God at work in these young lives. Meanwhile, preparations are underway for our Back to School parties on August 16th and 23rd. This program will include many children who

attended camp, along with their siblings and others in need.

I was concerned to hear recently that many jobs from our area are being transferred overseas. It seems that a payroll service, through the internet, prepares local payrolls from India cheaper than it can locally. As such jobs are lost our local economy suffers — and that impacts your Mission. We are so grateful that you who have jobs and financial

resources stand by us in these tough days as the Mission is needed more than it has been in many years to serve the unemployed and underemployed in the Washington metropolitan area. Thank you!

We also thank the many who have made special gifts during these tough summer months. You are a great encouragement to us. We are especially grateful for your help in August, financially our most difficult month of the year. Thanks



to you, the showers will be hot, the clothes clean, the food delicious and plentiful, and the "Gospel preached to the poor."

May the Lord wrap your summer in His blessings.

## Send a Child to School with Confidence!

Imagine if a child you loved had to do without school supplies until those supplies fit the budget. Imagine if a child you loved was patient enough to wait until their school supplies were a financial possibility, feeling left out in the meantime because they didn't

have the same school supplies and materials the other children had. For many children in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area, this is a reality. Thankfully, there is something you can do to help! Central Union Mission is throwing a Back to School

party for children whose parents find it difficult to afford school supplies each year. We are going to provide these children with backpacks filled with the necessary school supplies for the coming year. How can you help? You can send a financial gift to

Central Union Mission's Back to School program to help send children back to school with confidence and the excitement of having new school supplies. Or, call 202-MISSION to find out how you can sponsor a child by purchasing the actual backpack and supplies.





## Camp Bennett *(continued)*

that he needed to trust Jesus. When he was safely back on the ground, Paulo spoke to his counselor about his decision. This year, when asked what his favorite part of camp was, he responded, "Chapel, because we get to learn about God!"

Decisions for Christ aren't the only lessons learned on the ropes course. The first group of girls to maneuver the giant



new Spider Web quickly learned about teamwork and trust. The goal of the Spider Web: to pass through without waking the giant hungry spider. Teamwork and trust was the only way for the girls

to accomplish the task, as seven pairs of arms both lifted and caught each girl as she passed through the web to the other side.

It's obvious that the campers come away with some of the best memories. On the last day, when the campers returned to the Mission to have their parents pick them up, one staff member received a rather unexpected hug from a camper with whom she had spent only 20 minutes talking to!

Numerous other campers she had met waved wildly at her to be sure she saw them, making it clear that it doesn't take much to make an impact on the children that come to Camp Bennett. The campers come not only for a week of fun, but they come for the friendships and relationships that can only be made during a week of camp.

## Thank you Hobby Works!

Thanks to Hobby Works, Camp Bennett campers created their own race cars as a craft, adding wheels, then painting the cars! James and Mike from Hobby Works in Rockville provided everything needed for 500 top of the line, pre-cut, pine wood derby cars! At the end of each week, Camp Bennett held a race for the campers' cars.

Camp Bennett and Central Union Mission would like to continue this type of partnership with both individuals and businesses. For example, a drugstore might partner with us to provide film

developing close to cost. An electronics store might partner with us to provide walkie-talkies at a reduced cost.



If you or your business are interested in partnering with Central Union Mission in this way, please contact Kristin Lane or Melissa Hilker at 202-745-7118. Thank you to all who have helped us with these kinds of gifts in the past! We look forward to continuing our partnership with you.

## Congratulations, Dwayne

Congratulations to Dwayne Chandler, who graduated from the Spiritual Transformation Program in 2001. Both Dwayne Chandler, and his wife, Christine Chandler, were recently named deacon and deaconess at Good Success Church by Pastor Bennett!



## STP Grads!



Congratulations to our recent Spiritual Transformation Program graduates, Dean Clark (left) and Edward Michel.

# Opportunities



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## FOR YOU TO HELP

### MISSION AUXILIARY

The Evening Auxiliary program has changed! It is now the Mission Auxiliary, and will be meeting with our seniors on the second Wednesday of each month for a program and luncheon. The members of the Mission Auxiliary have played an important part in the leadership and financial support of the mission for many years. We are thankful for these faithful mission partners.

### SPECIAL NEED!!!

We are always in need of new men's white underwear (sizes medium and large) and white socks! Additional needs include toothpaste, toothbrushes and deodorant. If you can help, you can either mail a package to the Mission or drop it off... we are open 24 hours a day!

### DAYTIME VOLUNTEERS

We are especially in need of volunteers to help us in the administrative offices during the day on a regular basis. Would you be willing to spend a morning or afternoon helping us sort and file paperwork, answer phones and make sure that the Mission stays organized? Call Shelah Wilcox at 202-745-7118 x238.



### UNITED WAY

As you know, United Way is undergoing significant clean-up in the D.C. metropolitan area. We are looking forward to partnering with them again in the future. However, due to the nature of their renovations this year and because we were not previous participants, we were unable to apply this year. Nonetheless, if you would like to designate your United Way contributions to Central Union Mission, you may do so, and United Way will honor your designation.

### JOIN FRIENDS OF THE FRIENDLESS

Can you give to the Mission on a monthly basis to help feed and care for underprivileged men, women and children? Friends of the Friendless are a group of faithful donors who have made just that commitment. If you would like to give on a monthly basis by credit card or bank account, please contact Kristin Lane at 202-745-7118 x223 or klane@missiondc.org.

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CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!

[www.missiondc.org](http://www.missiondc.org)

### Turn Up the Radio!

Every morning find out more about the Mission's ministries on 105.1 WAVA-FM. You can hear us Sunday mornings at 6:20 a.m. on WMAL (630 on the AM dial).



**Yes!** I want to partner with Central Union Mission to help feed and care for the hurting and homeless in Washington, DC.

Enclosed is my donation of:

- \$25       \$50
- \$100       \$250
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ Other amount

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