



# THE KNOTTY PINE POST

## SPRING & SUMMER 2009

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“For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the GLORY forever! Amen.” Romans 11:36

“Praise God from whom all blessings flow...!” The doxology is a favorite summer theme song here at camp, usually sung before meals by our high school volunteers and college-age summer staff. It comes from a desire to give glory to whom glory is due-to our amazing Heavenly Father. And this song jumps to my mind as I reflect on the spring and summer, and the numerous stories of His provision and blessing being poured out on camp and in my own life. Here are some of the highlights of things that have happened the last few months....



I had the opportunity to take a long-weekend road trip to visit my friend Christina in Americus, Georgia, at the Habitat for Humanity International Headquarters. While there, we also visited Andersonville Civil War Prison, P.O.W. Museum, and National Cemetery.



The Lord’s protection of camp was very evident over Memorial Day weekend. It hadn’t rained for several weeks, and the woods were like a tinderbox. One of the campers was walking around the lake, and noticed a tree burning just off the path, not too far from the West Side Chapel. One of our staff men also noticed the smoke from East Side waterfront. Our guys quickly gathered the fire truck and equipment and were able to contain the fire within about 30 yards of the tree. But it really was the Lord’s hand that kept that fire from spreading in the forest.



I snapped this photo Memorial Day weekend. As my family was leaving West Side waterfront, a bald eagle began circling the lake. We think there is a nest on the property next to us near the north end of our lake, because we’ve been seeing bald eagles a lot more frequently around camp!!



April

A Thursday afternoon in April, camp received a call that a trucking company downstate had one of its trucks, hauling goods for the deli of a grocery chain, get in an accident. The store refused the shipment, and the insurance company wrote off the load. The trucking company transferred the goods to another refrigerated truck and called several ministries in the area to offer part of the shipment. One of the guys from the trucking company is a good friend of Barakel, so he called us too and said we could have whatever we could haul! Some of our staff guys headed downstate with several vehicles, and returned with about 850 lbs of cheese and over 300 cases of meat!!! Four months later we’re still enjoying the unexpected blessing of high-quality free cheese and meat!



In an effort to improve the health of the forest on our property, and be good stewards of the beautiful land God has given us, a forestry expert was brought in to help us decide what we needed to do. He marked trees, and then in April a logging company came and thinned out specific sections of our land. Pictures above: left-logs piled up alongside camp’s road, waiting for the logging truck to haul them away; right-the amazing logging machine took just a few seconds to harvest a tree and put it on the pile! It was amazing to watch!

I am still enjoying watching Forrest and Elliot as they grow. They’ve grown SO much the last 6 months! Their parents are starting to move toward taking their camping ministry to Latin America, so I treasure every moment I get to spend with these adorable boys.





**“I’m A Zipper!”** The newest activity at camp is our 950 ft zipline, which was finished just in time for the summer! During summer staff training the first week of June, I was one of “the chosen 12” trained to be a certified zipline facilitator. We had a few hours in the classroom, and then a few hours of hands-on learning out on the zipline. That, of course, included trying it out a few times! During the summer I facilitated mostly on Saturday evenings for the part-time staff adults and the high school volunteers, but did help out a couple times with the East Side campers. This fall during retreat weekends, you will find me down at the zipline quite a bit on Saturdays. Pictured above (left to right): me ready to zip for the first time, “the chosen twelve” and our director, my first zip (2<sup>nd</sup> from the right), with my parents after helping them gear up for their first zip, helping adjust a participant’s harness.

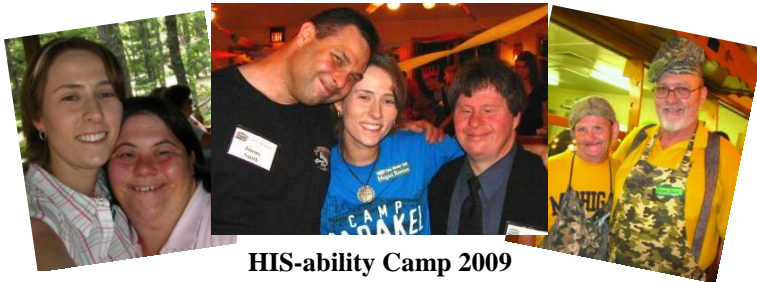
# Summer 2009



I had my first car-deer crash as a driver this summer, and am still in awe of the Lord’s protection. I came upon a deer running parallel to the road, so I started slowing down. As I slowed, the deer did a 90° turn and ran head-first into my front right fender. The impact threw the deer full-force onto my windshield, and it slid up over the top and off my side of the roof. Amazingly, the only damage was a cracked air deflector on my sunroof, and the fender where it hit!! Otherwise, not a single scratch anywhere!! And praise the Lord that my insurance completely covered the cost of repairing it!



**Above Left:** I was given the position of Laundry Room supervisor for the summer, which gave me time to work with my dear friend Kaytlyn Bradley (above, far left). She ministered to the summer staff by doing their laundry, along with help from a different high school girl each week. I jumped in to help sort and fold when I could. ☺  
**Above Right:** Sarah, my one-on-one girl for the summer, was our West Side cook’s assistant. That’s us together after she went down the zipline!



## HIS-ability Camp 2009

We had another wonderful week this year! The Lord blessed us with the best weather all summer, and our new campers were so eager to make friends and try the activities. Every year I am so blessed by their smiles and laughter, and even the tears at the end of the week because they don’t want to go home. Yes, it truly is worth all the many hours spent throughout the year! Pictured above (left to right): me with a new camper; getting hugs from buddies Jimmy and Marvin; Larry was in his glory as “Papa Dave Junior.” for the week!

Ever see a female snapping turtle dig a nest and lay her eggs? I never had until this summer, when one did so on the girls’ volleyball court during the middle of the day! She drew quite the crowd of spectators, and hardly seemed to notice!



## Looking Ahead at the Camp Schedule...

### September:

- 18-20 Ladies’ Retreat
- 25-27 Father/Daughter & Ladies’ Retreats

### October:

- 2-4 Ladies’ Retreat
- 9-11 Men’s Retreat
- 16-18 Men’s Retreat

Interested in attending one of our retreats? Check out our website: [www.campbarakel.org](http://www.campbarakel.org)! I’d love the opportunity to introduce you to our Barakel staff family and ministry!☺

## Praise & Prayer

- Praise** for another great summer of ministry and changed hearts!
- Praise** for the Lord’s provision this spring for me to become completely DEBT FREE!
- Praise** for the \$7,150 raised for our summer mission project, Casa Bernabe’s medical clinic!!
- Pray** for the Lord’s wisdom as I work with Steppin’ Out Missions to coordinate a trip to Casa Bernabe in Guatemala (same place I went last November!) for my family and some Barakel staff. Lord willing we’ll help further construction of the medical clinic.
- Pray** that the Lord will give our staff strength and discernment in ministering to the campers He sends our way.
- Pray** that I’ll continue to grow in my daily walk with Christ, and that as He stretches me I’ll trust Him more.