

Youth Mission Reflection

By Paul and Carol Brazle (August 2019)

With the arrival of summer, we have hit the ground running. On Saturday we will head to the Ardennen Bible Camp for a 3rd week with Paul as camp leader and Carol as head chef for the Family Camp. We are looking forward to being with up to 35 people and enjoying fellowship and lessons on “The Good News.”

The summer activities all got started when Erin and Ezra came to join us two weeks ahead of the arrival of the youth group from the Springs. They helped us to do some prep and promo for a week at camp, including inviting other youth for an English Camp experience. The plan was to then overlap with the group of Dutch and Belgian senior youth when they began their regular week.

Flyers they distributed were also to reach out to neighborhood youth in what we were calling "Young Friends".

When the Springs youth came they were picked up at the Amsterdam airport by bus and taken directly to the Bible camp. Even though we only ended up with one young man, Owen who came for English camp the kids were still kept busy during the week helping with many chores to get the camp ready for our coming up weeks of camp for Belgian and Dutch youth. There was mowing, general cleaning, varnishing, grass seeding and other chores that kept them busy. As in any situation like this there has to be a team of people on kitchen duty. All of these kids rose to the challenge of helping Alissa prepare, cook and clean. So now you parents know. :-)

On Saturday the kids coming for the senior youth camp began arriving. There were some sweet reunions as some who had met 2 years ago were reunited. Erin and Dida from Harlem were happy to see each other. It is a blessing to see these kids meeting each other and sharing stories. It is very encouraging for our youth here to get to know other Christians their age. And also they are inspired by the singing of such a musically talented group as this Spring group is. One young man Jelmer from the Netherlands who met the group two years ago was inspired to try to get an internship in Oklahoma for the studies he is doing in the Netherlands. He ended up

in Stillwater and this summer he was at the camp with his girlfriend Rebekah that he met at church in Stillwater. Already a positive result of the two youth groups being together.

On Saturday before our Oklahoma visitors headed home on Sunday, we went back to camp to lead the week with the "Benjamins" (8-11 yrs). We had a great week with them and endured Belgium's hottest days of the summer.

We've had one week to recover now back to camp tomorrow for Family Camp. As we all continue with how we live to bring glory to God and what we do towards that end, I am reminded of this quote I recently read, "It's not about what you do but what Jesus did." We are totally dependant on Jesus for what he did for us and our hearts witness to that when we go out and "do" in response to his mercy and grace.

It is a beautiful thing when young people "do" in response to what Jesus did. We were privileged to host the Springs youth group in July. Wonderful to see how they were led out of their comfort zone to go to a different country and spend some time doing something that has no price tag; cleaning and working at camp to prepare it for others, encouraging other teens, reaching out to people they don't know or speak their language, playing with kids in the park, living for Christ.