



# The Answer

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## Q & A for Shinshu Buddhists



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FOR QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR CONTRIBUTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT: [fukumotodsgn@earthlink.net](mailto:fukumotodsgn@earthlink.net) or [sensei@vhbt.org](mailto:sensei@vhbt.org)

"A growing number of Evangelical Christians believe there is a revival underway in America that requires Christian youths to assume leadership roles in advocating the causes of their religious movement.

Jesus Camp, directed by Heidi Ewing and Rachel Grady, follow Levi, Rachael, and Tory to Pastor Becky Fisher's "Kids on Fire" summer camp in Devil's Lake, North Dakota, where kids as young as 6 years-old are taught to become dedicated Christian soldiers in "God's army."

The film follows these children at camp as they hone their "prophetic gifts" and are schooled in how to 'take back America for Christ.' The film is a first-ever look into an intense training ground that recruits born-again Christian children to become an active part of America's political future." Quoted from the website.

This issue of the Answer is dedicated to the Jesus Camp Workshop held at Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple on the second of February 2008.

*What was the purpose of the Workshop?*

The purpose of the workshop was to understand the fundamental question of Faith and Understanding. When and if, you see the film, ask yourself, what is the biggest difference between "us and them" as quoted by Pastor Becky Fisher.

If you have not seen the film, you can always go to the [www.jesuscampthe movie.com](http://www.jesuscampthe movie.com) website and get a flavor of what the film is all about. I am also attaching additional information about the film. The "Kids on Fire" camp information, purpose, commentary, and Pastor Becky Fisher's perspectives.

The reason I wanted to have this workshop was to illustrate the absolute nature of those who believe with faith alone. I further believe that for us to explore that part of religion that seems to elude most of us, this was a good model to see.

Those individuals chronicled in this documentary appear to be zealots. I hope with all my heart that we never become as such, yet as shown in the film, they are committed and seemingly unwavering in their faith.

*What is the difference between "us and them?"*

This is almost laughable in comparison to us, in short, they take their religion very seriously. When was the last time any of us studied our Shinshu beliefs? When was the last time you SHARED your Shinshu beliefs? When was the last time you said the Nembutsu without ritual reason? When was the last time you expressed an understanding of the Nembutsu? When was the last time you expressed gratitude for that which the Amida has given us freely? Did you even understand the last question asked?

The kids in the documentary study and practice their belief in Jesus Christ. Given the opportunity to proselytize, these kids and the leaders of their church (Evangelical Pentecostals) do it as a matter of second nature. It becomes a calling to "spread the word." For many of us, it is a chore and embarrassment to say the Nembutsu outside the comfort of our temple or home, let alone share our faith in mixed religious company.

In short, they eat, breath and live their religion as if there is no separation between them and their faith in Jesus

Christ. A faith they feel compelled to share with all. They study the scriptures, they sacrifice their personal time for their faith, they alter their lifestyle for their faith. They take their religion seriously and are committed to the beliefs of their church. I cannot vouch for their (kids) understanding of what they studied or that they even understand fully what the materials contain. Yet, they will tell you with full convictions of youthful innocence, that "God has a plan for you" without waver or doubt. If the response is not favorably given, a curt dismissive (albeit not in a confrontational way nor in front of them) reason is expressed (i.e. they must be Muslims, when the individuals they confronted said they are going to heaven without fear when asked "do you know where your are going when you die?" although to me they were just some older Black folks who seemed OK with where they were spiritually).

In the workshop, we explored our "short comings." The most striking is that we cannot share our religion, for the most part because we do not know how to articulate our fundamental doctrinal beliefs with any sort of convictions. We don't seem to take our religion seriously. We come to the temple, but do we even talk about the Nembutsu once after the Dharma talk. Do we share what we have heard and rejoice in the message? To truly understand the message given, I believe that we must reiterate the message amongst ourselves, otherwise in many cases we will forget what we have heard. Again, without the full expression of understanding discussed after the Dharma talk, are you sure you understood the message given? I cannot answer that for others, but for myself, I

need to re-hash the message with others to fully appreciate the message given.

*Why is this movie important?*

I believe that this is a significant movie because it points out how well those who are fully committed can influence our temple members. The fact is that the Shinshu Monto in the USA is far smaller now than it was 25 years ago. Granted some are lost through attrition, and the birthrate is not robust, but does that account for the decline over the years? I think not. I believe that the Shinshu doctrine has NOT been taught very well to the BCA members over the years. This is primarily exemplified in the English speaking Monto (members). I cannot vouch for the Japanese speaking members because I seldom listened to the Japanese Dharma talks. With this lack of doctrinal transmission, how are we to know what we believe? It is no wonder that most of us cannot SHARE our religious beliefs, we don't know it well enough or at all.

In the documentary, the kids are given a singular belief, one they can grasp and understand. Doctrinal information tailored to be understandable by young children (as young as 4 years old). This is the power that these people have over us, the power of righteous authority through study. This seems to be the reason they are able to share their faith and beliefs, it has been explained and imprinted on them as to become second nature to who they are.

What about us, what do we have? I feel we have the Nembutsu, the Truth and Joy of Namo Amida Butsu! The real question then is why are we unable to express this Joy to others?

*How can we express our Joy?*

I feel the answer is simple yet very difficult to achieve. If you can open your heart and mind to the Nembutsu, then surely you will be saved just as you are. But how can you do this if you cannot express the meaning of Nembutsu? What does the Nembutsu mean? What does salvation mean? What am I save from? What is the 18th Vow? Who is the Amida Buddha? What does it mean to be born into Pure Land? What does it mean to be a Shin Buddhist? What is Other Power (or Buddha Centered Power)? What does the Other Power do? Why wasn't I taught this? Why?

A growing number of Evangelical Christians believe there is a revival underway in America that requires Christian youth to assume leadership roles in advocating the causes of their religious movement.

## JESUS CAMP

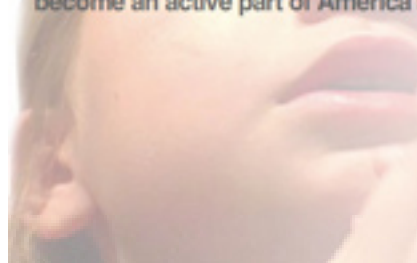
follows a group of young children to Pastor Becky Fischer's "Kids on Fire Summer Camp", where kids are taught to become dedicated Christian soldiers in God's army and are schooled in how to take back America for Christ. The film is a first-ever look into an intense training ground that recruits born-again Christian children to become an active part of America's political future.

*How can you believe all this stuff?*

How can you not? For all the questions at the end of the last section are all pertaining to Jodo Shinshu. If you cannot answer the questions or even the issues raised, then are you taking our religious beliefs seriously. I do not believe that you must spend every waking minute studying. In many ways, I don't think it is necessary, if you have entrusted yourself to the Amida Buddha's Grace with one mind and not two. And again I ask, what does this mean? What does Shinjin mean? Yes, how can you believe if you were never taught? How can you believe if you were never given what Other Power is and why it is for us, just as we are?

*A Final Note:*

Please see the documentary if you can, I feel it is very significant in what they are trying to do. I admire the confidence they have in their children, enough to share their faith with them. If we begin to Share with our kids our feelings and understandings, then maybe they will give up basketball occasionally to attend and learn about the Joy in Shinshu I know we all share. To impart into them the confidence to stand up and SHARE their Joy for and of the Nembutsu. But first, we must learn for ourselves the Power and Joy of the Nembutsu, enough to SHARE it. NAMO AMIDA BUTSU



Heidi Ewing and Rachel Grady, directors of JESUS CAMP, a Magnolia Pictures Release. © Magnolia Pictures.



Becky Fischer in JESUS CAMP, a Magnolia Pictures Release. © Magnolia Pictures.



Livi in JESUS CAMP, a Magnolia Pictures Release. © Magnolia Pictures.



Rachel in JESUS CAMP, a Magnolia Pictures Release. © Magnolia Pictures.



Tony in JESUS CAMP, a Magnolia Pictures Release. © Magnolia Pictures.



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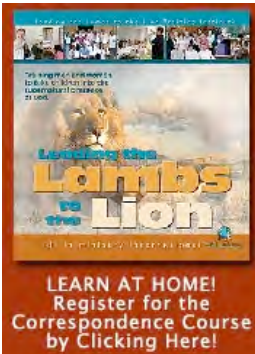
## Our Purpose



The purpose of Kids In Ministry International is to impart vision to children and adults of how God sees children as His partners in ministry worldwide. The purpose is also therefore to teach, train, and equip children to do the work of ministry and release them in their giftings and callings.

It is also to teach, train, and equip adults to minister to children, teaching them how to train and release children into the things of the Spirit and to find an active place in the body of Christ in all areas of ministry. Those areas include evangelism, mission, the gifts of the Spirit, worship, hearing the voice of God, prayer, healing the sick, and more.

These purposes are to be accomplished through a variety of forms including but not limited to curriculum, books, other written materials, seminars, conferences, schools of equipping, crusades, outreaches around the world, tapes, videos, and the internet.



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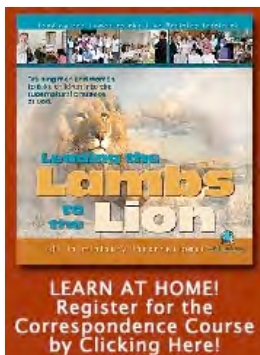
## What We Believe

We believe that according to the Word of God, children are fully capable of receiving and acting on the gospel including salvation through the blood of Jesus, the baptism in the Holy Spirit, water baptism, communion, and operating in the gifts of the Spirit when these things are taught simply and on their level of understanding.

We believe that anything of and by the Spirit that God has for adults is also available to children. We believe that childhood is the time that God designed for people to receive the gospel, and that we must all become as little children to receive the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 18:1-14)

We believe we have a mandate from heaven to teach children the word of God (John 21:15/Deuteronomy 6:1-9 and 20:21.) We believe that children are a part of God's end time army and that the Great Commission of preaching the gospel to all nations, laying hands on the sick, raising the dead, speaking in tongues (Matthew 28:19-20/Mark 16:15-16/Acts 2:16-17) fully applies to born again children as well as adults.

We believe according to scriptural example (Judges 16:26/Matthew 2:2-7) that children will play a major role in ushering in the last great revival and the soon return of Jesus.



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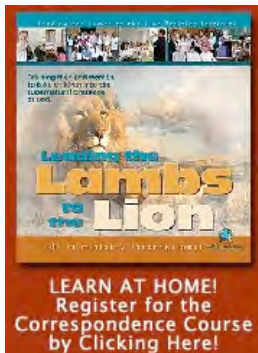
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## Statement of Faith

- We believe in one God who is eternally existent in three persons--Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Creator of all things.
- We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, was buried, was resurrected, ascended into heaven, and is now seated at the right hand of God the Father and is true God and true man.
- We believe the Bible in its entirety to be the inspired Word of God and is our infallible guide of faith and conduct.
- We believe man was created in the image of God, but fell into sin, which resulted in his spiritual death and separation from God. Only through regeneration by the Holy Spirit can salvation and spiritual life be obtained. This process of regeneration, referred to as being "born again" in the Word, takes place through a combination of faith and confession.
- We believe in the resurrection of the dead, the eternal happiness of the saved, and the eternal punishment of the lost.
- We believe in sanctification through the Word of God and by the Holy Spirit, and we believe in personal holiness, purity of heart, and life.
- We believe in personal salvation of believers through the shed blood of Jesus Christ.
- We believe in divine healing, through faith in the Name of Jesus Christ, and that healing is included in the Redemption.
- We believe in water baptism, in the Baptism in the Holy Spirit as distinct from the New Birth, in speaking with tongues as the Spirit of God gives utterance (Acts 2:4), in the gifts of the Spirit, and the evidence of the fruit of the Spirit. We believe that all of these are available to believers.
- We believe in the Christian's hope, which is the soon coming personal return of Jesus Christ.



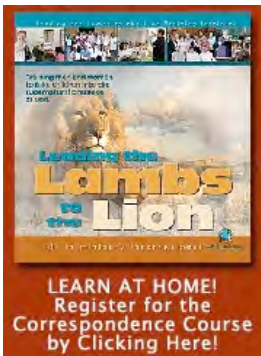
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## What We Do



### Local Church Seminars

With the use of critical documentation, KIMI educates parents, pastors, church leaders, and children's church workers of the crisis facing our children and young people because of our lack of understanding of what they need and want in their spiritual lives. In these sessions we share what God is doing in children around the world through signs, wonders, and miracles and help leaders and parents release their children into the supernatural works of Jesus.

[Check our calendar to see if we're going to be in your area.](#)

### Unique Conferences for Kids

Although these three and four day conferences are designed specifically for children ages 6 to 12, entire families come together to be trained in various areas of ministry. We conduct Schools of Healing for Kids, as well as Schools of Prayer, Worship, the Holy Spirit, Signs and Wonders, Missions and more. These training and equipping events are intended to activate the spiritual giftings in the children and give them a platform in the services for using what they learn. Be watching this website throughout the year to learn when and where these next events will be held.

[See our calendar>>](#)

### Leading the Lambs to the Lion Training Institute

We have often been asked, "Is there some place I can go to be trained to work with children the way you teach it." We can finally say, "Yes!" We consider the Leading the Lambs to the Lion Training Institute an educational establishment similar to Bible School for the instruction of people wanting serious training and education in ministering to children and teens.

[For details about the next training event go here>>](#)

### KIMI Missions Representative Training

The cry in the nations for training is great especially in the large number of nations where their populations are sometimes made up of as high as 50-60% kids under the age of 15. We receive far more invitations for training than we can possibly accommodate. We need men and women who are willing to partner with us and go into these nations to train them to conduct children's ministry with an emphasis on the operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

[To read more, see this>>](#)

### KIMI Ministerial Fellowship

A special network of children's ministers who have the same vision and heart to see children functioning in the things of the Spirit at early ages. This is an opportunity to stay encouraged and to work together in various conferences and outreaches that benefit not only children but churches, parents, and the whole body of Christ. Members of the Fellowship receive special benefits from KIMI.

[For more information check out details>>](#)

### Resource Materials

KIMI produces a wide variety of books, tapes, videos, DVDs, and curriculums all with the specific focus of training children and children's workers to walk in the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit. There is really nothing like these materials available anywhere else. See our online store for a complete list of our products.

[Click here for more>>](#)

#### PowerClubs International

A long time friend and associate, Pamela Ayres, who has accompanied Becky Fischer on several mission trips to India, Africa, and Mexico has come alive with the vision of seeing PowerClubs, or local children's ministries, spawned in every nation possible. Being inspired by the model of another children's ministry we work closely with in Kenya, she has been working diligently to build on that foundation yet be faithful to our distinctive of bringing children into the presence of God.

[To learn more>>](#)

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## JESUS CAMP responds to Ted Haggard

As the directors of the film *Jesus Camp* we feel the need to respond to Pastor Ted Haggard's comments on our documentary. As a co-directing team, we embark on each new project with two qualities: a healthy amount of curiosity—we'll be living and breathing the subject for over a year—and with the utmost respect for our subjects. We make films to not just simply entertain, but as a way to learn about the myriad different lifestyles that together form the human experience. We see making non-fiction films as a way for our viewers and ourselves to connect with others.

When we heard that that Pastor Haggard has described us as having an "agenda" we were alarmed. Of course, there are plenty of filmmakers that do make films with a political or personal agenda, but our conscience is clear that we aren't among them. We filmed with an open-mind and with a beginner's eye (neither of us are Evangelicals) that allowed the story to emerge in a natural way.

As for accusing us of portraying our protagonists (people whom we've grown close to over the past year) "sinister," this is a disturbing charge. Perhaps Pastor Haggard is projecting his own point of view on the film's characters, as we absolutely do not see them as such, and went out of our way too make sure that they were shown in a human, three-dimensional light. The children come across as kind, passionate and intelligent. Pastor Becky Fischer is a very likeable and real person, both on and off the screen.

Pastor Haggard is the only person in *Jesus Camp* who has a problem with how he was portrayed, and with the film as a whole. All the others in the movie feel it is accurate and fair and are excited about people seeing it. The subjects in the film very much identify themselves as part of the Evangelical family and are hurt and stung by Pastor Haggard's wholesale and somewhat venomous rejection of them and the film. While they do identify themselves as Charismatics and Pentecostals, they feel (and we agree) that they have much more in common with the greater Evangelical movement—their morals, values, and political beliefs—than they have differences. For Pastor Haggard to marginalize and dismiss them by labeling them a "sub-group" seems unfair, mean spirited and unproductive.

As a religious leader, why wouldn't Pastor Haggard take this film as an opportunity to discuss differences and similarities amongst Evangelicals and the various styles of worship and communication? Why not embrace the film as a tool for discussion about raising children with deep faith and keeping them in the church as young adults? Why miss an opportunity to address any misunderstandings secular Americans may have about the aims of the more politically involved arm of the Evangelical movement, of which Pastor Haggard is very active?

We taped at New Life Church for an entire day. Pastor Haggard played with the camera and made jokes through both sermons. We made sure to indicate in the film (from the audience's laughter), that he was joking around with his parishioners. After the sermons he met and spoke to a child in our film who has dreams of preaching and gave him advice, which we show in a very straightforward way. His interview was also filmed modestly, sitting on the alter after his sermon. We did not put words in his mouth nor did we instruct him to utter the statement that has garnered him so much attention: "If the Evangelicals vote, they determine the election." In fact, we were very careful not to include other material from his sermons that were more inflammatory in nature and could perhaps be interpreted as divisive.

Perhaps Pastor Ted regrets how he comes off in the film and is expressing it by criticizing us, Becky, and the children in the film. What he calls "negative" and not "normative" we see as simply true and accurate. As for us, we will continue to share "Jesus Camp," with people from all backgrounds and beliefs and learn from the profound discussions that result from this film.



## **BECKY FISCHER COMMENTS ON JESUS CAMP**

### **1. Is your camp typical of Christian Kids Camps in America?**

The short, quick answer is no. Most Christian camps spend much more time hiking, swimming, doing crafts, etc. in addition to spiritual education.

Though we include those fun things as well, our primary focus at both our camps and conferences is very intense Christian teaching for several hours a day that would really be on an adult level of ministry as far as topics and intensity. We do this because we have a very different viewpoint of discipling children than most children's ministries.

This is also why families come from all over the United States to put their children under our ministry. They see the difference and they have seen very positive fruit of our ministry in the lives of their children and they are anxious to include their children in our activities.

To get a better idea of our philosophy of children's ministry and why we do what we do, please read the first chapter out of my book *Redefining Children's Ministry in the 21st Century* (This comment applies to all subsequent questions and answers and will be attached).

### **2. Is your ministry a part of a growing movement for faith based children's instruction among Evangelicals?**

The answer is both yes and no, so permit me to explain. And I'm sorry, but this is a very long answer.

Let's start with the "no" first. The truth is we really are very unique in the world of children's ministry, not because we're charismatic and therefore more exotic and colorful in our style of worship than other evangelicals, but because of our philosophy of ministry to children, which is why the filmmakers picked us to be in the film in the first place.

But let me also explain that because of all the misconceptions about the supposed "political activism" going on in the film. Our teachings and equipping of children does not center around politics. In fact we never viewed our activities as political until we saw them through the eyes of secular filmmakers. Our focus is to teach children the deeper truths of God's word and the Christian life. We concentrate strongly on prayer, discipleship, and evangelism and other things along this line but on a much more mature level than is normally taught to children.

Charismatic Christians make up thirty percent of evangelical Christians, or about 30 million people in the USA and are the fastest growing segment of Christianity worldwide. I am a Charismatic Christian. We believe in a supernatural God that still interacts supernaturally with His people today. This includes healing the sick like Jesus did, speaking in tongues as a unique form of communication with God, hearing God's voice in our hearts which results in us being in a position where He can lead and guide us in our daily lives. It involves benefiting from all types of miracles through prayer and faith too numerous to mention.

Many churches do not teach children how to operate in these spiritual activities because they don't believe children can understand what's happening or appreciate the significance of these events. They believe that the only spiritual teaching children are capable of handling are basic Bible stories and good moral lessons. We seriously disagree with that viewpoint and that is why we do what we do with children.

So we have deliberately and unapologetically become extreme in what we do because this is an extreme generation who wants an extreme encounter with an extreme true and living God. But in regards to children's ministry I can count on my fingers and toes the number of children's ministry who are similar to us.

But now the "yes" to this question about a growing movement for faith based Youth instruction--there are tons of ministries trying to do similar things with teenagers. In fact if you paid attention to the clip ABC News did on this story, they showed our ministry, then talked about this huge trend in Christianity, then showed four or five other ministries---all TEEN and YOUTH ministries. There was not one other children's ministry even mentioned.

There have been recent statistics come out that have strongly warned and alerted pastors and churches to the very real crisis in the Christian world

that for a variety of reason our own children are leaving the Church in alarming numbers (70%) when they reach their teen and young adult years. So churches have begun to come to life, recognize the problem and do some thing about it. They are trying to become more relevant to this generation who is completely disinterested in doing church the way my generation does it. But they have pretty much concentrated completely on teens.

My issue with this and the reason I do what I do in children's ministry is to try to scream for equal time for children and argue the point that to throw all our energy into saving teens is merely damage control. The time people need to be seriously disciplined is while they are still children, not when they are teens. If we wait till they are teens, it's too late!

Statistics show that by the time a child is 7 to 9 years old his/her moral moorings are already cast in stone, and whatever he/she believes by the time he/she is 13 they will generally die believing unless something catastrophic happens in his/her life to turn them around. I clearly remember Catholics and Communists both saying years ago saying "Give us a child until they are seven years old and we will have them for life!" They know something Christians don't know.

This movie is my scream for equal time in Christianity for children!

### **3. Are you raising up Christian terrorists or another Hitler Youth Movement?**

(See Filmmakers' Comments: Are these children capable of violence?)

There's a clip in the trailer that shows me with my arms raised up and I'm shouting, "This means war!" We were actually singing a song there but you can't hear it because I was the only one who was miked directly into the camera. That came during a prayer time at the end of one of our services where I spoke on the battle we wage against sin and temptation we fight on a daily basis. We had spoken about the challenges of keeping our minds and our hearts pure in a world that throws all kinds of mental and visual trash at us all the time. But out of context it could be taken to mean anything!

The unfortunate thing is that right now the secular world has no other grid to go by than what is happening in the war on terror, and the terrorists themselves sending their young out to blow themselves up and take as many other people with them as they can at the same time. But that has nothing to do with the way Christians think of spiritual warfare. The weapons Christians use is prayer, the Word of God [Bible], and so on.

Has anyone ever heard the song, "Onward Christian Soldiers"? In case not, it was written in 1865 by Sabine Baring-Gould and sung in every church and many other public events for dozens of years in this country. Here are the lyrics of the first verse and refrain:

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus going on before.  
Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe;  
Forward into battle see His banners go!

Refrain:

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus going on before

In case you care to research it, here's a long list of other Christian songs written as far back as 200 years ago that all use "warfare" terminology gleaned from many various scriptural passages and have been sung for generations in our Christian churches, including the Battle Hymn of the Republic: [http://library.timelesstruths.org/music/\\_/Warfare/?sortby=subject](http://library.timelesstruths.org/music/_/Warfare/?sortby=subject)

Has anyone ever heard of the Salvation Army, known for its humanitarian deeds worldwide? Did you know it is actually a Christian denomination, not just a food kitchen? Did you ever wonder how they got their name — "salvation" — get it???? It's a direct reflection on their interpretation of biblical scriptures. Did you know its founder called himself "General" William Booth and for over a hundred years all the workers wore army

uniforms on the job and to this very day his ministers are called officers?

There are many scriptures in the Bible that use terminology like "warfare," "weapons," "armor" and so on. When born again Christians speak of warfare they mean "spiritual" warfare. This is a war of ideologies and spiritual issues, and not a physical war that is fought with guns and bombs. Christians do believe they are in a cultural war for the lives and souls of people worldwide, and particularly for the minds and hearts of our children and youth.

Here are a few of some much used scriptures among Christians used in their sermons and insider language that might you understand:

2 Corinthians 10:4

The weapons of our warfare are not carnal [or natural] but are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds

2 Timothy 2:3-4

Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. And as Christ's soldier, do not let yourself become tied up in the affairs of this life, for then you cannot satisfy the one who has enlisted you in his army.

1 Timothy 6:12

Fight the good fight of faith.

Ephesians 6:11-18

v.11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles [attacks] of the devil.

V.12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood [people are not our enemies] but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

V.13 Therefore put on the whole armor of God that you will be able to stand in the evil day, and having done all to stand, stand.

V.14 Stand therefore, having your loins covered with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness

V.15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace

V.16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith you will be able to quench the fiery darts of the enemy

V.17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God [Bible]

V.18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

1 Timothy 1:18

This I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the promises previously made concerning you that by them you may wage a good warfare.

1 Peter 2:11

Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul.

#### **4. Filmmakers Comment on Jesus Camp**

Below are comments taken from various interviews with the ladies who made the film Heidi Ewing and Rachel Grady of Loki Films  
Are these children capable of violence?

Comment taken from a blog on Kidology.com

We were very careful to leave in comments from both the children and the adults that clarified and gave context to the point that the subjects of our film were indeed engaged in what they feel is a spiritual war, and not "one of the flesh." For example, one of the kids says in the movie "I feel like we are being prepared for battle. Not in the way you would for a war in the physical -- it's very exciting, it's very cool."

We have been getting the question at Q and A's a lot, "Do you think that these kids are capable of violence?" and we have been giving a strident "NO!" to this question. The kids are incredibly kind, caring and sweet. They come across in the film as likeable, well mannered and eloquent. I

think when an audience has the opportunity to spend some time with the children over the course of the film; perhaps some misunderstandings of the physical vs. spiritual war will be dispelled.

OscarWatch

Mr. Feinberg Goes to Jesus Camp

The Passion of the Evangelicals...

By Scott Feinberg (May 10, 2006)

To see the entire article click [here](#)>>

During the filming, several of Fischer's campers emerged as characters the directors would focus on. Among them, 12 year old Levi claimed to have been born-again at the age of 5 and was an aspiring preacher, and Rachel, at 9 years old, was a fearless recruiter. Ewing says, "They jumped out at us. They're so devoted, they're so intense, and we'd never met kids like them. They're so young, but so sure of themselves, and they had all the answers, you know? I'd never met kids like that. There was no doubt in what they were doing with their lives and what was right and what was wrong in their world, and that was extremely provocative."

Asked whether Fischer, the leading voice at the camp, was a 'brainwasher' or an 'educator,' [Rachel] Grady says, "Let's put it this way: 'Brainwashing,' obviously, is a very loaded word. It made me look at that word differently... all parents are indoctrinating their children in their beliefs. It made me question--do you start calling it 'brainwashing' or 'indoctrinating' if the beliefs are different from your own?" She feels the film "made my worldview open up a bit. Would I raise my kids like this? No. But I don't that's really relevant."

Christianity Today

On Fire at Jesus Camp

Peter Chattaway

To see the entire article click [here](#)>>

Ewing: At the same time, I did notice some very admirable qualities to the children in our film. They're extremely articulate, they're smart, and they do good things for other people. They think about others, and they lack vanity I've seen in other kids. So on one hand, they're being raised very well. And it's complicated, because one might not agree with the adult that this person might become, or the direction this child is going. However, as children, they're extremely pleasant, and have a lot of things going for them. So I think, again, this whole film falls into a really big gray area. Which is what I think makes it a good movie.

## 5. Do you think you were treated fairly by the filmmakers?

When we began the production of this film, it was to be on an entirely different subject--children and faith. Our expectations as subjects in the film were that the film would be even more pointed than that--children and the supernatural aspect of their faith, which is why we were quite anxious to see the film made. It wasn't until we were already nine months into the program that I realized for the first time that the film had taken a turn into the political arena when I was asked to do a radio interview with Mike Papantonio, the representative, if you will, for the liberal or left wing mindset.

If you know anything at all about our ministry, you can imagine I was in shock because I have never viewed what we do with children as political in any way. It wasn't until I had some long conversations with the filmmakers, Heidi Ewing and Rachel Grady of Loki Films, and began to see what we were doing and saying through the lens of secular eyes that I understood why they went the route they did.

I say that because I did go through a season where I wondered just what hit me. It was a blow and I have been on a roller-coaster emotionally over it, but not having any editorial rights to the film there was not much I could do about it.

But in defense of the filmmakers whom I regard as friends and highly respect as people after having been around them for almost a year and a half, let me share some of our journey. The ladies had produced a first version of the film and took the time spending their own money to fly out to each of our homes to personally show us the film before anyone else could see it. All of the families were initially as concerned and upset as I



was.

We complained and expressed our disapproval of a number of things in the movie including the music which we felt was almost sinister and gave the movie a very dark feeling. To their credit these ladies listened to us and went back into the editing mode and revamped a number of the scenes that had us frustrated. Then they literally took a huge sum of money out of their own pockets (they had already sold the rights to the film to A&E and they were receiving no further funding or payment from that point) and hired a new composer to redo the music in the film just because we didn't like the other music.

That spoke volumes to me about their integrity and that they cared about us as friends and people! All of the families and people associated with the film have now seen the new version of the film and we all agreed there's like a night and day difference in the movie. We came away feeling as good about it as you can knowing the controversy that is surrounding the film.

Am I saying I like everything in the film and 100% of the way we've been portrayed? Of course not. This movie is merely a snapshot of what we do with children and does not in any way represent our entire ministry. There's no way you can do that in an 84 minute documentary and still have a movie people want to go and see. But we feel it's fair. They show both sides of the issue without making judgments on either side. They let us speak for ourselves, even if you don't get to hear complete thoughts and sentences and concepts.

I am just as sick and tired of secular media painting Christians in a skewed, negative light as every other Christian is. And when I watch the trailer I know what it must seem like to Christians---"Here we go again! One more movie that bashes Christians!"

But I'm asking you to give the movie a chance. At least see it before you make a judgment. I honestly feel it's a fair look into what we do.

## **6. Do you feel this film is an accurate representation of your ministry?**

I have had many long conversations with the filmmakers and I understand how they came to focus on the political aspect of what they felt we were doing. (See further explanation [here](#)>>) But as you will read in other comments I made, we did not view what we were doing as political, until we saw it through their secular eyes. I don't need to repeat it here.

So the question remains--is this film the sum total of our focus and who we are? Is this a totally accurate representation of our ministry? Absolutely not! It is merely a snapshot out of an entire photo album of how we operate, what we teach, and the impact we have been honored to have on the lives of families and children.

In all fairness to the filmmakers, they have only 84 minutes to tell a story. They can't possibly explain to the world everything about us in that time frame and still make a movie the whole world would want to see. We ourselves have almost 300 pages on our website of reports and articles to try to explain our vision through what we do. No one yet has ever studied it all, because there is just too much information.

So while I do not believe it is a complete and totally accurate picture, I still believe there is enough there to get the basics across about our ministry. Because of the misunderstandings that are coming out of the film, it has opened unbelievable doors of opportunity for me to be interviewed on nationally syndicated radio shows, national TV programs such as Good Morning America, and in newspapers all over the country. When these people actually let me talk and speak my piece, they are fascinating, and impressed with what they are hearing, even if they don't agree with some of what we do. It has had a disarming affect, and I am repeatedly being asked to come back for further interviews at later times.

Their whole reason for inviting me initially is because of what appears to be the "wacko militant" side of the movie. But when they start asking me pointed questions, I have the tremendous opportunity to not just set the record straight, but to then delve into the whole mission and vision of why we do what we do and the crisis we have in the Christian culture and the danger we are in of losing an entire generation of children if we don't start changing the way we typically disciple our children.

I will never get the ears of the entire nation again like is happening right now. The exposure I am getting I could have never paid for! I am on a mission, and while the filmmakers, A&E, and Magnolia Pictures may have their own agenda, I also have mine, and I am going to take every op-

portunity to get my message to the world!

## **7. You are Charismatic. Do you represent all Evangelicals Christians?**

An evangelical Christian is one who believes in the Bible as the inspired word of God. They believe there is salvation only through Jesus Christ and the shedding of His blood for our sins. They believe in the virgin birth of Jesus, that God is the Creator of heaven and earth and beside Him there is no equal. They believe Jesus is going to return to earth someday. There are a few more doctrines as well.

Based on that definition, I am an evangelical Christian. But then there is another group of evangelicals that have some additional biblical doctrines that make us stand out from the crowd. Those things primarily include the belief that the supernatural acts of God did not cease after the Bible was written but that miracles and signs and wonders still continue today.

Some of those supernatural events include speaking in tongues which you see in the film. (Speaking in tongues: languages that normally have no earthly origin, but are God given to a person, which provides a unique form of prayer life and communication with our heavenly Father.) Our beliefs also include healing the sick, hearing from God in our hearts and being led by His Spirit. It includes prophetic gifts of receiving information about the future or past that only God could have given to the person. It include all types of miracles and supernatural events and answers to prayer that are amazing to all who experience them. In addition, our form of worship tends to be much more expressive, exuberant, or sometimes emotional in nature as will be seen by the raising of our hands or clapping our hands in worship. Some go so far as to dance joyfully during worship.

Many more traditional evangelicals are uncomfortable with that style of worship, and some are even embarrassed by it. Some even feel many of our doctrines are not biblical, even though there is a multitude of scriptures we base our beliefs on. As a result they many times try to distance themselves from the charismatic community.

Charismatics now make up 30% of the evangelical community, or roughly 30 million in the USA, but closer to 600 million worldwide. Charismatics are the fastest growing segment of Christianity worldwide, and are especially strong in Africa, South America, and parts of Asia.

But the truth is, Charismatics have far more in common with our evangelical brothers and sisters than not, and many of the issues presented in this film represent all of us.

## **8. Why are those children so emotional? It makes me uncomfortable.**

People cry and show emotions for many different reasons. It can mean they are sad, angry, depressed, or lonely, etc. Or they can be tears of joy and thankfulness. Tears are shed at sad movies and touching stories we hear. Sometimes a sweet song can bring tears to someone's eyes. The point is, tears are not always because of negative feelings. It can also be a result of positive emotions.

What is unusual is to see children show the degree of emotion portrayed in this film. People are not used to seeing this and it makes them wonder what we've done to make them cry. The answer is we have done nothing to these children.

What you are seeing are what we call "altar times" or "prayer times" at the ends of our services where children are encouraged to let God touch their hearts. Generally there will be very moving Christian songs (worship music) playing in the background that is very powerful and impacting. As we begin to pray we step back and just allow the presence of God to fill the room. As the children begin to seriously focus in on the Lord, one by one tears begin to flow in the most amazing ways.

It continues to be one of the most fascinating things I see as a children's minister and I am always in awe and humbled at the work of God in the lives of boys and girls. Children are desperate and hungry to know the living God and they respond to Him with open hearts. Each child responds a little differently.

What many times will happen during these times of prayer and worship is children will see visions, hear God speak to their hearts about issues in their lives, they may feel more love than they have ever felt in their entire lives, especially children who come out of dysfunctional homes. Sometimes there is a healing of emotions taking place and it's like the tears are washing out anger, frustration, rebellion, etc.

For others they may truly be repenting for sins or attitudes that they are sorry for and that the Holy Spirit has brought to their attention. Some of them experience a physical healing in their bodies. This is often where children are "filled with the Holy Spirit" for the first time and receive their "prayer languages" otherwise known as speaking in tongues. Sometimes children don't know why they are crying but they love what they are feeling. Typically this kind of intensity will go on for an hour or more. Nobody wants to leave because the atmosphere is filled with the sweet presence of God.

## **9. Why did you let them film you in the first place?**

When we first decided to allow the filmmakers to come, the entire conversation centered around doing a film on children and their faith and spirituality, particularly in the area of operating in the supernatural with children.

We do have a very unique ministry because we teach children to walk in the supernatural life the Bible tells us is available, and which the Charismatic community greatly believes in. It just so happens that very few of those churches actually teach their children how to participate in these practices, which include healing the sick, hearing the voice of God, doing "prophetic" ministry (or giving words of encouragement and comfort to people as God tells them what to say.)

This and other similar activities for some reason are generally reserved for only adults as far as active training goes. We just happen to believe people of all ages can do these things, and have basically built our ministry around teaching them to children. We also try to bring awareness to other Christians that they are short-changing their kids by limiting them to basic Bible stories and nothing more trying to impress upon them the great potential children possess in spiritual things.

This is what we thought the film was going to be about. This is the message, vision, and whole focus of our ministry and it is also what the filmmakers focused on in the beginning. There was never any discussion of anything else with the filmmakers.

But the story began to morph after many months of filming when the filmmakers saw what they felt was a bigger story concerning the evangelical community and politics. The film opens with an announcement by President Bush that Sandra Day O'Connor has just resigned the Supreme Court. But what actually happened is during the filming of this movie, is that one of the conferences Loki Films shot included a very intense scene where children are praying for the overturn of Roe vs. Wade with Lou Engle. In that scene they began to cry out fervently for "righteous judges." Exactly two weeks later is when O'Connor actually resigned! It was then Loki Films began to sit up and take notice, and realized through their research that the entire Christian community was talking about these issues. It seemed irresponsible to them not to capture what they were seeing and hearing as it was taking place.

So while they were seeing political overtones through secular eyes, we believe we captured a spectacular moment on camera where these children's prayers were answered! You might say, yes, but thousands of Christians everywhere have been praying for the overturn of Roe vs. Wade. You can't give all the credit to those children!

Correct. But look who God chose to spotlight! "The least of these"--Children! You can't help but say the sequencing of these events was very interesting just at a time when this film was being made to be shown on TV and in theatres across America!

So because of this and several other supernatural things that happened in the film, we were still anxious for the movie to be shown hoping we could still get our message out to the masses. This is why I am still helping to promote this film.

## **10. Worshipping George Bush?????? Get real!!!**

This is a ridiculous rumor that was started by the story ABC News ran on their network. Obviously the people who wrote the story and the newscast-

er who reported it didn't know what they were watching, or deliberately misinterpreted the actions of the children in the clip they showed. If it was a misunderstanding, it shows their ignorance of prayer because when you see the movie, you will very clearly hear the speaker tell the children to "bless" President Bush and to "pray" for him.

I'm actually insulted anyone would believe we were making children worship the President!

But besides that, the Bible is quite clear about praying for our leaders:

1 Timothy 2:1-3

"First I tell you to pray for all people, asking God for what they need and being thankful to him. Pray for rulers and for all who have authority so that we can have quiet and peaceful lives full of worship and respect for God. This is good and it please God our Savior who wants all people to be saved and to know the truth."

This scripture was written at a time when kings and rulers were killing Christians, and they were told to pray for them anyway. Republican, Democrat, Independent or even Sadaam Hussein...who ever our ruler is we are commanded by God to pray for them!

AND YES! WE PRAYED FOR BILL CLINTON!!!

If anyone needed prayer he did!!

## **11. How dare you "brainwash" those kids!**

The term "brainwashing" is obviously a loaded, inflammatory word. Let me give you my understanding a definition of brainwashing:

Brainwashing is the deliberate, systematic bombardment of ideologies and concepts aimed at a group of people to sway their beliefs. That group of people may be totally unaware that it is happening. But the ideologies and concepts are repeated often enough and convincingly enough that the hearers ultimately believe what they are being told whether there is any truth to the concepts or not.

Based on that definition, the American children and youth are being brainwashed every day through books, movies, television, the internet, the music they listen and our school systems. The issues being perpetrated include sexual morality, situation ethics, evolution, witchcraft, relationships, religion, and many more.

So when the secular community accuses the Christian community of "brainwashing their children" with their own beliefs and worldview, that's a little like the proverbial "pot calling the kettle black!"

I like what the filmmakers have said to the press in interviews when they've been asked if they felt we were brainwashing the kids. Their response was that they had to re-evaluate their position on brainwashing and came to realize the if someone doesn't like what someone else is teaching their children, that's considered brainwashing. But when they teach their own children their own belief system it's just good parenting.

[Click here to see filmmakers' comments about brainwashing>>>](#)

## **13. Scariest Movie**

This is the scariest movie I've ever seen.

If you don't read my explanations, but are left to come to your own conclusion just by watching the trailer or read the blogs in the internet, you can certainly come to that conclusion. So if you genuinely want the truth, in all fairness read these comments I am making about the film.



But do you want to know what I find scary? It's the number of people who are angry because we teach our children to respect and pray for our President and to value human life!

#### **14. What is it you want people to come away from the film with?**

First and foremost, I just hope people, especially Christians will actually go see the film and reserve their judgments until they do. Very few people have actually seen the movie and are only reacting to the trailer that has been released. That trailer is painting us out to be cult like and warlike when nothing could be further from the truth.

For Christians who see the film, I hope they will come away with a new awareness of how dedicated and committed children can be for Jesus Christ when they are given the chance and seriously disciplined in the Christian faith. I hope they will see children are capable of doing great things for God and can have an understanding of deep truths of the Bible, which go far beyond simply the Bible stories. I would hope that it would move them to action to begin rethinking the way they have always done children's ministry in their churches and would read my book *Redefining Children's Ministry in the 21st Century* (See sample chapter below.)

I don't have as clear a focus for those who do not call themselves Christians first because I never expected the movie to hit the secular market the way it has, so I didn't have them in mind when we were making the film. Also I fear all they are going to be able to see is the political issues that are raised in this film which has never been a focus of me or this ministry, and which can only serve to further polarize them from the Christian community. As I explain in another section, I have never viewed myself as political in anyway until the film was made and I saw it through the eyes of the secular community.

To get a better idea of our philosophy of children's ministry and why we do what we do, please read the first chapter out of my book *Redefining Children's Ministry in the 21st Century* by clicking [here](#)>>

#### **15. Why is it rated PG13? Is it safe for me to bring my children?**

We were very surprised at the rating because there is no inappropriate language, sexual content, violence or any of the other things you normally think of with this rating. It says "Mature Subject Matter," so the best we can figure out it's because we are discussing abortion and martyrdom in the film. But the way we discuss it, it is totally appropriate for children to hear.

To get a better idea of our philosophy of children's ministry and why we do what we do, please read the first chapter out of my book *Redefining Children's Ministry in the 21st Century* by clicking [here](#)>>

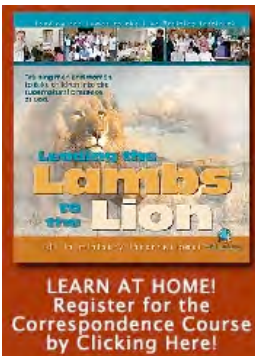
#### **16. Are You Closing Jesus Camp Down?**

First of all "Jesus Camp" is merely the name of the movie that has been receiving so much attention. Our camp was actually called "Families on Fire Summer Camp." It was a once a year, three day event. We did not own our own camp ground, but merely rented the facilities from the North Dakota Assemblies of God denomination for this once a year event.

Due to some vandalism at the camp ground where some windows were broken out causing about \$1500 worth of damage which could be directly linked to negative reaction to the movie, and another incident this past summer where some people came to our camp after they heard about the movie, and required having the sheriff remove them from the property for harassing our campers, the camp owners have understandably asked us not to return for awhile.

But the news media has made it sound like this is shutting down our whole ministry. Nothing could be further from the truth. We will simply replace this one event with a different one, probably a conference of some type. As a ministry, we are stronger than ever, and have more invitations to minister than ever before. But somehow that information is always buried at the bottom of the media reports, if it's mentioned at all.

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## WAVES OF GLORY!

A Report and Photos on the Kids on Fire Summer School of Ministry



**Testimonies from the campers>>>  
Conclusion>>>**

For weeks, even months, ahead of time friends and intercessors prayed with me for signs and wonders at our first Kids on Fire Summer School of Ministry. We were believing and hoping for a mighty move of God among the children, but we weren't expecting the down pouring we got. When the winds of the Spirit blew in on our first night with Leon Kotze of South Africa, we were all thinking, "If this is just the first night, what is the rest of the camp going to be like?" And indeed things intensified from there!

**From the very beginning God began to move**

Leon held our attention with nothing but a South African candy bar and a water balloon as he shared stories about the powerful things he'd witnessed God doing in his country. Then he simply called one of the adults forward. As she approached the front, we could see her begin to shake uncontrollably. He called some children forward, had them lay hands on the woman and she went down under the power of God. He called another counselor forward, and the same thing happened. The power of God shook her from head to toe. Leon spoke with a very ordinary, calm tone of voice and talked about how God wants to use kids to do miracles. He had the children touch this woman as well, and down she went. The kids giggled delightedly to see God was using them in such a way. Then he called the rest of us forward.

Kevan and Tammy Sorenson, our worship leaders, played skillfully on their instruments matching the flow of the Spirit as Leon began to pray over the children, and shout "FIRE!" periodically. One after the other, boys and girls, teenagers, and adults succumbed to the sweeping waves of glory that had filled the room. Tears began to flow--not just a few trickles, but gut-level sobs! Children fell to the ground seemingly unaware they were laying on a dusty, cold cement floor. Some trembled slightly. Others shook dramatically. Some seemed to be listening or concentrating hard with their eyes closed. But one thing was sure--every person there regardless of age was being touched in some way by the heavy presence of the Holy Spirit.

We had started the service at 6:30 pm, and had to force people to leave the chapel at 11 pm because we knew we had a heavy class schedule the next day. No one wanted to leave the presence of God. The intensity of our responses to presence of the Lord had taken a toll on us physically. Rest time after lunch the next day was welcomed by almost everyone.

**The second night was even more electric**

We played lively praise and worship CDs before each evening service started. The first night the children had merely sat in their seats while the music played. But the second night the atmosphere was electric with the joy and freedom in the children. They were already changed! With little if any leadership, they spontaneously began to dance, sing, clap, jump and wave their hands in the chapel. The liberty in the Spirit between the two nights was profound. It was like night and day.

Our anticipation level of what would happen that night on a scale of one to ten was about a fifteen! We were not disappointed as the moving of the Spirit at prayer time the second evening was even more intense than the first. Gold dust began appearing on the hands of the kids for the second night, which was an amazing sign and wonder to all of us, but especially the kids. "It was sweet! (meaning "cool") one boy testified with a grin.

One little girl went down under the power of God and was pinned to the floor by the Holy Spirit and could not get up for over an hour. The presence of God was so thick in the room one could almost reach out and touch it.

But the toll of such extreme responses to Him physically again literally exhausted everyone. No one complained when we required an hour and a half rest period the next day. I fully understood then why God can only visit His people in limited amounts, because to be in the fullness of His glory would be too much for the human body to endure.

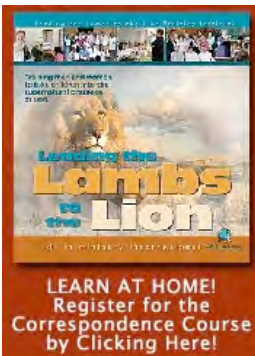
**Conclusion>>>**

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## WAVES OF GLORY! - Conclusion

### A Report and Photos on the Kids on Fire Summer School of Ministry

#### Close to missing our moment of visitation

It unnerves me to think how close we came to missing these waves of glory! I had just assumed since it was my camp that I would preach during the evening services. I had met Leon the summer of 2002 when he found out I was speaking for another ministry in Durban, South Africa. He wrote and asked if I'd be willing to come to his church where he was one of the rare full-time children's pastors in his nation. Leon had discovered the Kids in Ministry International website, and felt we were kindred spirits in our vision for kids.



I spent a week preaching in the public and private schools where Leon escorted me, as well as in his church. Every place we went, kids came running from everywhere to see and hug "Uncle Leon." When we ministered in his church, it was obvious his children were well trained in the prophetic. (You can read the stories of my visit to Leon's church on our website under "About This Ministry/Missions Trips/South Africa/Tanzania. 2002") But because I did all the ministry on that trip, I never had a chance to hear him preach or teach.

So when I invited this African Pied Piper to join our slate of guest speakers for the Summer School of Ministry, I did it because I knew kids loved him, I knew he had our vision for training children to do the works of Jesus and could train kids.

When I invited him to come initially, I felt the first little nudge to have him do the evening services, but I brushed it off, because I had never heard him speak, and didn't know if he was any good! I reasoned I would let him do the workshops this year and see how he did, then maybe invite him back for the following year. It made sense to me!

But a couple months later I felt the same impression to have him as the main speaker. Once again I brushed it off. I would pray diligently asking God what it was I was supposed to minister on, but nothing seemed right. The closer it came to "show time" I was getting very nervous because nothing was dropping in my spirit and I was running out of time to prepare. Then it happened again--a slight nudge to ask Leon to do the evening services. When I finally gave in there was so much relief and peace, it was amazing. I still didn't know if he was any good, but I figured it was God's problem now. Needless to say, we were more than blessed and awed by his ministry.



#### An Upper Room Experience

I wonder how often we miss God's best by pushing past or ignoring those small impressions! It's amazing to think God so respects our free will He uses a still small voice with us even on critical, important, life-changing issues, and let's us have our own way!

One of the adult campers expressed our experience very well in a letter. She wrote, "Upon returning from camp we were reminded of the story of how five hundred people saw Jesus ascend into the sky, and yet there were only 120 who met in the upper room praying until they were endued with power from on high (Luke 24:49).

"The number one hundred and twenty struck me. This is about how many there were at camp. I am convinced we had an upper room experience. "I am still in awe that my children and I were somehow among this group

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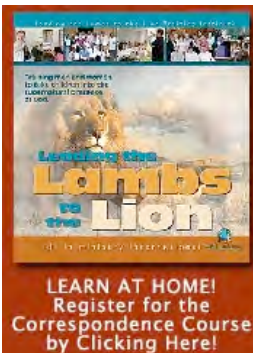
## WAVES OF GLORY!

### Testimonies of Children from the Kids on Fire Summer School of Ministry 2003



"We are still speechless over camp and don't ever want to return to 'things as usual.'"

**Tammy, MN**



"My grandson and I are forever changed. On the way home from camp he looked at me, as only a child could do, and said, "Oh yeah, Grandma, my feet got healed!" He explained, "My cracks and sores are gone." Later that week his Mom said the skin on his legs was all cleared up as well. He has fought dry itchy skin all his life because of allergies. Did I tell you neither of us could walk by the stage the night the children had the gold on their hands? The presence of God was so strong we couldn't walk straight. How we were blessed!! Just talking about camp gets me so excited!!" Pam, SD

"The night Uncle Leon prayed for me I was on the floor bawling, and my tummy was shaking. I was down there for like an hour. There were so many kids piled up on the floor and there was no room for me, so I was moved to a bench where I continued to cry and shake until God was done with me. Also in the prophecy class we were praying in tongues and I saw a parade. Leon said it meant revival. Other people in this class saw revival too. So I know revival is coming.

"I liked camp lots and I think we need this kind of stuff in our churches. That would be so cool! One morning since coming back home, I was thinking about my brother's roller coaster tycoon computer game where you build a theme park. I think God was telling me that when you get saved it's like entering a theme park. You don't pay with money to get in. You pay with your heart. Each ride you go on you usually have to pay something. In this park you don't pay with money--you pay with your heart. You surrender a little bit more each ride you go on until your heart is completely surrendered."

"I really enjoyed your camp. It was lots of fun and it was an opportunity for me to draw nearer to God. At camp I was touched by the Holy Spirit like never before. I have never seen anything like it in my life. I loved it and wanted more of being in His presence.

"Since camp I have been giving testimony after testimony. Lots of people have asked about camp. I have been telling of what it was like to be slain in the Spirit. I told people about the gold and how real it was to me. I really liked camp because of the good food and because it was a open door to get closer to God. Ever since camp I have danced everywhere--in the parking lots, in my bedroom, in our attic, just every place I go, and felt led to do it.

"Just a week ago two of my cousins where here from the cities. They are both girls and are our age. We were in the attic playing and just having fun when I felt led to pray for my cousin about praying in tongues. So we went in the bathroom so we would not be interrupted.

She said she wanted to speak in tongues, so we got in the bath tub. I told her a little about what it was like. Then I said that when we got out of the tub that she would be speaking in tongues. I prayed for her and I felt electricity go through my arms. When we got out of the tub she was able to speak in tongues."

**Emily, MN, age 12**

"Camp was really fun. All the classes were good. The food was great. One night during ministry time when Leon was praying for me I felt my hands and arms get tingly and hot. Soon I was slain in the spirit. As the tears ran down my face they tingled on my cheeks.

"Towards the end of the ministry time after some of the people had gone home, someone started seeing gold. We went over to where Leon was sitting. All the kids were putting their hands over this place that was hot like a campfire with no fire that we could see. When we put our hands over this place, they got hot. When we looked at our hands we started to see gold dust. A smaller group of us left and we began to sing together. As we sang I heard God singing with us. It's hard to describe. It sounded really big and quiet at the same time.

"During the healing class we anointed a cloth to send to someone who had cancer. I wanted to do this for my Grandpa when we got back to our church. The first Sunday back my mom brought some oil and three cloths. After kids church those who wanted to came up and anointed the cloth and we prayed.



"I gave one of the cloths to my Grandpa who can't hear and his hearing aids don't work. He has been sleeping with it under his pillow. My Grandma said one day he couldn't find his hearing aid, and he realized that he could hear the birds singing, and other sounds, better than he could before."

**Owen, MN 14**

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