

Youths' camp experience prepares them to share the love of Jesus

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by Jodi Farmer - Special to the News

Did you ever think that you would go on a Missions trip and have your hands bound like a prisoner? The Adams Farm Community Church Pre-Teen Missions Team experienced this in Manassas, Va., at Group Work-camps, June 14-19. The 10-member team had their hands tied to learn how it felt to be captive. They became more aware of ways they are held in bondage by technology, relationships, self-image, and sports.

One group member acknowledged that she started playing soccer because she enjoyed sports, but she soon became obsessed with winning. She thought more about making a goal than she did about God.

As the team prayed at the cross for freedom from bondage, they began to feel prepared to go out into the community and share Jesus' love. Jesus had revealed himself to them, and now they would reveal Jesus to others. The Workcamps theme was "REVEAL," based on Luke 4:18-19 - "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Prior to the six-day trip, eight pre-teens and two adults collected coins to purchase canned goods for the hungry in the Manassas area which has been severely effected by the struggling economy.

The Adams Farm Community Church joined six other youth groups from six different states at this workcamp. Together the 75 participants donated over 760 non-perishable items.

The youth also spread out all over the Manassas area to serve in food pantries, renovate foreclosed homes, plant flowers in low-income housing communities, and landscape local churches. These teams logged over 1,300 volunteer hours.

When their work was finished in the community each day, the pre-teens would return to the Manassas First Baptist Church, their home away from home.

Every day began and ended with worship and group devotions. Several youth had an opportunity to share "God sightings" - ways in which they saw God working. One girl from Adams Farm sprained her ankle. She was struggling to hop around on one foot until the church office administrator gave her a pair of crutches stored at the church. The youth were quick to report this as a way they saw God working.

Jesus revealed himself many ways throughout this first week of summer break. The youth returned to the Greensboro area ready to continue to reveal Jesus' love to others.