



CAMP DANIEL

MEGAN PETTY'S MISSIONARY JOURNEY

If you're reading this it means I survived Summer Camp! It's hard to distill 5 weeks of Camp into a few sentences but here are a few fun takeaways: two pairs of sneakers are non-negotiable, 3pm Diet Cokes hit the spot, grilled chicken in the staff fridge and churro chata ice cream make any day better, and starting each week with Piggly Wiggly donuts really sets the tone.



Pastor Kirk, Pam, and
Jessica Anderson



Libby

As fun, exhausting, and important as Summer Camp was, it was also marked by loss, making our theme *"I Have Hope"* feel even more real, necessary, and at times heavy to carry. In February, we lost a summer intern, Libby, in a car accident, and her absence was deeply felt by staff, interns, and campers. Then during Week 2, we welcomed Pastor Kirk, Pam, and Jessica Anderson. Pastor Kirk spoke, and Pam and Jessica got to share in the goodness of camp life. Just one day after camp ended, Jessica tragically passed away while still in Wisconsin. There were a lot of late nights and long conversations as counselors and interns tried to process, grieve, and still cling to hope. What gave me Hope, was seeing everyone show up, stay present, and continue together as a community to carry on what Libby and Jessica loved so much.

Next week is Homecoming, an event where past and present campers, counselors, staff, and volunteers reunite. It was the very first event I attended at Camp. At the time, I hadn't moved onto campus yet and was still living with my friend Brandie Lee about 50 minutes east. I remember crying almost the whole drive to Homecoming. I still didn't know where I was. I was surrounded by deer, and facing the unknown of walking into such a big new community was daunting. Of course, the event turned out to be wonderful and I met so many kind people, many I now hang out with regularly outside of Camp. There were still a few teary-eyed drives in those early months as I transitioned out of a decade at The Happy Place and into this brand-new season of "firsts."

Looking back, I can't speak highly enough about the staff (and campers!) who have been patient, kind, and affirming throughout this past year. It hasn't been perfect, but I trust the direction we're headed, and I'm grateful to say I plan on staying on staff here for a while longer. I'll be 36 this year, and life looks nothing like what I once pictured. But because it doesn't, I've been able to step into opportunities, travel, and meet so many incredible people I never expected. What once felt like shortcomings have actually shaped me and opened doors I might have otherwise missed.



night at The Lakefront



Pirate Night



August Wedding with Marinette County Fair
CamperMax



CamperMax serving
at week 1



My red carpet
"dates"



Twinning with Ruth at
Check In

What's next?

- **Camp just got a new (to us) 100 watt Diode laser! So learning how to run that is my newest obsession.** (Personally, I have been wanting a diode laser to replace my hobby Ortur and Camp has been wanting to get one for the past few years. This new laser is more powerful, more versatile and much faster! How cool that I'm here just as Camp is being given this new machine!)
- **This month, Able Fellowship and Special Olympics bowling start back up.**
- **We've added more CamperMax serving opportunities to the calendar this year- including another wedding next month!**
- **This fall, we're excited to launch Camp Daniel Radio, an easy-to-use speaker filled with camp sermons, music, interviews, and more! Our goal is to fundraise so every camper can receive one for free, because we want camp to not only be physically accessible, but financially accessible too**
- **Plans for our Amphitheater have started. It's in it's very early stages and drawings and getting plans approved by the state are still being solidified.**
- **In October, I have a girls trip planned to the White Mountains to catch some foliage.**
- **And in January, staff are taking a trip to Orlando to visit and learn from another disability ministry, The Special Gathering.**

I'm getting closer to my fundraising goal and have been filling in the gaps with painting, cleaning an airbnb, and selling my woodworking through my Trailside shop. Each month this past year I've been in the green financially and have been able to continue to build up an emergency fund and remain debt free. With additional support, I plan to restart my retirement contributions & house down payment contributions, sign up for a gym membership at the local community center, and continue to save for vacations, trips, and most importantly more sneakers!



Staff picture at the Night of a Thousand Stars Dinner

I'd be so grateful for your prayers for continued financial provision, for our new year-long intern Jeb's arrival, and for the energy to step into all the new and exciting things ahead! I can't thank you enough for supporting me in this!

Thankfully.



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