

CAMP DANIEL

MEGAN PETTY'S MISSIONARY JOURNEY

Summer Camp is right around the corner, which means it's time for another pair of sneakers. This time, I think I'm going with another pair of Asics! If you've been reading my newsletters for a while, you know comfortable and solid shoes are a must because summer camp and bad shoes do not mix.

By the time you're reading this letter, our eight summer interns will already be settled into camp and have begun preparing for the 5 weeks of summer camp. I'm excited to watch them grow this summer, not just in their understanding of disability ministry, but in confidence, leadership, and discovering how God has gifted them.

This summer I'll continue overseeing Big Al's Diner and CamperMax, our program where campers with disabilities serve alongside us to help make camp happen each week. It's one of my favorite parts of my job and one of the clearest examples of our mission in action. I also have a long list of signs, decorations, and projects to finish before campers arrive. This year is Camp Daniel's 30th anniversary, so expect plenty of birthday-themed surprises....including a few life-sized birthday cakes and birthday themed Diner specials!

Windbreak



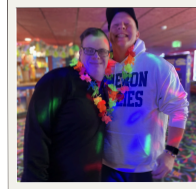
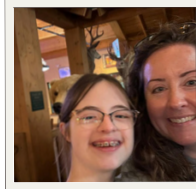
Before the busyness of Summer Camp starts, I was able to fit in a trip home. It was short, but full of family time, hikes, cookouts, softball games, and all the foods I miss when I'm in Wisconsin.

I was also about to spend one of my last free weekends at Be Still. Be Still is a retreat facility for ministry leaders. Their whole purpose is to help prevent burnout. While I was there, I had some downtime (aka Be Still), and hiked a few sections of the Ice Age Trail.

Inside of the windbreak



While on the trail, I came across a windbreak in the middle of a field. If you've never seen one before, it's a row of trees planted to provide shelter from the wind and weather (see picture) Up until that point, the trail had been completely exposed. It was a sunny day with a light wind, yet the windbreak was a welcome rest from the midday heat. The inside was shaded and calm, and there was even a perfect rock to sit on and eat my snack (see picture). For a few minutes, I wasn't in the hot sun, and I could rest and enjoy where I was before continuing on.



On my walk back to the car, I kept thinking about how in many ways Camp Daniel is a windbreak. Life can feel like that open field: complete exposure to the pressures, responsibilities, worries, and challenges that never seem to let up. For our campers, that often means navigating a world that isn't always designed with them in mind. For parents and caregivers, it can mean carrying responsibilities that rarely pause. Even for those of us on staff and our many volunteers, there are constant demands pulling at our attention.

And then summer camp arrives.

For one week, campers get to be in a place where they are fully known, fully included, and genuinely celebrated. Families get a chance to rest and recharge. And for us on staff and our volunteers, all the distractions of everyday life fade into the background as we focus completely on the people God has placed in front of us. The challenges don't disappear, just like the field was still waiting for me on the other side of the trees. Sometimes what we need most isn't for everything to change, but simply need a place to catch our breath before continuing on.

This year, as Camp Daniel celebrates 30 years of ministry, I'm reminded that for three decades this place has served as a windbreak for thousands of people. Generations of campers, families, volunteers, and staff have found rest, belonging, friendship, and faith here. I'm excited to see what God will do this summer! Thank you for making this ministry possible. Your prayers, encouragement, and financial support help create a place where campers and families can find rest, belonging, joy, and community!

Grateful for you,



Prayer Requests:

Finances

I am continuing to work towards my \$1,400 monthly fundraising goal. I'm grateful for a few painting and cleaning jobs and the many family and friends who supported me during my latest car repair!

Summer Interns

Please pray for our 8 interns who will be stepping out of their comfort zones and spending their summer serving our campers


Summer Camp


Please pray that Camp Daniel would continue to be a windbreak, a place where people can experience God's love and leave encouraged, refreshed, and reminded of their worth.

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