

My God is Not Dead, He's Surely Alive

'E'S BACK! Yes, I have returned from the state of Michigan to learn there was a tornado in the area while I was away. Two towns away, with little damage and no casualties, so not exactly those news breakers of weeks past. Moving on, in addition to the additions and subtractions they make from year to year (i.e., the Zorb this year replaced mountain biking), there are always differences in the kids and the weather. Each group of campers is different. I had ten boys in my cabin this year, and a junior leader who was one of my 4th/5th grade kids at church (not camp) from years past. I have had the sweetest kids you could know, and some, well, not quite the other end of the scale but leaning that way. Sometimes strongly. The most difficult one I had this year was mostly trouble at bedtime, not wanting to stay in bed, his own bed, etc. During the day he was great to lead. I originally had nine boys, but one was added at the last minute so in addition to the nine 5th graders, I had one 4th grader. I won't be able to form a strong relationship with him however, as his family will be moving out of state soon. Nor will I have any relationship at all with another, who came as a friend of one of our students. He has Christian parents however (and he already accepted Christ), unlike another guest I had a few years ago who came from a decidedly non-Christian family, though he did accept Jesus during his week at camp.

One of the new things this year was a talent show. I made sure to sign up for a skit, though I did come prepared with some songs from Oliver! in case we had to sing. You see, there was only one slot available each night for skits. This will have to be tweaked a bit for next year as no one signed up for the first night. Too little rehearsal time? Together we decided to do a backstage audition scene, though looking

like an Idol episode with three judges holding their product-placement IBC root beer bottles. We came up with a script the first couple days, tweaking it even at the last rehearsal. I assigned three judge roles, one being kind of a mean one (yeah, you know...); six contestants in three acts (one became a security guard instead during a tweak); and one cameraman who dropped out when he wasn't feeling very well on the day of performance, giving me his line which didn't quite work out as it was meant for a cameraman, not someone yelling from offstage. The one who didn't want to even do a skit turned out to do a great job as a judge. I would say that they wrote half the script adding great ideas like a group doing a purposely bad "pattycake" routine, calling themselves the Pattycake Pros, or PPs for short (remember the audience/participant ages!). We also had a male diva contestant named Justin B-[eye]-ber, who the judges naturally mispronounce. The mispronounced name was my idea, but the kids came up with the contestant idea among others. He was dragged off by the security guard after hitting a judge, only to return later chased by that same security guard. The kids added being chased by some girls at the end, so we borrowed a few from a girl's cabin who would chase him thinking he must be the famous pop star, where he once again shouted that he was B-[eye]-ber, not B-[ee]-ber. The most amazing addition they came up with was changing my generic "Jesus Rocks" at the end of another bad performance (making it a smashing hit in the judges eyes as a result instead of another flop) to a bible verse from the lesson earlier that day about not fearing, finding comfort in God instead. I believe the verse was Psalm 27:1. That was the Holy Spirit talking through the boy who came up with that change!

This post is getting kind of long, and I have to get a couple things done before I go to bed, so I will leave you with this video from the Zorb activity. This answers the question, "Is it safe to be in front of a moving Zorb?"

[vimeo]<https://vimeo.com/25643379>[/vimeo]