

## CATCHING UP WITH SUE AND CAROLYN

I arrived in US almost four weeks ago and it seems like a lot has happened in that time. After three days of catching my breath in Seattle (and meeting up with several friends there) we drove over to Boise for our first camp of the summer. The heavy snowfall has made a huge impact and I have never seen so much snow still on the mountain tops of all the ranges we crossed. Added to that, areas that are usually brown desert were now Irish green! Just beautiful.

## MOUNTAIN KIDS' DAY CAMP



Pirate Sue



Pirate Larry



Freezing Carolyn

Michelle Alden heads up this camp in the small town of Idaho City which is about an hour out of Boise up in the mountains. This year more than 50 kids arrived at camp (this is not residential, kids come from 8.30 a.m. through to 5 p.m. each day) and along with buddies and staff there was quite a crowd. The challenges were the freezing weather (no heating in the meeting area) but the rewards were the great responsiveness of the children and it was a great week. Michelle was using the SCKC Australian curriculum "Sure Hope" and I do get a kick out of seeing this material go beyond our shores. The final day always includes the "Have a Go Show" where children display their talents and this always touches our hearts as children who often are not chosen in school performances come out front and present a song, dance, skit, etc. An unforgettable item was when one girl, who was giving a talk on plants, told us "And do you know how plants become green? It's because of photosynthesis". Now there's a thought!

Where we stayed gave us incredible views and amazing birdlife. Idaho has a heap to offer people who love nature. We saw a turkey buzzard, white headed woodpecker, western tanager, mountain bluebird and heaps of delicate hummingbirds. Wonderful.



Calliope Hummingbird



Western Tanager



Mountain Bluebird

## ROYAL FAMILY KIDS' CAMP

This camp is always a highlight of our year. Southern Cross Kids' Camps in Australia owe their existence to the vision and role-modelling of Tom and Margaret Turco who have led this camp for the past nineteen years. Sue and I have been involved as the Bible Teachers for sixteen of these camps, and it is a role we hold close to our hearts. This year 41 children, all from foster homes came to camp. Many came from very traumatic backgrounds, carrying burdens no child should have to carry. The curriculum for this camp included the story of Joseph and we found that he became a character these children could readily identify with. Abandoned by his family....punished for things he did not do.....changing circumstances which at times went from bad to worse....and finally his rise to power and the fulfilment of the dreams of his childhood. But perhaps the strongest message in this story is the reconciliation of Joseph and his brothers, highlighting his ability to forgive and the words "You may have meant it for evil, but God meant it for good", and the hope that God can indeed turn our lives around as we trust Him. The verse for the week was "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not depend on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths." Proverbs 3:5,6.

One of the things we so enjoy in this camp is the great teamwork, particularly in the group that look after Breakfast Club and J-zone with us. Doug and Jenn with the music, Bekah working with us in presenting object lessons and more, the support staff, drama team, Ryan on sound – all working together to see God's presence and love impact these kids. Another highlight was our much loved Graeme and Angela Jones travelling over from Melbourne, to be the camp grandparents. They were so pro-active in this role, and every child in the camp loved them.



Camp Grandparents



Sue teaching on Joseph.



The Polar Bear swim!

## FAMILY TIME

The beginning of July saw Colleen Dunis arrive from Australia and it is great to have her with us before she heads to Utah to be with her daughter. Sue's sister/brother-in-law DeAnn and John are amazing hosts and arranged for several gatherings including a great 4<sup>th</sup> July BBQ and Fireworks. We covet your prayers for Sue and De Ann's parents, Dale and Bertha, who both face huge physical and emotional problems. Dale's MS has robbed him of almost all movement, and Bertha has much on her plate as a caregiver. However, they both delight in people and love to chat. They so enjoyed catching up with the Aussies!



Sue, Colleen, Carolyn



DeAnn (with Buddy), Dale,  
and Sue



Bertha and Colleen

**COMING UP.....**

We drive back to Seattle to catch up on mail, and preparation for our next camp. This starts Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup> in the mountains above Grangeville, Idaho. This will be a missions theme based on the Great Commission, and called "Passport to Adventure" and we are looking forward to it. Following that we head back to Seattle for a Vacation Bible School with New Hope Church.

**WE SO APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT IN PRAYER...**

James says "The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective" James 5:19

Thank you for standing with us during summer ministries in the US. We find that although we do return to familiar churches and camps, each year our relationships with these are strengthened and we are able to minister to many people, not just in actual meeting time, but in day to day interactions. We find ourselves giving counsel, and praying into situations, and it is SO good to see God go ahead and move in hearts and lives. Above all we covet His presence in all we do, that those to whom we minister would be aware of God, and that children especially would know His love for them in a tangible way.

Prayer points:

- Dale and Bertha (Sue's parents)
- Continued health and protection as we travel
- For us to be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit and to minister in power and presence.
- For financial provision
- For insights into situations and needs of people
- For wisdom in ALL we do.

Thank you for your encouragement, support and prayers – we are so aware that there is a network of people sharing in this ministry.

Love and blessings,

Sue and Carolyn