

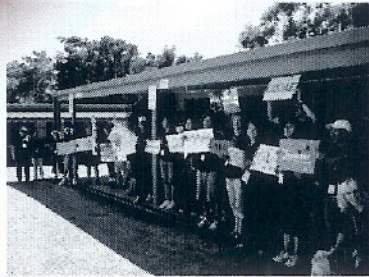
Carpenter's Cross ministries

November 2009 NEWSLETTER

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These Buddies are waiting to greet their campers on the first day of the Knox Camp.



Sue presenting a session on understanding different leadership styles



IN HALLS CREEK

In March we were privileged to travel with Rosemary Byrne (World Impact) to visit Hall's Creek, in the Australian outback area of north Western Australia. Brett and Justine Wiltshire (Australian Aboriginal Outreach) were our hosts and we were amazed at what was happening spiritually in that area. There was much to learn - to try and grasp a little of the cultural background of the people & history. It was like being in a foreign country without passport or visas needed. We developed a respect for the people who are trying to bring up children (80% of all children are born with fetal alcohol syndrome) in a climate of extreme alcoholism. We met with the women and visited their 'camps' - heard stories of survival and the abundant grace of God in many lives. We loved the children - their eyes would light up at Larry (puppet) or when I told stories and illustrated Bible truths. The children are the hope of these people - do pray with us that they would experience God's touch.

AUSTRALIA.....

January saw the launch of a new Southern Cross Kids' Camp in the Melbourne area. Carolyn directed this and was blessed by the great team of volunteers who gave a week of their holiday time to come to camp as buddies and staff of children who had been traumatized through abuse, domestic violence and/or neglect.

Then in April Sue and Carolyn were part of the training team for new camp directors - it was so good to have people ready to commit to the support of existing camp leaders and/or the launching of new camps.

Conferences: Sue ministered in both the Ministry To Children Seminar and the Ministers' Fellowship International Conference in late February. She spoke on a topic close to our heart - the ministry of the Holy Spirit in and through children in the church.

We were also involved in ministry to a number of churches, ministering in Family Services, to youth and to children.

Carpenter's Cross ministries

From Carolyn:

Thanks for the prayers and good wishes! We had good flights across the Pacific and then 3 days in Seattle unpacking, repacking, and getting ready to drive to Boise (9 hours).

Good to see Sue's parents and DeAnn and John again. Two nights later we headed up to Idaho City for Isaiah's Ranch - a community not-for-profit organization with the motto "Life Changing Options for Kids". Michelle Alden and husband Tim head up the Mountain Kids' Day Camp which runs for a week, and then offer programs for teens and older youth later in the summer. This year the theme was western so we had a lot of fun!

Then we headed up the state highway north to McCall, Idaho. This is some of the most spectacular scenery as the winding road follows the white water rapids of the Payette River. We passed white water rafters, and in the quieter patches of water, kayakers and people in canoes. There were still faint lines and patches of snow on the peaks of the mountains - part of the Rockies. The Royal Family Kids' Camp takes place at Quaker Hill Conference Center, right opposite Payette Lake. It was so great to watch the children come off the bus - each one announced and guided down the red carpet to the cheers of counselors (buddies) and staff. It was wonderful watching kids relax and enjoy so many activities. Waiting in line for dinner I stood behind one of the younger campers - a girl perhaps 7 yrs old - whose legs were covered with whip marks. What a haven this camp has become as children sing the songs of God's love, as their counselors give them their total attention, and the camp mascot Kid Royal bestows gifts for acts of kindness and good attitudes. It is amazing seeing the children respond. We taught this year's theme of the life of David and the stage was decorated as a sheepfold. The drama was the story of the shepherd's love for his rebellious lamb "Raambo", and we had some amazing opportunities to show kids the value God places on them, what He sees for their lives, His power that is available to defeat problems and fears, the positives of Good Friendships, and His endless love and ready forgiveness.

Following Mountain Kids' Day Camp and Royal Family Kids' Camp we headed north up into the mountains of Idaho. Dave and Tami Sherman faithfully direct the Miracle Mountain camp, hosted by Tami's parents, Billy and Joyce Wikoff on their property high in the mountains above Grangeville. This is a rustic camp - generators set among the trees provide the power for cooking and for lighting and sound in the meeting tent. After the evening service kids sit around the fire-pit roasting hot dogs and marshmallows and an occasional coyote can be heard in the distance. In previous years the children here had been predominantly church kids, but this year the mix was totally different. The majority of children attending had no Christian background and the Lord really spoke to us through the scriptures "Know the state of your flocks" and "Move at the pace of the lambs".

Using a construction theme we spoke on how to build our lives on a good foundation, helping kids to understand that there was a God who loved them and wanted their lives to be strong. With a team of junior leaders to assist, altar times were meaningful as youngsters in simplicity asked Jesus to come into their lives.

Jeremiah 33:3 says "Call unto me and I will answer you and show you great and wonderful things that you have not dreamed of"

BLESSING THE NATIONS: We are traveling to 8 nations in 2010.
We invite you to help us Bless the Nations. We are in need of
donations of finances and/or airline miles. Please email us with any
questions about how to do this. <http://www.carcrosmin@aol.com>

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Cate's little
Mooseboy





Bekah demonstrates the beauty that can come from coal in a diamond and tied it in with how God sees beneath the surface to what we can become in Him.

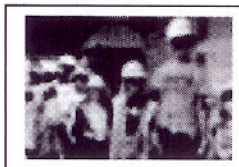
The t-shirts say "WANTED BY GOD...Kids After God's Own Heart"

Kids filed in each day to strains of Roy Rogers singing "Happy Trails" or "Don't Fence Me In". We took a look at God's Rules for a Happy Life (10 commandments) and of course the commandment that sums all these up "Love one another as I have loved you." The kids responded well and we had a hoot!



THE BEKAH BLESSING.

This summer we had Bekah Alseth as children's ministries intern. She interacted with the children so well, showing care and compassion as well as helping them to have great fun. Bekah ministered in music, games and object lessons plus helped with teaching times and the set-up and take down at each venue. What a blessing to us!

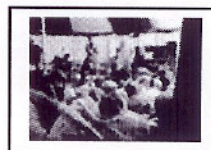


In Colfax Washington the Vacation Bible School theme was Sure Foundation. Here the kids are dressed as construction Workers to win more points for their teams. Throughout the Week kids learned how to build their lives step by step on Jesus as our Sure Foundation with the floor of "Trust", the walls of "God's Word", "Prayer", "Forgiveness" and "Love" with the roof of God's Covering!

In August we had a very special theme for the **New Hope Family Camp** at Warm Beach Conference Center. As you can see, Larry went to the far reaches of the Universe to show the kids God's wonders. The theme "B.I.B.L.E." or Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth, was about God's Purpose for us in Creation and the Great Commission. The children were thrilled when they each got to take home a photo of themselves in Larry's Space suit at the end of camp.



Kids respond at the altar time



The July Grangeville camp was a stretching time for Bekah – in charge of five girls during the day, sleeping with them in a rustic cabin at night, pit toilets, AND ministering with us in music, object lessons and more during the services. She did a great job!

We said good-bye and drove on to Seattle, to set up for the VBS with New Hope International Church. We love the energy of the kids here, and have good relationship with them. To deal with the Seattle traffic, we rose at 6 each day to get to Mercer Island straight to their local Starbucks. Here we sank into lounge chairs and got our daily caffeine fix before heading to the church for the morning program. A good way to start!

Onecho Family Camp was in Medical Lake, WA. My sister DeAnn and her husband John flew to Seattle for her birthday celebration. Then John flew back to Boise and DeAnn and I headed off to camp. This year's theme was also Western. As usual the kids there jumped right into the horseshoe games, singing and Bible verse learning.

ALASKA...My first time in the "far north". What a great experience it was! I just loved the sights and the people! Glacierview Baptist brought me up for a Women's Retreat. Cate Morris (a young woman I knew as a child from my ministry at Central Assembly in Idaho) was the amazing worship leader. Her anointing is for leading people into the presence of God. As a speaker, she made my ministry so much easier because the women were already there – hearts open – ready for God to pour in refreshing into their lives. I tell you those women can sing too! They just broke out into harmony and sang heaven into the room. After the retreat I was blessed to go to the Bible College in Homer, AK. I absolutely love going to Bible Colleges! The students are eager and jumping into God! Cate set up opportunities for me to meet some incredible women leaders in different churches while I was there. The body of Christ is so fun and creative. I enjoy finding more "family" everywhere I travel. God's Blessing on all of them!

Carpenter's Cross ministries

upcoming schedule



Blessing Nations: New Zealand / Australia Jan 2010
Malaysia/Sri Lanka Feb 2010
Halls Creek Australia March/April 2010
USA June-Aug 2010
Czech Republic/Ethiopia Aug/Sept 2010
Cambodia Oct 2010

One financial provision has already been answered with the surprise presentation of a check from ROAR children's church at CityLife. This will enable us to return to Hall's Creek next year and has been set-aside for that purpose. Thanks to all the kids who faithfully gave during the first half of this year!

Sept - Dec.

Sept.
Oct

Nov.-Dec

Sue in USA Carolyn in Australia

Sue Washington Onecho Family Camp
Carolyn Victoria SCKC Dir. Summit
Sue Alaska
Sue Idaho
Carolyn Victoria

THANK YOU for your encouragement, prayers and support.
We love and appreciate each one of you!

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