

Jesus
THE LIGHT of THE WORLD

Portland LINK

SELECTIONS FROM OUR WEBSITE AND MORE

✦ Refreshed and Refocused

Although there was no Northwest Youth Camp this year, the Portland young people did have the opportunity to go on a four-day youth retreat at the location where we normally hold youth camp—the Mayfield Lake campsite near Mossy Rock, Washington. A bus of young people left Portland shortly after 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 28, and several others came in separate vehicles. Once everyone had arrived, there were around seventy campers and close to thirty staff. And after missing youth camp in 2020, everyone was very excited for this chance to go to the retreat!

going down the giant water slide, playing games, and participating in tournaments for volleyball, pickle ball, spike ball, and ping pong.

The group was spoiled with delicious food during the retreat. Some of the highlights were BBQ pulled pork, pizza, pancakes, and French toast. The desserts were just as good, including the famous camp meeting raspberry dessert and fried Oreos and Twinkies! The kitchen staff went above and beyond to keep everyone happy at meal time.

“... there was a thoughtful and reflective attitude shown by many of the campers, and a sense of unity.”

During the long weekend, there were a variety of recreational activities for people to enjoy. Swimming in the lake was very popular, especially when a fire truck was brought in to help with a water fight! Campers also had fun

A big part of every youth retreat is the chapel services, and this year they were conducted very similarly to youth camp services. Each service included well-known youth camp and Sunday school songs followed by a chance for



(Top) Campers enjoy the song service.
(Bottom) Many spend time in prayer.

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people to give their testimonies. One night, Mackenzie Ewers testified about when she received the baptism of the Holy Ghost at youth camp a few years ago. Marcus Luka also testified that he received his baptism at youth camp in 2019. On Sunday morning, Josh Friesen testified about how the Lord sanctified him at the retreat this year.

A unique feature of the chapel services this year was time for a group activity. During one service, the audience was split into small groups and raced to put about thirty different Bible events into chronological order. The teams grabbed their Bibles and went to work, and the staff mentioned afterward how impressed they were by the campers' Bible knowledge. Another activity was a boys vs. girls round of Bible charades, with staff acting out various Bible characters. The girls were very pleased with their victory over the boys!

Throughout the weekend, a theme among the sermons was that the Lord is able to keep a person even after he or she goes home from the youth retreat. On the first night, Erik Calhoun spoke about the effect of the pandemic, which caused many to feel isolated, anxious, or depressed. He reminded the group of the hope every Christian has to live in Heaven one day, and talked about

how Jesus is returning soon and each one must be ready for that day. Another message from Roth Mom encouraged everyone to place his or her trust in God, rather than in material things or devices of this world.

Saturday night was awards night, filled with entertaining games and prizes for those who had won tournaments over the past three days. The competitions included intense matches in a push-up contest, musical chairs, and rock-paper-scissors. A plate of brownies was even awarded to the cabin that collected the most garbage on litter patrol—the youngest girls' cabin! Due to a fire ban, there was no bonfire this year, but after the awards ceremonies, everyone enjoyed pizza and other snacks before heading to bed.

One more chapel service was held Sunday morning to conclude the retreat. At the end of the weekend, there were reports of at least two saved and one sanctified. One person commented there was a thoughtful and reflective attitude shown by many of the campers, and a sense of unity felt among the group, especially during the chapel services. The youth retreat proved to be a great opportunity for everyone to get away from their day-to-day routine and focus on the things of God. The campers and staff returned home tired, but spiritually refreshed and encouraged.



(top to bottom) Kailyn McKay gives her testimony; A firetruck joins the water fight; Campers sharing a laugh; The complete group.





Gallery **PICS**

photos from our events this month

(Clockwise from top left) Dave Stehlik and John Patan chat; Russell Mathews plays the vibraphone; Charlie Ivany prays; Sheila Ewers testifies; Ariah Piper plays the bassoon; Oliver Tønning grins at Grace Hinkle; Cheerful Bradley Musgrave; Chet King preaches; Julianne Luka sings.

➤ *Praise the Lord!*

Today at work, the Lord helped me take a stand. A coworker asked me to witness a signature, and notarize it, but it had already been signed. I knew it was a small thing, but I was really supposed to see it being signed. I said, "I'd be more comfortable if I could witness it. I could come another time so I could see it being signed." This created a bit of an awkward situation but she understood that I wanted to be honest. Even small things can seem hard but I'm thankful the Lord helps you.

— Savannah Lee

I want to thank God for something He did for me on March 1, 2020, the last day of our 2020 special meetings. A few months before then, I had a

"The Lord said, 'Are you going to serve Me, or are you going to turn?' I said, 'Lord, I'll serve You!'"

health episode, and the doctor said it was severe. That day, in 2020, the Lord was performing a miracle. During a special with organ accompaniment, I heard a calm, normal heartbeat over the speakers. The Lord let me know that that was my new repaired heartbeat. About two weeks after that, I was still feeling very awful, but I know that when God says something, He will do it. For some time, when I would go on my exercise bike, I wouldn't last two and a half minutes. But then two and a half minutes went to five minutes, then it went to fifteen, then to thirty, then it went to one hour. I thank God that He is so wonderful, that He does wonderful things, and the days of miracles are not over.

— Sam Ajayi

I've never really been sure what I wanted to do in terms of a career and God led me. I got an email on a job I

had never really thought about; it just popped up. Instantly I felt I should apply. Before I knew it, I had the job! I'll be starting any day now and I'm actually excited about it. I would never have thought to do it on my own; that came from God.

— Hunter McCarville

God has been faithful to keep me and He has shown me, "I have a plan for your life." Even now, things are kind of up in the air with school and I was praying for so long because I had no idea what I wanted to do. Last week I was sitting in church, listening to the testimonies and enjoying the service, and God was just there with me. He gave me a path to go on and He's been opening

doors amazingly. I'm so thankful for that answer to prayer because a weight lifted off my shoulders.

— Maya Nedelcu

I realized I was in a backslidden condition at the youth retreat. The Lord cornered me up on Sunday morning and He saved me. It was so powerful to feel that reconnection with God. I didn't want to be a hypocrite anymore. God did something wonderful for me: He gave me a second chance. Since then, I'm thankful that last Sunday He sanctified me. It was powerful. I was praying and I was kind of doubting He would do it at the time, but I just needed to let go of that and let Him do the work. I did and I'm very thankful He did that for me.

— Sam Asaya

I thank God for providing for me. I retired five years ago, but I got a call from the district asking if I wanted to take

a full time assignment. My first instinct was to say, "No thank you," because that

position was the position from which I had retired, thinking I couldn't do it with a clear conscience. But God told me what to tell them: If somebody else will do the paperwork, I'll do the teaching. They said, "Fine, somebody else will do the paperwork." They even gave me a paraeducator to work with me, and throughout the school year I was able to work full-time. When they went back to school in person, they allowed me to continue working from home. I'm so glad for all that the Lord has done for me. He's done everything beautifully in my life.

— Shade Ajayi

About ten days ago, the devil came in my mind and told me that I wasn't saved, I didn't have a testimony, and I wasn't a good mother. Immediately I said, "Lord, I need help!" and three Christian sisters called me and prayed with me. Then I got on my knees and I started to pray. As I was praying, the Lord said, "Are you going to serve Me, or are you going to turn?" I said, "Lord, I'll serve You!" Then I fell asleep, and all night long there was a song in my heart called "Til the Storm Passes By." I didn't really know that song. I called Cheryl Paulsen in the morning and said, "Do you know this song?" She said, "Yes, it's a beautiful song!" She sent me the words on my phone. I read it and tears came from my eyes since I knew the Lord took me through that storm. I praise the Lord with all my heart.

— Sandy Cripps

