

**Words of support and encouragement
from Potosi Pines Camp!**

**ROCK
YOUR YEAR!**



**POTOSI
PINES**

WISDOM FROM ROCKY



This summer has been strange for everyone, including the best camp cat ever! Rocky has noticed that he is not getting near as much attention as he's used to. He has noticed there have not been chances to beg for bites of dinner from the campers. It is enough to make the best camp cat sad, but not our Rocky. He has made the most of these quiet days. He has found time to nap in the AC and play at night. It's not the usual summer fun, but he's making the best of things and trying to accept what can't be changed. It's a good reminder for all of us. Joy is out there, even in this strange summer. We need to train our minds and our eyes to see it in every little detail we can. Thanks for the reminder Rocky!



OH CAMP POTOSI! -BY JULIE

I was singing "Oh Camp Potosi" the other day. I get to sing it most summers, usually with a rowdy bunch. Even those who don't know the words join in the jazz hands for the finale. My favorite time to sing it is at the end of camp — everyone wearing their tie dyed camp shirts and belting it out! For me, that's community.

You might think that the song is about a place. And it is. But, the words really speak about what makes Camp Potosi great. It's the people: the campers, counselors, staff, deans. Campfires without counselors singing and putting on silly skits wouldn't be much fun. And cabins that aren't filled with campers playing games, and finding creative ways to be FOB (flat on bunk) would be pretty boring. We wouldn't have archery and pizza eggs without staff. And, without camp deans, well, we wouldn't even know where we were supposed to be. It's the people that make it great! I know that many of you are missing other places that you love: church, school, favorite vacation spots. As much as we love all of these places, it's important to remember that it's the people that we share those spaces with that make them special. So, as you head back to school, it may not mean heading back to the physical place that you call school. It may mean heading to your kitchen table, living room, backyard, or wherever your chrome books take you.

You may not walk your school hallways but you will still be with people who make your school special. So when you go back to school (whether virtual, in-person, or a little of both), take a moment to thank those teachers who go the extra mile for you. Be sure to talk to the other kids who probably have many of the same worries you do. Be extra kind to your parents who are learning new ways to make it all happen. Even if you aren't going to the PLACE that you are used to going, I know that God has put the PEOPLE in your lives to help make sure that you have a great year. I also know that God is counting on YOU to help make it a great for your teachers and classmates. God made you special so you can make others feel special too. School isn't about the desks, bulletin boards, or building. School is all about the PEOPLE. School is about YOU! So go be the best YOU you can be and I'm sure you will have a great school year. You got this!

PRAY: Dear God. Thank you for the people that you have put in my life to help me through this school year. Amen.



ADVICE FOR CAMPERS

(THAT ALSO WORKS FOR SCHOOL)

From Amy M: Camp is never quite the same as the last time you were there. Take it all in and find the blessings in what's different.

From Dennis: Bring your courage and sense of adventure to camp. Keep a positive attitude and always give any activity you do your all. Contrary to what the world outside of camp says, you are not being judged. We love you best for being you! Fearless and wonderfully made in the image of God!

From Hailey: Be open to new ideas and making friends!! I've made some of my best friends up at camp, and it was the best decision I've ever made!!

From Jill: Jump in, be there 110% and embrace it all.

From Julie: Every year is a new year. You won't have the exact same experience that you did last time because the campers and staff won't be the exact same. For that matter, you won't even be the same camper that you were the year before. Find new campers and help show them the ropes. We need your leadership at camp.

From Chris: Have fun and enjoy the beauty around you.

From Amy M.: Try something new while you're at camp. Start up a conversation with someone you don't know yet. Pat yourself on the back and say "thank you" to God when you do something brand new - you are one of God's beautiful creations - He knew you could do it!

From Dennis: Be kind, Befriend others and help them to overcome their fears and have a great experience. You just might make a friend for a lifetime.

GOD IS ALWAYS THERE! -BY DINA



Some mornings I wake up and can't believe that we are in the middle of a pandemic! How can this be real?! Who would have guessed that such a thing could happen?! I look forward to the time when things feel more normal. Starting the school year virtually is not the same as going to school in person. I know that this is hard for many of you. We know that virtual school is temporary, and that sooner or later, schools will be able to safely open. God will get us through this! A few years ago, a friend of mine left the following scripture verse on my desk at work. I find myself turning to it over and over when things are challenging in my world.

"The Lord your God will personally go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you." Deuteronomy 31:6

This scripture is very comforting to me for two reasons. One, I love visualizing that God is walking ahead of me and making sure that my path is safe. Isn't this wonderful? This makes me feel so loved and secure. Second, the scripture reminds me that God is always with me - he will never abandon me. When things are hard, such as during the Covid pandemic, remember that God is with us, clearing a safe path, and always standing alongside us.

Dear Lord, Remind us that you are always with us and that you promise never to leave us. Give us courage and strength to face whatever our challenges might be, knowing that we can trust in you to safely guide us. Amen

YOU'VE BEEN CHALLENGED! -BY CAT



"Instead, be generous and lend them whatever they need."

Deuteronomy 15:8 (NLT)

When you read this scripture, you might think to yourself, "But I don't have much money so how can I lend what I don't have?" True, as a child or youth you're probably not earning lots of money, but I'd guess you do have a variety of gifts and talents that you can share. Maybe you are naturally outgoing and there's a new student that you can befriend? Maybe you have the gift of playfulness and you can bring some light-hearted fun to your home or classroom? Maybe you are a talented ballplayer and you can coach a friend to improve their game? It really could be anything—any gift or talent and to be sure, God calls you to share those talents generously as a way of glorifying God and living a life of servanthood. Your challenge, should you choose to accept it? Make a list of the gifts or talents you possess and then identify ways you can use them this week to be in service to others. Whatever you choose to share or do, you're encouraged to do it with a fun and loving heart. I can almost guarantee that the more you share yourself generously the more you'll grow in faith and the more you'll want to share.

Pray: Thank you, God for the gifts you've given to me. Guide me in offering those gifts to others with a willing heart. Amen



Ephesians 3:16 -18

"I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is."

A SPIRIT OF POWER! -BY LYDIA



2 Timothy 1:7 "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

Have you ever read scripture from 1st or 2nd Timothy? There is so much to learn and pray about from these books. Timothy began putting his faith into action at a very young age - and you can too! This scripture comes from 2nd Timothy, which is really a letter from Paul. In the first chapter, Paul thanks God for the faith that Timothy's mother and grandmother had, which Paul says lives in Timothy as well. Paul then reminds Timothy to use the gifts that God gave him to teach others about God's love. We all have special gifts from God. Paul reminds Timothy (and us) that God gave us those gifts for a reason. God did not put fear in our hearts. God made you with a heart full of love, and that is a very powerful thing. When you use your gifts to lift others up, to show others God's love, to do what you know is right, to speak truth and to seek justice for all of God's children - YOU are very powerful. God is with you, and has given you a spirit of power and of love and of a sound mind, so that you can bravely share your gifts with the world.

Dear God, thank you for loving me. I pray that I can bravely share that love with the world through the gifts that you've given me. Please help me remember that I am wonderfully and uniquely made by you, and that I can do great things.

BETTER TOGETHER!

-BY AMY B.



Psalm 15- "GOD, who gets invited to dinner at your place? How do we get on your guest list? Walk straight, act right, tell the truth. Don't hurt your friend, don't blame your neighbor; despise the despicable. Keep your word even when it costs you, make an honest living, never take a bribe. You'll never get blacklisted if you live like this." The Message Translation.

How simple. Our scripture tells us, in basic language, how we should move forward in our lives and do right by God, right to ourselves and to others. Not stuffy, not fluffy, and not only for the scholars to interpret. However, life can get complicated from so many things along our journey. Sometimes we may say something that hurts another's feelings or pass along the blame for something we should honestly take credit for and tell the truth. I know, I'm not perfect either. While not at work, I find myself not living the things I believe in - watching far too much television and my house isn't ready for company - thus my time should be spent more righteously. I will say, however, that I truly enjoy preparing and participating in my church's weekly Zoom Bible Study and our online Worship. As you can see, there is some tweaking to do with my time, but through my faith community, I feel God's presence as we share and explore in God's word. It helps me to walk a bit straighter and act better.

Dear Lord, as I move ahead, day by day, please help me to make good choices. Continue to work in me and through me as I know there truly is room for me on your guest list. In your name I pray, Amen.

HOW IMPORTANT IS SPITTING ANYWAY? -BY TRACEY

After almost 9 long months my beloved baseball is finally back!!! The new 2020 version is different. There are no fans, they are giving elbow bumps rather than high fives and there is NO spitting- which is a very big deal in baseball. it's weird. However, weird baseball is so much better than NO baseball! All these changes help to keep everyone safe- they are important. When we get to start camp again, it too is going to be weird. There will be new rules and things that once were important parts will not be the same. However, weird camp is going to be so much better than no camp. No camp is the worst! I know we will find new ways to do things. We will be creative and resourceful and learn- a new era will begin! We WILL make it work to keep everyone safe. The key is going to be our flexibility, creativity to find new ways and a positive attitude that lets us all see the new thing God is doing.

As you learn to navigate all the changes of 2020 and beyond remember to: Be flexible- just because it's different does not mean it's bad. Be creative- we can find new ways to do things that can be fun and wonderful, too! Be positive - changes can be good and we can see God in it! Maybe we'll find spitting is not all that important after all!!
Go Angels!

2 Corinthians 4:16-17 (Msg)

"So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace. These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us."



Summer Camp

O	P	R	A	Y	E	R	C	A	M	P	E	R	S
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M	S	E	S	D	I	R	U	C	M	Y	M	F	Y
A	T	E	I	R	K	E	Y	Y	E	A	G	V	E

- ROCKY
- FRIENDS
- HIKE
- STARS
- SKITS
- TIE DYE
- GAMES
- ARCHERY
- WATER BOTTLE
- BIBLE
- PRAYER
- GOD
- LOVE
- LEADERS
- COMMUNITY
- FUN
- ADVENTURE
- CAMPERS
- DANCE
- PLAY



BUBBLE GOALS! -BY PASTOR DAN

Potosi Program Goal #1: We will work to ensure campers have fun, feel comfortable being who God created them to be and encouraged to try something new.

In order to keep safe during the Covid Pandemic, we spend a lot of time at home. Some call home your safety bubble. A place to keep safe and protected. I like bubbles. They bring a smile to my face. We need to smile more, especially during Covid. This is what God says . . .A cheerful heart brings a smile to your face; a sad heart makes it hard to get through the day. (Proverbs 15:13) No matter your age, bubbles are fun. Bubbles bring smiles. Even if you are alone, bubbles make you smile and laugh. It is even more amazing when playing with bubbles with someone else. It is fun to blow them and watch them float up and down. Cling together. Land gently in your hand. Pop them! When you are keeping safe in your bubble home - have fun and play - OFTEN!

Dear God, thanks for the gifts of fun, joy, and smiles!



Potosi Program Goal #2: We will work to create Christian community where all feel loved by God and safe to be who God created them to be.

We think of bubbles as fun and playful. We can also think of a bubble as a place to be safe. Home can be a safe bubble. It is where we are spending a lot of time these days. In our home bubble, we can be protected. Sometimes, even in our home bubble, we need a space of our own - like a bubble in a bubble. I know I need that space when I am not feeling patient with others - when I feel tired - when I feel mad. For me, it is an easy chair in my bedroom where I can be alone and quiet...to pray and think and sometimes read. When I was much younger, I would make a tent with a sheet pulled over chairs or a table. The tent was like a bubble where I would go to get away and calm down and have time with myself. I also discovered that in my bubble tent, I could pray and remember that God is with me. I think Psalm 23 is one of the most favorite verses of the Bible because it reminds us that God is with us and we can trust God. You, Lord, are my shepherd. I will never be in need. You let me rest in fields of green grass. You lead me to streams of peaceful water, and you refresh my life. You are true to your name, and you lead me along the right paths. I may walk through valleys as dark as death, but I won't be afraid. (CEV)

Dear God, thank you for your friendship and love.



BUBBLE GOALS!

-BY DAN

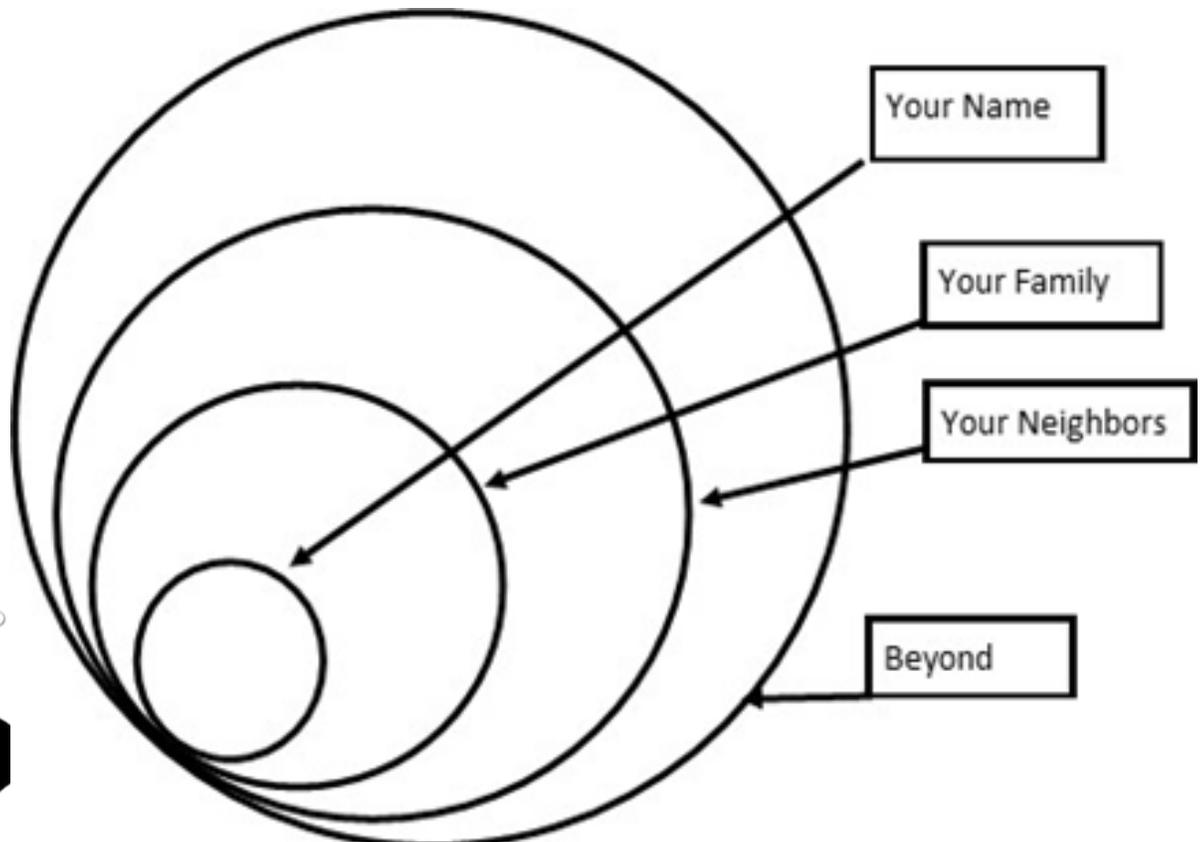


Potosi Program Goal #3: We will work to build confidence and leadership skills in all who participate in our programs.

ACTS 1:8 -- You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

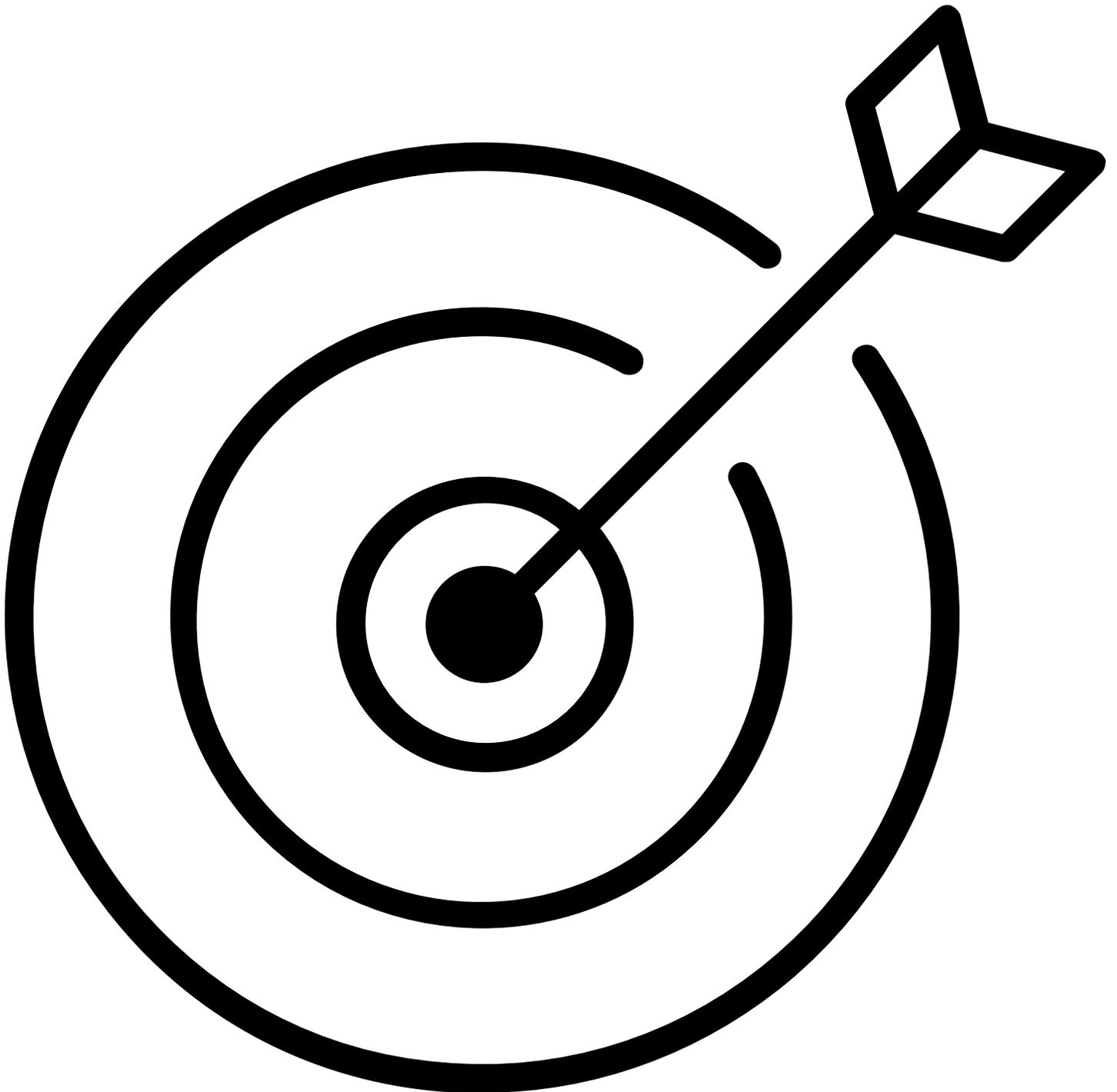
There is so much beauty at Potosi Pines Camp - one of the most awesome is the view of the stars in the night sky. When I was much younger and I would lay on my back in the yard of our home and look up at the stars, the world and universe seemed so big. I was overwhelmed by the bigness of everything and I felt so small.

In Acts 1:8, Jesus tells me that I will be his witness to the ends of the earth; it feels so big and impossible. Many challenges seem too big and sometimes impossible to manage. How can I possibly be Jesus' witness to the ends of the earth when I can hardly leave my home during the Covid Pandemic? Do I just give up and not even try? In this verse, Jesus lets us know that when something seems too big to handle -- start at the beginning and take one small step. Jerusalem was the home bubble for the people and so before they would get to the whole world, they were to begin sharing Jesus at home. I can do that. You can do that. Begin by showing love and care and kindness to those in your home bubble, then to your neighbors, then to the person in the grocery store, then...



STAY ON TARGET!

Write 3 goals that you have for this school year one on each of the rings of the target. Having your goals written down will help to keep you on track.



THE NITTY-GRITTY OF IT!

-BY JULIE

2 Corinthians 4:8-9

"We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed."

The theme of winter camp in 2020 was "RESILIENT". Some synonyms for resilient are: springing back, rebounding, returning to the original form after being bent. I agree with spring back and rebound, but I'm not so sure about returning to our original form. I don't think God grows us through challenging times just for us to return to the same people we were. What would be the point of that? Being resilient is being willing to change. As the saying goes- No grit, no pearl. The process of change is not tidy. It is messy, gritty, and uncomfortable. When an oyster gets grit inside it, it will agitate the environment, it will eventually become a pearl. Diamonds are formed by high pressure and heat. The same is true for us. I believe that you can be resilient and embrace the change that God has in store for your life. To help you, I have a list of TEN reminders to do to keep pushing yourself:

- 1- Focus on how far you've come. Celebrate your small victories and accomplishments.
- 2- Run your OWN race. Don't compare your progress to anyone. God made you special and unique.
- 3- Be patient. Not just with others but with YOURSELF.
- 4- Focus on what you CAN control. You can't control everything; but you can control your responds.

5- Ask for help. We are all learning. Be that person that others can ask for help too.

6- Learn from your mistakes. No-one is perfect. The important part is to learn.

7- Don't regret not trying. The regret of not trying is always greater than the regret of trying and failing. Give it a shot!

8- Let the people who love you support you. Tell the people who love you how they can be a support.

9- Keep getting back up. When you get knocked down, get back up and keep getting up!

10- Always ask WHY? If you remember WHY you decided to do it, it will help you keep going.

PRAY: Dear Lord, Thank you for making me exactly how I am supposed to be. Help me remember that you are ALWAYS in my life, even when I make mistakes and struggle. Thank you for the diamonds and pearls that you have in store for me at the end of each struggle. Amen.



FROM FERAL TO ROCK-STAR!

-BY PASTOR KATHLEEN

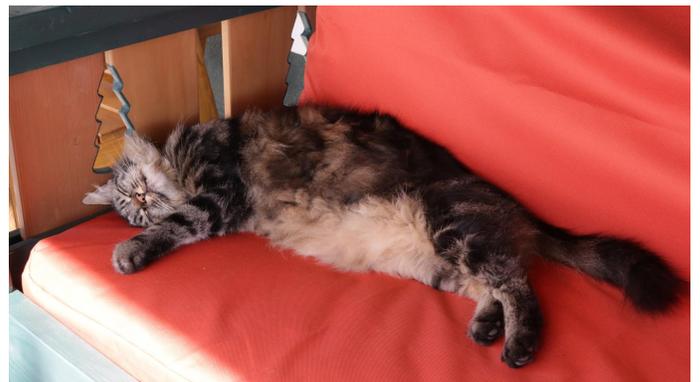
"No longer will anyone call you Rejected, and your land will no more be called Ruined ...you will be called My Delight ... will be called by new names: Holy People, God-Redeemed, Sought-Out, Not-Forsaken." — Isaiah 62: 4, 12

Have you had someone call you a name that you didn't like? Name calling by persons at school, by our friends or on social media is a form of bullying. It never feels good. You may not know this, but Rocky, our favorite camp cat, knows the pain of name calling. Sadly, Rocky was bullied. Rocky was once called "feral" which means wild, brutal, fierce, untamed, unfriendly. That certainly doesn't sound like the Rocky we all love! The good news for Rocky and for you and me is that God is the name changing business! God changed Abram to Abraham, Sarai to Sarah, Saul to Paul, Simon to Peter, and more. Each time God changes someone's name, they also get a new identity! Their new name gives us clues as to what God has done ... what God is doing ... and what God will do in their lives. For our favorite camp cat, he went from Feral to Rocky to Rockstar! "Camp Cat Extraordinaire"; "Greeter of all campers and counselors"; "Defender of Potosi against any critters bringing trouble"; "Comforter of the homesick"; "Friend to all"; "Giver of Good Wishes on Birthday/Christmas cards"; "Beggar of Bites of Dinner"; "Best Potosi Mascot Ever". That's the Rocky we know! What grand title would you add for Rocky?



In the song, "You Say" by Lauren Daigle, the chorus is: "You say I am loved when I can't feel a thing. You say I am strong when I think I am weak. And You say I am held when I am falling short. And when I don't belong, oh, You say I am Yours. And I believe, oh, I believe what you say of me. I believe." Loved. Strong. Held. Yours. This is what God says about you! Even if a bully calls us a name, you can believe what God says about you. What changed for Rocky can change for us too! Rocky found a special place and found that he had an important job to do. Most importantly, Rocky found people who love and care for him. (And found God's love too!) Because God loves you, remember what God says about you. It is a life changer!

Prayer — God, help me remember what you say about me, especially that I am loved by you. Amen.



Hey there, Rocky! You're a real Cool Cat!!
You can be as cool as Rocky!



Write some more positive qualities of Rocky that you'd like to have.
Rocky is: Kind, friendly, calm....

PRAYER VS FEAR!

-BY HEATHER

Isaiah 41:10 Do not FEAR for I am with you, do not be AFRAID, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

What a great promise. Although, it's not easy to remember these words when going through a tough time or when worrying. I remember the nights before I started a new school year. I had so many different thoughts and emotions in my head that I hardly slept at all. This year is different from any other. Your worries are valid but please know that, not only is God on your side but there are many adults praying for you as well. Give your worries and fears to God. God promises to give us the strength to deal with our problems. "Prayer is powerful, prayer is important and prayer works."

Dear Creator of heaven and earth,
Please wrap your loving arms around your child who is reading this right now. Let them feel your presence and remember they are a beloved, precious child of yours, created in your image, therefore beautiful. Thank you for loving us. Amen



A PRINCESS AND A PROPHET!

-BY DIOR

2020 has been a year full of big changes, unknown futures, and lots of fear for us all. It can easily become overwhelming. One of the mantras I've found most helpful in pushing past feeling overwhelmed is "do the next right thing" from the Disney animated movie Frozen II. Don't worry- I will not spoil it for you. The basic premise is the Frozen gang venture into a mysterious forest where they have to face their biggest fears. For Anna, that is being abandoned. She finds herself scared, alone, and hopeless on the floor of a dark cave. She does not know how she will live without her friends, but she knows it begins with doing the next right thing. She is too overwhelmed to think about the big picture, but, with shaky legs, she manages to stand. She begins to slowly walk, one step at a time. Eventually she makes it out of the cave and into the daylight. Anna, like all the best heroes, goes on to save the day, but she is only able to do so because she pulled herself out of the darkness by doing the best she could in the moment. The Bible gives us another good example of how to do the next right thing. 1 Kings Chapter 19 tells the story of the prophet Elijah, who was representing God in a foreign country. He got himself in trouble and had to flee the town he was in. Elijah escaped to the desert, but knew people were trying to find him and hurt him. Elijah did not know how he would continue. Feeling lost and hopeless, he cried out to God before falling asleep under a bush. God sent an angel to give Elijah food and water. The angel woke Elijah up and instructed him to eat.

Elijah did not argue with the angel or ask the angel how to solve all his problems. He simply ate and got more rest. When he was physically stronger, Elijah was able to travel to a cave where he heard God speak to him. God gave Elijah instructions and Elijah followed them. He was able to continue because instead of wallowing in the overwhelming stress and fear of figuring out how to survive, he did what he need to do to survive that moment and then handled the next. God was with him, guiding him in what to do next. Elijah is considered to be one of the greatest prophets and he was successful because he listened to God and did the next right thing.

You will face times this school year where you feel overwhelmed and do not know what to do. When that happens, breathe, and remember Anna's words of wisdom to do the next right thing. Elijah gives us good examples of where to start. Most of my problems seem less daunting after a nap and a snack. Like Elijah, God will always be with you to guide you and sit with you in the difficult things. Make the choice. Hear God's voice. Do the next right thing.

God, when I am scared, help me to feel your presence, hear your guidance, and remember that I am strong enough to do the next right thing. Amen.



YOU CHOOSE!

-BY BECKY

Various internet sources estimate that a person makes about 35,000 remotely conscious decisions each day! Can you imagine? That seems like a lot of pressure to me. I am not good at decision making. When I was a kid it seemed like every decision I made it was the wrong one. Now that I have a son of my own I worry constantly that he will make poor decisions. As a teenager you are faced with such important decisions, such as who are your friends, what to do about when people make poor decisions around you. Even the simple decisions in middle and high school can have an impact on your life. In what social group do you want to be, what clothes do you wear (we all know that is a big one), and how you talk to people. Remember Matthew 6:33 it says "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. " God will lead you on the right path" and in the crazy world of being a teenager it is good to know God is on your side. James 1:5 says "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." Remember to seek God first and he will give generously. Good luck my friends, I pray that you all have an amazing school year, whatever that may look like, and I pray that you MAKE GOOD CHOICE! God bless.



Affirmations for back to school

THE BEST I CAN DO IS MY BEST.

**IT IS ONLY HUMAN TO FEEL NERVOUS ABOUT
TRYING SOMETHING NEW.**

**I WILL GIVE MYSELF THE SAME GRACE I GIVE
OTHERS.**

**I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO CONTROL THIS
SITUATION, BUT I HAVE CONTROL OVER MY
ATTITUDE.**

I CAN DO DIFFICULT THINGS.

**I DON'T HAVE TO HAVE IT ALL FIGURED OUT
TO MOVE FORWARD.**

MUSINGS FROM THE PORCH! -BY PASTOR DAN

"And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day." (Genesis 1:31).

I love porches. The Potosi Pines Camp porch is one of my most favorite - it is of place to welcome, reflect, and be inspired! From the porch, friends are welcomed to the Potosi home. It is a place to play and talk with friends. Sometimes, maybe early in the morning, the Potosi porch is an awesome place to sit for a quiet time. A time to look across the way at the rugged ridges of Mount Potosi and reflect on God's might. A time to watch the sunrise and thank God for a new day. We don't have a porch on our home, but sitting in the rocker on our back patio is a place of beauty. On our patio, I watch the hummingbirds hover around the Yellow Bell bush and the wind blow through the trees. It reminds me that God is all around me and just like the birds are cared for, God takes care of my needs, too. I bet you have a place, like a porch, where you can see God's beauty, too.

Dear God, thank you for each new day and creating me beautiful.



BE THE MOON!

-BY DENNIS

Mathew 5:16 "...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

I learned this verse last year during Jr. High mission week and it holds a very special meaning to me. I often feel the joy of sharing these words with others throughout my week especially those who do not know Jesus. When I think of light I often think about the sun and sometimes I think about shooting stars, but seldom do I think about the moon as a source of light. But it is. If you have ever been in camp on a full moon night, you know how bright it can be!

Just like the moon reflects the sun's light we reflect our Father's light out into the darkness to help others find their way to Him. Are we always a bright full moon? No, but no matter our circumstances we can always reflect some sort of light and love into the darkness by being a half moon, a quarter moon, a sliver of the moon or the moon peeking through the clouds.

Prayer: Jesus, please help us to be more like you and help us reflect our Father's light in every circumstance we find ourselves. Lord give us the courage to be light especially the difficult ones. Amen.

Chris Tomlin- Be the Moon
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PrIjuaEcS1k>



NO SHARP-TONGUED SARCASM! -BY TRACEY

As you encounter others online, on social media, at the dining room table or out and about. Remember, you are encountering someone who has experienced loss. It could be the loss of a job, a friend or family member, loss of a vacation, loss of freedom, loss of safety and the list goes on and on....

You KNOW exactly what this feels like. You understand it all too well. Let that soften the way you deal with those you encounter, maybe just a little.
No one wanted to be here.
No one saw this coming.
No one could have been prepared for what this year would look like.
And no one is exempt from the loss.

Let's all cut each other some slack. Let's be gentle with each other and remember we are all hurting, grieving, feeling lost and trying to make sense of it all. Maybe with just a little gentleness and we can help each other navigate this strange time a little more easily.

Let's pray this- God, we are all struggling. This has been such a strange time and difficult time. Help me to be more understanding and patient. Lord, help me to be a blessing.

1 Peter 3: 8-12 (msg)

"Summing up: Be agreeable, be sympathetic, be loving, be compassionate, be humble. That goes for all of you, no exceptions. No retaliation. No sharp-tongued sarcasm. Instead, bless—that's your job, to bless. You'll be a blessing and also get a blessing. Whoever wants to embrace life and see the day fill up with good, Here's what you do: Say nothing evil or hurtful; Snub evil and cultivate good; run after peace for all you're worth. God looks on all this with approval, listening and responding well to what he's asked; But he turns his back on those who do evil things."





Psalm 121

"I look up to the mountains; does my strength come from mountains?
No, my strength come from God, who made heaven and earth and mountains.
He won't let you stumble, your Guardian God won't fall asleep. Not on your life!

Israel's Guardian will never doze or sleep.

God's your Guardian, right at your side to protect you, shielding you from
sunstroke, sheltering you from moon-stroke.

God guards your from every evil, he guards your life. He guards you when you
leave and when you return, he guards you now, he guards you always."