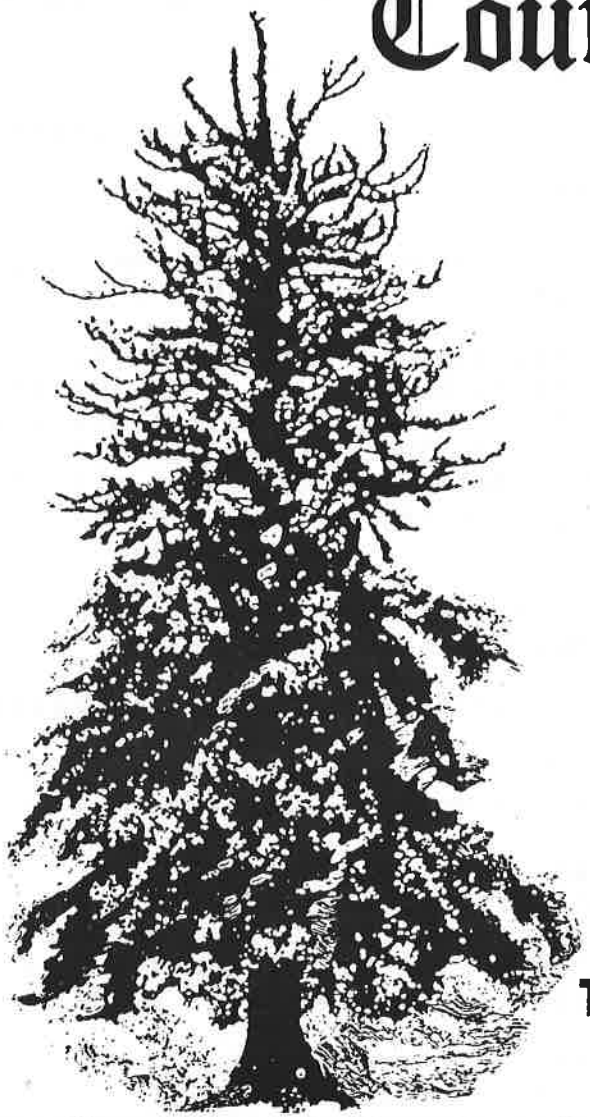
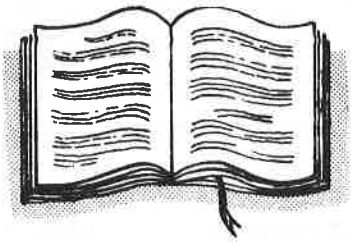
The Christian Courier



SPECIAL EDITION

BIG SPRUCE CAMP MEETING

HELD JULY 2-8
1989



SPONSORED BY

The Church of Christ

CEDAREDGE, COLORADO

ABOUT THE COVER

The picture on the cover is the likeness of the "Big Spruce" after which the camp is named. Located near the place of worship the tree sits on the bank of a small creek. Closely upstream is a small footbridge. Just below the tree is a small hole of water in which baptisms are performed. Through the years, we have been priviledged to witness many new converts being baptized into their Lord.)five in 1989)

Psa 1: 3 "--like a tree planted by the rivers of water-"

BIG SPRUCE '89

This year, there were 23 congregations represented. 127 individuals attended, as follows:

TEXAS: Lorenzo 26, Austin 1, Newcastle 1, Duncanville 1.
CALIF: Indian Springs 5, Sacramento 6, San Pablo 1, Waterford 1.COLO: Cedaredge 23, Colo. Spr'gs 4. GEORGIA: Temple 5
ARIZ: Yuma 2, Payson 9. NEW MEX: Wh. Sands 4, Flora Vista 5.
WASH: Seattle 13, P't Orchard 5, Selah 3. IND: Valparaiso 1.
OKLA: Varon 5, Stilwell 4, Loco 2, Okla. City 1.
MOST ATTENDED: Lorenzo, kTexas.
YOUNGEST: Levi Pruitt, 5 W'ks, son of the Gary Pruitts.
OLDEST: 74 years (prefers to remain anonymous)
1990 CAMP DATE: June 30-July 8. PLAN NOW TO BE THERE!!!

Camp is a time shared with loved ones so dear,
Coming for a week together the gospel to hear.

Everyday, singing praises unto his great name,
Exclaiming we are his and are not ashamed.

Being spiritually uplifted by fellowship sweet,
Having one added to Christ, a joy that can't be beat.

But remembering always He died for our sins,
And through Jesus Christ the victory we'll win.

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The following is an accumulation of notes and letters written by some of the people attendent at the "Big Spruce" annual camp-meeting, July 2-9, 1989. These are representative of the sentiments of those in attendance and, we feel, worthy of consideration by the entire brotherhood. We therefore submit the following hoping that others will be inspired to attend next year and the years following.

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This is mythird year at Delta and I have met new people. I missed those of you who didn't get to come. Lord willing, you will be able to come next year. (I missed you, Cedra.)

We had a wonderful time singing and visiting, but most of all we heard some wonderful lessons. We had four baptisms, one rebaptized, and several came foreward for prayers. I know God is happy and angels are rejoicing in heaven. The camp is a good work, as we can see by this.

I want to thank those of you who put the camp on each year. You all do a wonderful job and get little praise, but you will get your reward in the end. Also, "thank yous" to the people and congregations who donated money. If it were not for you, we wouldn't even be able to have this wonderful reunion with our Christian friends. I really hope to see you all here next year. When you leave here you feel like a burden has been lifted from you, and that you can go on praising the Lord. You also know you're not alone and that there are other Christians to help you. To those of you who haven't heard, I have moved to Payson, Arizona. My address is, Threasa McKinney, P O Box 865, Payson, Arizona, 85547. I give my permission to anyone of you who would like to write to me to go right ahead!!!

I'm going back to Washington after camp to take my state exam for cosmatology; then back to Payson, Lord willing. Please pray for me during my journey. I also want to say it was really nice to have my parents come and stay with me in Arizona for a couple of days. It's hard to move away from your family, especially when you move out of state. (Huh, Suzie?) I'm going to miss you, Tim. Lord willing, I will see you again soon. "1-4-3"

In Christian love, Threasa McKinney

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I liked playing volleyball. I liked working for stars for my star chart. I liked field day. I liked swinging on the swings. I liked the water-balloon toss. I liked making friends. I liked singing.

Scott Staley, age 6. Seattle, Washington

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Family Reunion

The Colorado camp meeting has come and gone. What a wonderful feeling to have participated in this event. The thought has come to my mind; this is like a family reunion! We all know the joy of a family get-together, seeing again our loved ones we've not seen for some time, and getting acquainted with new ones.

As much as we love our earthly family, we know this is temporary. Our spiritual family is forever. Hope to see you at the 1990 "Family Reunion".

In Christian love, Verda Nelson, Yuma, Arizona.

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No matter what the cost or distance, you owe it to yourselves and your families to attend the camp meeting. We all need the support and love of our fellow Christians and coming to the camp meeting is the best way to get it from old friends and new.

This camp is an experience you'll never forget, so make your plans now to attend next year. You'll not regret it!

L Boling, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

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This year's camp meeting was one of the funnest camps we have ever had. We all participated in many activities, but the funniest incident was trying to locate the night-playing radio. The dorm Mom and Pop spent three nights trying to find the radio that was playing in the teen dorm,

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when all the time it was THEIR clock radio, under THEIR bed in THEIR dorm! (Could this be a dorm-mouse? Edit)

ahem.

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Dear Brethren:

Camp is definitely a spiritually uplifting experience. In my own words it is a small portion of the beloved fellowship we shall experience in the Holy City.

Brian J Ross, Baron congregation, Baron, Oklahoma

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This year at camp was probably the best year yet because of all the activities we did and all the people that showed up.

I think the best thing was all the people that supported the young kids and helped them become members in the Church.

Teresa Wilkerson, Cedaredge, Colorado.

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Camp has really been enjoyable. I try to come back on an annual basis because my spirit really gets charged every time I do. Each year I meet new Christians and renew my joy in getting together with old Christian friends once again. I really recommend it for others.

Ellis Forsman, Seattle, Washington

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Dear Brethren and Sisters in Christ:

This is my first time at church camp at Cedaredge. I really enjoyed my stay at the camp.

I took my grand-daughter, Monica Gaitos, and she came foreward and was baptized on the 5th of July. We both really enjoyed meeting new brothers and sisters from other congregations around the United States. We enjoyed the services each evening and the great fellowship and singing.

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Everyone was great and accepted my grand-daughter and I with open arms.

If the Good Lord is willing, we will be back next year. May the Good Lord bless and watch over everyone in Christ.

Yours in Christian love, Brother John D Usrey and Sis. Monica D Gaitos, age ten, (almost), Sacramento, California

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This was the first time I've ever been to the Cedaredge camp meeting and I must say I really enjoyed myself! It has been a great help and I was spiritually uplifted! I love and hope to see everyone next year, Lord willing.

In Christian love, Cheryl D Warford, Baron, Oklahoma

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I cannot think of any place I'd rather be, personally, than right here at the Big Spruce church camp. For one week ofthe year, I can forget the "daily grind", the worries, and problems of day-to-day life, and just have a good time! Even working in the kitchen is a "good time" if combined with lots of loving Christian fellowship. Seeing so many loved ones I'd seldom, if ever, get a chance to see otherwise,seeing my children form bonds with other children of Christian homes fromfar away, worshipping, discussing, and singing together with so many brothers and sisters gathered together in one place is always a thrill. There's the beautiful little creek where the baptisms take place and the good food (this year's was delicious). Of course, there's the fun and games. Who could forget the bubblegum blowing contest? or the barnyard game?

How was the camp this year? If you haven't tried it---you'll never know, will you?

Patricia Herbert, Gig Harbour, Washington

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It is so hard to put into words the joy of being with fellow-Christians from all over the country for a whole

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week. It is wonderful, thrilling, and so uplifting.

There were more kids here this year than I can ever remember. Kids of all ages. I think they all had a great time! There were a lot of visible results and I'm convinced that not one person there could say they were not strengthened from just being there.

Earlene Forsman, Lorenzo, Texas

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Getting strength through fellowship and getting to know our brothers and sisters in Christ is one of the best feelings someone can have, and this year at Big Spruce was exactly that. I learned a lot and had a lot of great experiences.

I strongly encourage everyone to at least try to come to the camp meeting. Through prayers maybe you can come and experience the same feeling that everyone receives from this camp.

Thanks to all my friends who helped in the success of my trip.

In Christian love, Angela Ross, Baron Oklahoma

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To all the beloved:

This is the last day of a fantastic week of fellowship. We've shared laughter, tears, songs, study, chores, games, and much more. We've been a part of many asking for prayers and the addition of 5 precious souls to the Body of Christ. The worth of this alone cannot be measured in miles driven, time or money spent, or the effort put forth.

This has been a time of spiritual growth and love shared for everyone of all ages, from gray heads to babies. We have all participated and been drawn closer to each other.

The camp ran smoothly in all respects which also gave everyone at least some opportunity to relax.

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Our love and prayers for all of you until next year!
Lynell Forsman, Seattle, Washington

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Our beloved Brothers and Sisters:

After finally being able to go to the camp meeting at Delta, we feel a need to encourage all to attend. We have five new brothers and sisters in Christ. Sonny Chadwick, Monica Gaitos, Amanda Goodwin, Chris Cushing, and Brandon Howe were baptized. Many came foreward for prayers for many reasons.

There was so much love shown. Suzie was sick all week and everyone was so very helpful. So many people helped us in so many different ways. We appreciate each one. We love each one.

Lord willing, we'll be back. Ya'll come too.
Love, Terry and Suzie Warford

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Delta '89 was just the BEST. So many friends and so many people who really, really care. There were so many fun times, times that will be "NEVER FORGOTTEN". If you have not been to Delta, I can just say that you really are missing out on a lot!!

"Angie", don't rock the boat! ha ha Row, row, row your boat, gently down the stream. Next year we will bring our "noise" makers! Oh, Angie--you owe me a muffler! Ha Ha

Delta is a week of good fun and memories. I love each and every one of you! I wiill miss all SO much!

In Christian love, Shawna McKinney, Selah, Washington
P.S,2 John 12: 13

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Another super camp! The Lord has enriched the lives of all who were here. I have never been a part of such a large group who were totally committed to uplifting Christ and showing love to and fellowship to each other.

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God bless you all. Love, Jerry McCay, Lorenzo, Texas

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I want more people at the camp meeting. I had a lot of fun and I would like others to have fun too. I can play horseshoes and swing. I really enjoyed it here.

Mark Staley, age 6, Seattle, Washington

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I encourage all you Christians and non-Christians out there to come to the Big Spruce camp next summer because there are plenty of activities and new Christian friends!

See you next summer, Erica Forsman, Lorenzo, Texas

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Hi, this is Trey Barker. I loved camp but there is only one tiny problem. Some of the games on field day were dangerous.

I really enjoyed camp this year because I met a girl named Misty Wilkerson. We have a lot in common. Our relationship is going to be hard because I live in Texas and she lives in Colorado. She is real pretty and nice. Other than that, I had a GREAT, WONDERFUL, and MARVELOUS time. I wish you would keep it the same.

Trey Barker, Lorenzo, Texas

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Hi, my name is Aaron Logan. I met a lot of new friends. I liked the activities and the awards. I also liked the young men's services. I liked their food and ice cream.

The only bad thing was the showers and it was too hot. Maybe next year it will rain.

Love, Aaron Logan, age 10, Stockton, California

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Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The Delta camp meeting this year is and was a very spiritually uplifting experience for Felica and me. There were a lot of activities for the children. The evening services, young men's services, and the singing were enjoyable and beneficial to all those who participated.

Next year, Lord willing, we hope and pray that we will be able to return to the Delta camp meeting and see the same faces that we saw this year and, hopefully, see new faces.

In 2 Cor 6: 14 we are told that we should fellowship with other people of righteousness. "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" Together, as Christians, we can share and strengthen the things that we learn in the Bible and we also can bring each other closer in the love and strength of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

May God bless each and every Christian and we pray that we will see many more the next year that Delta will become a reality in 1990.

In Christian love, Mike and Felica Geho, Tacoma, Wash.

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I liked field day. I liked swinging. I liked playing with my friends. I liked the showers. I liked the singing.

David Orendorff, age 5, Seattle, Washington

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I've really enjoyed being able to come to the camp this year. I can't wait until next year! I strongly encourage everyone to try to make it for next year's camp.

Kayla Eldridge, Stilwell, Oklahoma

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Big Spruce Church of Christ camp, 1989, is history, but many good memories linger. We really enjoyed ourselves. We

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learned quite a lot from Bible discussions, everyday conversations and good sermons. The fellowship was great!

The camp this year had a very relaxed atmosphere. Lots of good was accomplished. The evidence can be seen in the number of baptisms and ones coming foreward for prayers and strength.

There were so many young people. Seems to be more each year. The future of the Church seems brighter. The young men conducted their services really well, which made our hearts glad.

For those of you who did not attend, YOU MISSED A LOT! We pray you can and will attend next year.

Many thanks to all who worked long and hard before,during and after for all of us, especially the Wilkerson and Baldwin families of Cedaredge congregation. Patty, Debbie, and Dianne Wilkerson did an excellent job with the kitchen.

By the way, we loved Colorado so much, we spent the day Monday after camp at the airport and Ford garage in Grand Junction. Ha Ha. Margie Meddock had to catch a plane at 6: 55 AM which we missed, finally flying out at 11:45 AM. In the meantime John Usrey and I were at the garage where the motor home had been towed. After the fuel pump was replaced on John's motor home, we were on the road again about 6 PM.

Bro Usrey served well as co-pilot coming home; he fell and dislocated his shoulder at camp during field day games. (He is doing well now with his arm out of the sling). Coming home, we travelled along with Sister Dorothy Johnson. Between the two rigs we had 5 available drivers, so we made it home fine Tuesday evening with the Lord's help.

John's placque in the motor home was made known to all on the trip homeward: "There's nothing going to happen today that the Lord and I can't handle."

In closing, please plan now to attend in 1990, if the Lord is willing.

In Christian love, J D and Fern Logan, Stockton, Calif.

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Camp was 'way cool man"! Hope to see you next year!

(Suspect a teen wrote the above.)

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Once again, God has blessed me with the gift of being able to attend the camp this year. It was very wonderful to see ond friends and also make new ones. The love and sharing of each other was very uplifting for everyone.

The camp was successful once again as a few more were added to Christ's Body.

So, I encourage everyone who can and are able to attend and support the meetings throughout the yeare.

In Christian love, Saundra Ross

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For the ones who colud not come this year, we mist your voices when we were singing and aktivitys.

We hope you can come next year.

Love, Shaya Vanette Orendorff, age 8, Seattle, Wash,

(We loved this so much, we printed it just as it was received. OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES)

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To my Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Speaking on behalf of myself and my family, we would like to thank each and every one for your love, fellowship, and kindness you have shown.

We have had an inspiring trip, drawing us closer to God and each of you. In closing, I would like to issue you the challenge the Lord has commanded us, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you."

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As we travel back to our homes let us keep this in mind and in heart at all times.

Thanks again for everything.

Your brother in Christ, Brian J Ross, Baron, Oklahoma

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Brethren, in trying to express my thoughts on the 1989 Delta camp meeting, it is very hard. It was such a great Christian experience. There was so much love and great fellowship, so much spiritual uplifting. Also, five new souls added to the Lord and seventeen asked for prayers

Anyone who could have come and didn't, missed a great Christian experience.

Lord willing, we will see you here next year.

Love, Howard and Nell McCay, Selah, Washington

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I really enjoyed myself at camp this year. The fellowship was excellent. It was great to visit with other young couples and to get to know or to get re-acquainted with a lot of other people.

We heard some terrific lessons this year and some productive studies, too. It was great to have so many voices lifting praises to God.

I'm going to miss everyone so much!! BUT--Lord willing, I'll see you next year.

I love ya'll, Sheila McCay, Lorenzo, Texas

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---a sign on a dorm door---DORM SWEET DORM---
This "dorm" is not my home, I'm just a passing through---
Mike and Felica Geho

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Dear Friends:

I have attended Delta camp meeting for three years now and every year it gets better. I feel every year that I attend I make at least ten new friends. It's also a good time to be away from the world and really get charged up while your'e agound Christians. I look foreward to coming here and getting reacquainted with old friends, make new friends and be more prepared to face the world.

Sometimes in our lives we are faced with some difficult decisions. We might not do the right thing or we might make the right choice, but I feel taking one week off to attend this meeting each year strengthens our good choices.

We have a lot of laughs and good times together, too. We at least make a trip in to the city and shop most all day. We can also go to the mesa. This year I will never forget the famous fishing trip. The guys had arranged to go at 5:00 AM and they didn't think the girls could wake up and go. Well, Shawna and I woke up and stumbled around and we made it! I'm not going to say I loved it--but it was an experience I'll never forget. I thought I caught a fish but really the line got tangled up on a rock.

There are many more events that I well remember and that will always be in my heart, but the people are what really matter. Peggie, Shawna, and I were called the "three Stooges" because whenever they saw one of us the cother two would be right there.

I got a chance to meet a relative that I haven't seen since I was little. I couldn't remember her. She is Janine Brown from California and she is someone who is super sweet and special to me. I could go on but I'll just wait till next year and pick up where we left off.

I love all of you and hope to see you again.

Caryn Foundation, Gig Harbor, Washington

PS: Shawna, "wanna buy a duck?"

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I liked being at Delta and I hope I can come back next year. I liked the activities and I liked some of the food.

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by going to camp for three years, I've made lots of new friends from all over the United States. It was "way cool". See you next year.

Eric Foundation, Gig Harbor, Washington

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Dear Christian Friends:

The strength and encouragement everyone gets at the Delta camp meeting is just what everyone needs, whether big or small. Fellowshipping with other Christians for a whole week is wonderful. The spiritual bonds that we all share are like no others.

Camp is a time to do things you don't normally get to do--learning, bible discussions, singing, water-fights, AND sharing a dorm with ten other girls.

for those of you who have never been to Delta, you're missing out. Delta gives you a chance to grow closer to the Lord and just knowing that you're not alone in your struggles is comforting. You meet new people, get to grow closer to old friends, and just have fun!

Hope to see you next summer.

In Christian love, Lori Forsman, Seattle, Washington

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Every year I attend the camp meeting I leave with the conclusion that the speakers/lessons, discussions, fellowship, singing, etc., were by far better than the previous year and without a doubt, impossible to match in the years that follow. Amazingly enough and to my doubtful and biased memory I was fooled--it was once again better, more enjoyable and uplifting than the years before.

Two items I must criticise!! One is the length---one week goes entirely too fast. Also, it is much too hard to say goodbye, even if only for a year. These are the only two reasons, if any, that would hinder me from returning the following year--Lord willing.

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In Christian love, Eric Harper, San Pablo, Ca.

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This is my first year at the church camp. It is a very nice place. You meet lots of nice people to write to. They have games and you get to help in the kitchen. If you don't have a camper, you sleep in a dorm with kids your age. There is a creek where you get to be baptized. you get to have water-fights and play in it too.

Church is every night and each Sunday morning. After night church we have a snack. Then we get the church books and go in the cafeteria where we sing all kinds of songs.

When you are baptized it is right after church. There is a big bell they ring for everything.

Monica Gaitos, Sacramento, Ca. congregation

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

If you did not have a chance to attend Big Spruce Camp this year, you really missed out! Another great year of of learning, fellowship, and lots of fun! You can't possibly imagine the spiritual uplifting. Sometimes small congregations tend to make one feel isolated, surrounded by the world. The many people you meet and fellowship with at camp (and they come from as far as Ga and Ind!) is just the thing to encourage you and charge your "battery" for the rest of the year. There is so much to learn from each other and one builds bonds of friendship that last a lifetime.

There is something for everyone at Delta. Bible games, studies, lessons, field day games for everyone, 4 to 74. (Like the barnyard game in which everyone had to walk around blindfolded mooing, quacking, or barking! It was quite a sight!!)

Before I ever attended camp, I heard about it, but the rest of my life took priority and I never made much of an effort to go. However, once I went, I regretted all the years of staying home. Now, I wouldn't miss it!!

The onlyterrible part is the last day, when it's time to go home! You wouldn't believe the tears that are shed.

In Christian love, Chrissie Foundation, Seattle, Wa.