

August 7, 2005

Testimonials of Teens Who Attended Salkehatchie

Brooke Faulkner –

Salkehatchie this year was a different experience for me. At first, I wasn't really all that excited to go because we were going to a new camp, but I figured that once I got there, it would be just as fun as it was every year. Once we got there, we got settled, and picked our sites. For the second year in a row, I was on Miss Kathy's site, which made me feel a little better about the new camp. On Sunday, we went to visit our homeowner, Mr. Crosby. When we got there we figured out what all needed to be done to the house, and then decided to spend some time with Mr. Crosby. After talking to him for about 15 minutes, we realized he was slightly intoxicated, and he kept saying out of the way things, and making us feel very uncomfortable. As we were leaving his house, I started to wonder why I was there and why we were working on his house. He didn't seem to appreciate what we were doing or why we were doing it. After that, I decided I was going to get what needed to be done, done, and just hope the week would go by fast. As the week went on, I think because of our situation, our site became really close, and by the end of the week, I thought I knew why I was there – to make new friends and to work on people's homes to make them better, but it was more than that. The last day, as we were packing up and getting ready to go, Mr. Crosby came outside to talk with us. He kept saying how nice everything was and how much he appreciated it. While talking with us, he got tears in his eyes, and that's when I knew we really did make a difference. We go to Salkehatchie not just to fix people's homes, but to bring Christ to them, and work as his disciples. Salkehatchie was different this year, but it opened my eyes to the true meaning of why we go and do the things we do.

Ryan Moore –

Good morning. It was my second year at Salkehatchie, and our first year at the Bamberg camp. I walked in, and I wasn't exactly excited about the camp I was at. It looked like it wasn't going to be as much fun, but it turned out to be as much fun as I'd ever had. When I got to the site, and met our homeowner, she was one of the smartest people that I've probably ever met. She could quote Scripture for anything you said, and it was all true. It just astonished me at what she knew. I went back to the church that night, and I was about to go to sleep, and I was thinking about what being a Christian actually means. We all come to church on Sunday, and we all wear ties and get all dressed up, but Christianity isn't a Sunday thing. It's more of a life thing. If you're a Christian, it should encompass your whole life. When people see you walking down the street or see you at work, they should say, "Hey, there's Ryan Moore, and he's a Christian." As I continued through my week, every action I did, I was constantly outside my body, looking back, and going, "Does this look right for Jesus? Is this what he would have me do?" So, when I came back from Salkehatchie, I just wanted to share that Christianity is something that should go throughout the week, and not just on Sundays, and any action you do, you should be able to look back and say, "Hey, that's what God wanted me to do." People should look at you and say, "There's so and so, and they're a Christian." Have a good morning.

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Kayla Shelley –

Good morning. This is my third year at Salkehatchie, and when Jack told us we weren't going to Kingstree, I was not happy at all. I don't like change. I like to go, and I liked it where I knew everybody so I wasn't really excited to go. Mom was like, "You know, Kayla, it's not where you go, and it's not who you meet, it's why you're there and how you make a difference in people's lives." I was like, "Okay!" So we got there, and we got settled, and we went and picked our sites, and we went to go meet Miss Carrie May. Well, she was very, she was very young. She wasn't even 60 yet. She only had one lung, and she had been smoking all her life, and she, I mean, you could tell, she had this little shed out by her house, it wasn't even as big as the girl's bathroom over there, and she had lived in that for over six months because she didn't have anywhere else to go. We had to completely redo her front porch and back porch. It was just the little things that really made a difference. We were in there redoing her doorknob for her door, and I was like, you know, "Do you want it in your bathroom or do you want it in your bedroom?" She was like, "I want it in my bedroom because I'm tired of having this duct tape on my door." I was like, "Okay." So we put it in there, and she was, like, "Thank you so much. Ever since I've lived here I've never been able to shut my door with a real door knob." She was so excited to have a doorknob. It just made me think. I never, ever really think about a doorknob, and she was so excited to have a doorknob, and I was just like, "Wow!" Such a little thing made such a difference in her life. We gave her a new bed set, and we gave her a new air conditioner to cool her trailer, and she was so excited, and she was like, "Thank y'all so much!" When we left, she gave us the most sincere thank you I've ever had. It really makes a difference. You don't realize how much you change somebody's life until the end of the week and you see how much you've done for them, and it was just, the most, I mean, it was the best experience I've ever had. Next year, I want to go to both Kingstree and Bamberg, and hopefully, we can do both of them. It was an awesome week!