



# The Menorah



**July, 2010**

## Coming Events

**National  
Association of Free  
Will Baptists**  
**Oklahoma City, OK**  
**July 18-21, 2010**

**Fellowship District  
Association**

August 7, 9:00 a.m.

**Community Free Will  
Baptist Church**  
6945 McKean Road  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197  
Rev. Don Viers, Pastor  
Rev. Mike Trimble,  
Moderator

**Liberty District  
Association**

August 7, 9:30 a.m.

**North Warren Free Will  
Baptist Church**  
3003 Chicago Road  
Warren, MI 48092  
Rev. George Johnson,  
Pastor/Moderator

**West Michigan District  
Association**

August 7, 9:30 a.m.

**First Free Will Baptist  
Church**  
630 Moline  
Comstock, MI 49001  
Rev. John Vick, Pastor  
Rev. James Williams,  
Associate Pastor  
Rev. Bill Hughes, Moderator

## Miracle in Chicago

by  
Roy W. Harris  
[www.royharris.info](http://www.royharris.info)

The morning began like many for the preacher. I had shaved, showered, packed and was ready to catch a plane home to Nashville. I had just finished an enjoyable four days of ministering in Michigan. Ron, Gene and Joe had welcomed me into their church pulpits. God had blessed in each service. It was great to see and preach to many men I'd come to know and appreciate at the Michigan State Minister's and Laymen's Retreat. I preached seven times in four days and enjoyed each opportunity. Joe picked me up at the hotel and we stopped a local diner for a great breakfast on the way to the airport.

I boarded the plane and it pushed away from the gate. The pilot announced that our plane would need deicing before takeoff. I had a short connection time in Chicago and was periodically looking at my watch as we waited our turn. Finally after forty minutes, we raced down the runway and were airborne. The flight was uneventful but I had a nagging concern that I might miss the connection in Chicago. I exited the plane and quickly realized my next flight was on the opposite end of the airport. I almost ran to the other side of the airport. Ah.... Relief, the Nashville flight had not boarded yet. I had made my connection. I parked my computer bag, pulled off my winter coat, reached for my cell phone..... then woke up in the Emergency Room of Holy Cross Hospital.

I didn't know where I was or what had happened. When I opened my eyes, seated next to me was a nice blond lady whom I did not recognize. She introduced herself as Rachael Jacobs and said she was a flight attendant from Southwest Airlines. I believe I asked her where I was and what was happening. She began to recount a story that was nothing short of a miracle.

Rachael was off duty and on her way to Nashville to visit her parents. She was making small talk with the desk personnel in the gate area waiting for the flight to board. A passenger came to the desk reporting a man sick and needing assistance. Rachael found me slumped over, eyes rolled back in my head and blood leaking from one corner of my mouth. Her Southwest training kicked in. She took charge, yelled back to the desk to call the paramedics and summoned the surrounding men to help her pull my wedged arm from between the seats. They move my unconscious body to the floor. Thinking this was a diabetic seizure, the normal protocol was to lay the person on the floor and let his or her body recover on its' own. Rachael did something that went directly against her training. She called for a heart defibrillator. As she recounted this part of the

story, a pause and sense of awe filled in her voice, “it was as though a voice told me – he needs the defibrillator, he’s having a heart attack.”

There happened to be a doctor and ER nurse also waiting in the gate area on their way back to Nashville. It took about fifteen minutes for the paramedics to arrive and the shock to my heart to be applied. For fifteen minutes my brain was deprived of oxygen and my heart had stopped. For all practical purposes I had died. CLEAR ..... The electric shock jolted my body..... no pulse. CLEAR a second time..... The electric shock jolted my body again leaving small red burn circles on my chest, but they had a pulse. I literally had come back from the dead. On the gurney, into the ambulance and on the way to the hospital still unconscious and medical personnel not knowing if I would live or die.

Rachael thought I was dead. She didn’t understand it, but felt impressed to go to the hospital and stay until my family could get there. She sat with me for several hours until my wife and children arrived. Southwest Airlines provided free open ended round trip tickets for my wife, daughter and son. They reserved seats for flights to Chicago, paid their cab fare to the hospital and paid for their first night’s lodging in a hotel near the hospital.

I perked up and the ER personnel at first could not believe I’d suffered a heart attack. The blood work confirmed that indeed I’d suffered a massive heart attack. A heart catheterization was scheduled for the next morning and the cardiologist shared his findings “Reverend Harris, you should not be here, you should be in the morgue” or similar words to that affect. You don’t smoke,

drink, no blood pressure issues, not obese, no cholesterol problems, overall – you are in good physical condition. You have what is called the widow maker. You’re like an athlete who runs every day and is found on the side of the road dead of a heart attack. No apparent symptoms yet major heart issues are present. The main artery feeding the left side of your heart is 99% blocked. You also have another artery 90% blocked, two 70% blocked and another 30%, 5 blockages in all. We’ve inserted an artificial pump into your heart to relieve the stress on your heart. You’ll have to lie perfectly still through the weekend to gain some strength and we’ll perform bypass surgery on Monday.”

The surgery was performed and was successful taking only 3 of the normal 6-8 hours. The report was great and by evening the respirator tube had been removed and I was sitting up and eating jello. By Saturday I boarded a plane back to Nashville.

I met four days later with my new Nashville cardiologist. After looking at my heart from every angle, the doctor could hardly believe what he’d found. Absolutely no damage my heart! No heart rehabilitation therapy was needed! Nine days after surgery and I was far along on my road to recovery. He even allowed me to travel three weeks later alone to California and speak at the California Free Will Baptist State Men’s Retreat. God blessed and we saw 6 men saved and several other decisions for Christ.

I know you’ve just heard quite an unusual story. God truly performed a miracle. What makes this a miracle? First of all I normally have direct flights to and from Detroit but this trip called for a divine connection in Chicago. Secondly, Rachael Jacobs, a

Cardiologist and ER nurse all were divinely selected and placed on my connecting flight in Chicago. Thirdly, God timed my heart attack perfectly on the ground rather than on the plane I’d just gotten off of or the plane I was about to get on. Fourthly, a Jewish maiden obeyed the Spirit of God and deviated from standard procedure to deliver a shock that saved my life. Fifthly, I suffered no permanent heart or brain damage despite being deprived of oxygen or blood flow for over fifteen to thirty minutes. Sixthly, my recovery fast tracked to flying across country and preaching three sermons in two churches and four sermons at a state men’s retreat in less than five weeks from the day of the heart attack. Finally, God has used this episode to touch countless lives through a Southwest Airlines national radio interview (<http://www.blogsouthwest.com/podcast?page=9>) Title: When Rachael Met Roy), a USA cover story ([http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/travel/2009-10-05-flight-attendants-medical-aid\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/travel/2009-10-05-flight-attendants-medical-aid_N.htm)) and countless opportunities to share with individuals and churches across America.

I didn’t see a bright light or travel down a dark tunnel. One thing I do know for sure. I experienced the protecting, guiding hand of the Lord. I never feared death and felt His divine peace that passes all understanding. I’ve experienced great joys and great disappointments in life. God has been with me every step of the way. Take it from one who truly has passed from death unto life, not only spiritually but in my case physically as well. Every good and perfect gift comes from the Lord. Life is a precious gift. Cherish each day and live it like it might be

your last. One of those days will be. If you have doubts, just remember God's Miracle in Chicago.

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**Free Will Baptist  
Bible College**

## **FWBBC to Launch Name Change Feasibility Study**

NASHVILLE, TN—The Free Will Baptist Bible College Board of Trustees authorized the administration to conduct a feasibility study that could result in a name change for the 68-year-old institution by 2012, according to President Matt Pinson.

"This is an important study for the college," Pinson said. "We are moving steadily toward relocation to a new campus on a choice 66-acre site in nearby Gallatin. Denominational constituents as well as the educational community understand that FWBBC has expanded its academic offerings dramatically from the early years. While we will always maintain our focus on ministry and missionary preparation, the college now offers more than 40 fields of study, a dream that was not possible in 1942. Our strategic plan calls for further expansion and the addition of graduate programs in fields such as theology and education. This feasibility study will help us determine if it's time to consider a name change that reflects the broader curriculum."

Trustees voted unanimously in May 2010 to launch the name change feasibility study. This marks the second time in five years that the Board has authorized a far-reaching study. A similar vote in December 2005 resulted in a 2006

study that prompted Trustees to authorize relocating the college.

Administrators have begun assembling the necessary data to develop a feasibility study. They plan to consult with two professional consulting firms that currently work with the college—the A Group and Dickerson and Associates—to ensure a high quality study.

If the study indicates the feasibility of an institutional name change, results will be presented to delegates at the 2011 Free Will Baptist national convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, along with a recommended name change and a motion to lay the proposal on the table for one year. Delegates to the 2012 national convention in Memphis, Tennessee, would then be asked to approve the change.

President Pinson said, "This is a crucial time for Free Will Baptist higher education. In a climate of shifting economics and technological change, we must find new ways to meet educational needs of Free Will Baptist churches and students. We remain committed to our Christian mission, to our Free Will Baptist theological vision, and to a Bible college philosophy of education in which every student majors in Bible, while at the same time reaching more students who are serious about Christian living, leadership, and service. This means more undergraduate programs. It also means expanding beyond undergraduate level to graduate seminary training for pastors, and graduate programs in fields like teacher education. We need the prayers of God's people while these important decisions are being made."

## **Sam Horne Named FWBBC Golf Coach**

NASHVILLE, TN—Samuel Dean Horne, Jr., has been named the first golf coach in Free Will Baptist Bible College history, according to Gary Turner, athletic director. The 29-year-old South Carolina native will start the new program this fall.

"We are blessed to have Sam Horne on staff," Mr. Turner said. "He is not only an accomplished golfer, but he is a strong Christian leader. His priorities are in the right place, and he understands what can be done with the golf program here."

Horne, a 2010 FWBBC graduate, majored in General Christian Ministries with an emphasis in Missions. He led an E-TEAM to Spain in 2006. Prior to attending FWBBC, he served four years in the U.S. Navy as a jet engine technician. He graduated from Nashville State Community College in 2008.

Mr. Horne is a member of the Tennessee Golf Association and Gaylord Springs Golf Links, and is attempting to make the professional golf tour. He has a handicap around one.

"It is an honor to coach the first golf team at FWBBC," Horne said. "But more than that, it is an answer to prayer! Golf is not just a game to me. Golf is a talent and gift that can be used in conjunction with our lives as Christians to bring glory to God and further His Kingdom. The golf team at FWBBC will operate on a three-principle foundation: A Disciple, A Scholar, A Player."

Sam Horne's wife Monicabeth, a Virginia native, graduated from FWBBC in 2010 with a B.A. degree in Biblical and Ministry Studies.

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**The Michigan State Association of  
Free Will Baptists  
May 19-21, 2011**

## **Allan Crowson to Direct FWBBC Online Studies**

NASHVILLE, TN—Mr. Allan Crowson has been named director of online and lifetime learning studies at Free Will Baptist Bible College, according to Dr. Greg Ketteman, provost. He succeeds Rusty Campbell who accepted a post as director of enrollment services this spring.

“What a blessing to have Allan Crowson joining our team as director of the online and lifetime learning programs,” Dr. Ketteman said. “He has a unique combination of ministry experience, extensive technological training and experience, and a keen intellect, coupled with a love for Jesus Christ and the mission of Free Will Baptist Bible College. Allan is enthusiastic about extending the ministry of FWBBC through online learning, and I believe that God will use his considerable talents in supporting and continuing the growth of this program.”

Mr. Crowson began his new duties June 14, and will be responsible for developing and managing current online/lifetime learning courses, and will also market and expand the program. He brings almost 20 years’ experience as a Free Will Baptist international missionary in Africa and France, in addition to 14 years as a senior manager with Nortel, a telecommunications corporation.

The 58-year-old minister is a 1973 FWBBC graduate. He completed an MBA at Lipscomb University in 2004. A published journalist and photographer, he has written poetry and songs, as well as children’s stories. He is an adult curriculum writer for Randall House.

Ordained in 1975, Crowson has a long history with FWBBC. His father (Milton Crowson) graduated

in 1960 and taught at the college. His wife LaRue (1974) and all three children graduated from FWBBC: Timothy (1999), Bethany (2001), and Natalie (2003). His grandfather (mother’s side) attended the 1935 organizational meeting of the National Association of Free Will Baptists that voted to start FWBBC.

Mr. Crowson said, “We’re not starting from ground zero. Thanks to the hard work of Rusty Campbell and Mrs. Jena Simpson, we already have a strong online/lifetime learning foundation in place on which to build. My goal is to expand it, enhance it, and improve it as needed. There’s a growing need among resident and non-resident students for education that’s more than training, for education that creates a desire to learn and then takes that learning back into our local churches.”

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## **103 FWBBC Students Make President’s/Provost’s Lists**

NASHVILLE, TN—The spring 2010 semester at Free Will Baptist Bible College ended with 103 students earning academic recognition, according to Provost Greg Ketteman. Twenty-six students made all A’s and were placed on the President’s List—nine seniors, three juniors, five sophomores, and nine freshmen. Seventy-seven students earned a B average or higher and were placed on the Provost’s List (formerly the Dean’s List)—13 seniors, 16 juniors, 27 sophomores, and 21 freshmen.

## **President’s List: “A” Honor Role**

Tolbert, Phillip—Paw Paw, MI  
(Fr.)

## **Provost’s List: “B” Honor Role**

### **Sophomores**

Bogart, Robin-Lynn-----  
Tecumseh, MI

Ouding, Andrew-----  
Delton, MI

Smith, Gregory-----  
Whittemore, MI

### **Freshmen**

Conner, Valerie-----  
Madison Heights, MI

Howard, Thomas-----  
Troy, MI

Norris, Sarah Jo-----  
Chesterfield, MI

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## **Wolverine Update**

Several ‘downstaters’ traveled to the Upper Peninsula for the Friday night meeting of the Wolverine District Association. We were well rewarded for the distance.

First, there was the famous “Floars Pig-Roast” for the dinner along with many great dishes prepared by the gracious hosts and hostesses.

The business session ran smoothly under the leadership of new moderator, Pastor Michael Hill. The clerk/treasurer, Pastor Ron Meadows, read the minutes and gave the financial report. Pastor Ron does a great job at this office.

The Sawyer Free Will Baptist Church was the church in the spotlight and Pastor Greg Floars allowed a few of his people to

share their stories in testimony and song. This was a very effective way of sharing with us what the Lord is doing and how lives are being transformed. We were all touched by what we saw and heard.

Pastor Curt Lilly preached from Galatians 6:1-5, 17. His message was on "The Three Bears." It was a challenging message.

There was a time of fellowship and refreshments following the evening service. The next meeting will be September 11 at the Southgate Free Will Baptist Church.

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## Church Insurance?

Did you know that when you insure your church property with Brotherhood Mutual Company they give dividends to the Michigan State Association of Free Will Baptists based on your premiums? This has been very substantial support for our State Association over the years. It is an easy way to support our denomination.

If you are not using Brotherhood Mutual, or if you are listed as a supporting church, you may contact R. & A. Insurance at 586-286-3727. Or, please tell your agent that you would like to be a part of the Michigan Free Will Baptist group.

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I told Phyllis that we can't plan for anymore natural disasters. She probably thought the same thing you are. I know you don't plan for things to happen, but they do. And when they do, it can throw your whole schedule off. Since the later

part of February I have been to Haiti twice and worked flood relief for a couple weeks in Nashville. This is in addition to the regularly scheduled stuff.

While I have been extremely tired, I have really enjoyed it. I have met several new friends and had the opportunity to help some old ones. When times like this come, it really makes you stop and think just how blessed we are and how great our God is.

One friend that was flooded wanted to use this as an opportunity to reach his neighbors with the love of Christ. One morning in Haiti, while waiting to get into the medical clinic, a pastor shared the Gospel and nineteen people accepted Christ as their Savior.



Was it worth the extra work? You tell me.

**Ken**

**August 5, 2010**

National Golf Tournament

**August 6-7, 2010**

National Softball Tournament  
Cane Ridge, TN

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## News from Spain



Dear Michigan friends,

As we write this update, we are listening/watching the Spain team playing in the World Cup in South Africa. Balconies all over our little town have the Spain flag hanging over them. People in the street have on red and yellow t-shirts and some even have their faces painted for this festive event. Soccer is BIG in Spain.

As much as our neighbors have excitement for a sport with a black and white checked ball, we are excited about what is happening here in the Alpedrete Church. Our men's and ladies' Bible studies have been having great moments for fellowship, but also for learning and reflection on the Word. Each Sunday our children's classes are so full that we don't have room for everyone to sit in a chair. This coming Sunday, we will have two people baptized in a nearby river.

Can we say excitement?

Just a few minutes ago, a Spain player scored a goal and we could hear people in our apartment building cheering and shouting "GOAL!" That's how we feel about our church. GOAL! Thank you for your prayers for our church as they continue in the "game" of reaching our pueblo for Christ.

Tim and Kristi Johnson

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## Ivory Coast Update

Dear Friends and Ministry Partners,

May passed without you hearing from us. As we reviewed the activities the Lord placed in our path, it became obvious why! After more than 60 work hours of preparing and participating in the Ivorian FWB Leadership Forum in mid-May, we headed to Abidjan for two packed weeks of work.

During that time we . . .

- Spent 5 days for car repairs (a part problem for a required suspension fix)
- Met with one ordination candidate
- Read the charismatically influenced paper of a 2nd ordination candidate
- Purchased parts to repair household goods or keep electric current stable
- Helped pastors Samuel Kaibio and Paul Amiezi prepare for their trip to the U.S. for the 75<sup>th</sup> Celebration of International Missions during the 2010 National and the International Fellowship of FWBs
- Completed some currency exchanges with subsequent 3 hour trips to the bank (that's wait-in-line time!)
- Renewed international driving and transport papers
- Visited three of the now four Abidjan FWB churches
- Traveled to Agnibilekrou on public transport for a national Education Committee meeting
- Sent our coworker Alice Smith for a much-needed visit to her ailing mother in West Virginia
- Made 4 trips to tax offices to close a 5-year mission property issue
- Paid taxes and completed other treasurer responsibilities
- Familiarized a new team with how to handle financial disbursements for the Bible Institute and Theological Training by Extension program (TEE)
- Completed 16 years of home schooling as Corbin completed the 8th grade
- Shopped for 2 months of groceries and completed a financial report
- And JOYFULLY received Cason and Cara, our two collegiate children, back for the summer.



As we finished in Abidjan, Verlin ate some spoiled sardines and became violently ill for a day. God healed, and we returned north for scheduled meetings. Correctly chosen antibiotics, some rapid material copying, and he was off to Bouna to expose the 5th Ivorian Bible Institute class to Community Health Evangelism (CHE) principles. 17



hours of teaching with some new material while recovering made this the most trying CHE session he's ever led. While there, he also

encouraged some pastors and visited a former preacher who has returned to the Shepherd's fold as a sheep, rather than an undershepherd, due to sexual sin.

After four days at home to retool, he drove to remote Taoudi and shared a village format CHE Vision Seminar June 17-20. He preached too! 12 interested believers and an itinerant pastor completed the introductory training with enthusiasm and appreciation. They anticipate forming a team of 8 to 12 trainers in the year. We are eager to see how the Lord will use their outreach and pray for the healing of a regional schism of Christian brothers.

Verlin met with the ordination committee the following Tuesday. This particular candidate meeting demanded more than 35 hours of preparation the prior months in reading and research. The 6 hour meeting delayed acceptance of the candidate until some further interaction clarifies his doctrinal understandings.

A planned trip to Doropo with a Christian doctor, and part of his team, was canceled. We hope to reschedule the trip and allow their testimony to be heard by Doropo clinic staff. God has used the Abengourou Ivorian CHE witness to minister to over 1,400 AIDS patients using CHE, touch more than 4,000 others, successfully start a rural program, and see their churches adopt CHE as their means of outreach. The trip was canceled when their AIDS ministry in received

unexpected government visitors to learn from and recognize their program as a model for holistic treatment. We pray to reschedule the visit and encourage the Doropo hospital staff to pursue this means of ministry. From conversation with health and NGO professionals, it appears God maintains a wide open door for them to use this in their region.

In the mean time, Debbie not only held down the fort at home, but expanded its outreach! This past Sunday afternoon, she had the introductory meeting with the ladies of the Goumere FWB church and began training them with CHE activities for home visits. Next week they will discuss how to prevent malaria. She and Alice anticipate teaching physical needs lessons with biblical instruction to help the women improve health in their homes and reach out to their neighbors. She spent over 40 hours proofreading and correcting translations into French of a Church Planting Movements booklet, an article to avoid dependency issues in churches, and a booklet on Free Will Baptists and Church Government that was distributed at the Forum (they are being read, too!). That list does not include countless hours in recent weeks getting nearly 100 English CHE lessons ready for use in French, supervising the text re-entry of Sunday School material for a TEE course, cooking most meals, home schooling, and prepping with Cara to bake and decorate a

cake for a July 3rd wedding.

This is our joy, to expend ourselves for the sake of the gospel in Cote d'Ivoire, building-up the church of our Lord Jesus here. Please pray with us that we can carve out some days of rest in late July before Cason and Cara return to the States. We need some time apart before we hit the ground running again in August.

Thank you for all you do. Your partnership sustains us, as we see the Lord constantly helping in situations beyond our strength and number. He is faithful to hear and answer! Gladly serving Him here together,  
Verlin, Debbie, Cason, Cara, and Corbin Anderson

their congregations. This will be revisited at the next General Board meeting in the fall.

Would you like to receive the ***Menorah*** in your email inbox? Please send me your email address at [gnorris101@comcast.net](mailto:gnorris101@comcast.net).



What happens when you mix together a bunch of youth, dedicated workers, out-of-this-world superheroes, exciting activities, fun songs, creative crafts, water games, shaving cream, silly string, and most importantly, Jesus and toss all of it together for a week? You get the 2010 Michigan FWB Jr. Camp, of course!!!

Simpson Park Camp in Romeo, MI may never be the same again since we got done with it...but neither will the hearts and lives of many of the boys and girls who were able to attend camp this year. God was at work in a mighty way during camp week and many decisions were made for Him! This year's theme was SUPERHEROES and thanks to this year's awesome speaker, Missionary Clint Morgan, the campers learned all about some "superheroes" in the Bible, how they can be superheroes for the

## ***Menorah Change!***

In an effort to get the General Fund into the black the General Board of the Michigan State Association of Free Will Baptists has instructed the editor of the ***Menorah*** to mail only one copy each month to the Michigan Free Will Baptist Churches. Each church is responsible for reproducing enough copies for

**Michigan State Association  
of Free Will Baptists**  
37838 Hayes Road  
Clinton Twp., MI 38028

**PALMER LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE  
For Michigan Free Will Baptist Ministers and Staff**

**September 19 – 21, 2010**

**The Palmer Leadership Institute is designed to assist in the development of Free Will Baptist ministers. It will be presented by Dr. Douglas Earls on September 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> at the Fall Minister's Retreat. This seminar was first offered to Free Will Baptist ministers in Missouri, and is now being brought to Michigan. All ministers are invited to participate. The ministry of everyone who attends will be enriched. Churches and/or District Associations are encouraged to pay the cost for the ministers to attend.**

**The cost of the retreat and seminar is \$110.00. Please contact the Michigan Promotional Secretary for more information at [gnorris101@comcast.net](mailto:gnorris101@comcast.net) or by calling 586-994-8442. Reservations are to be made by sending a \$25.00 non-refundable deposit to Rev. Don Viers, 6955 McKean Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48197; Telephone: 734/485-8502; email: <[drviers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:drviers@sbcglobal.net)>**

**Youth Camp continued...**

the Lord, and how Jesus is the ultimate superhero. The STAND Strength Team also came to visit and put on a great show, reminding the campers that true strength comes from making right decisions and keeping their eyes on the Lord!

Of course, this year's camp experience would not have been complete without—among many other things---silly string and

shaving cream fights in the field, inflatable water slides, skits from good ol' Cornbread and his trusty sidekick Eagle, a performance by the GLOW Team, and a huge bonfire down by the pond to finish out a great week! Jr. Camp 2010 was definitely a memorable time and huge success. It sure would not have been possible without our awesome directors, sleep-deprived counselors, enthusiastic workers, and LOTS of prayer! We are already looking forward to what

God has in store for camp in 2011! "Narnia" will be the theme for next year, and we would love for you to come and join us! In the meantime, just remember:

Superman...Spiderman...Batman ...they ain't got NOTHIN' on Jesus!

**-Jessica Klug**

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***Happy Independence Day!***

