



PRAISE REPORT August 18-19, 2018.

FUN IN THE SUN

This Saturday, we had a first! It was a celebration of GOD, involving ex-offenders from the ACTC Halfway House, the Homeless Youth, members of Cherry Hills Community Church, members of Denver First Church, and members and supporters of Refuge City Ministries. With over seventy people, we also had five boats, five wave runners, numerous tubes for floating in the water, and various other water toys.

This was an opportunity for all those involved in GOD's ministry to:

- Meet and become acquainted with the members of our various ministry programs.
- Pray and interact with our volunteers, ex-offenders, homeless youth and their families.

Some of the highlights were:

- It seemed like everyone wanted to dunk me, and did!!!!
- For the ex-offenders, it was an opportunity to spend time with their families, outside the restrictions of ACTC.
- Taking rides on the boats. One of the boats towed riders on a large, round float. Everybody fell off, as the boat driver made it a challenging ride. The float would hit the wave, fly in the air, and often times flip over.
- The wave runners were in constant use, as our designated drivers offered rides around the lake.
- To my surprise, the greatest attraction was the Floating Oasis Water Pad. It is a pad, 30' x 15' x 3", that allows you to stand, walk-on, and wrestle, while floating on the water. The youth loved it!!!!
- Several of the men from the Halfway House became our chefs; using several grills to make a meal fit for a king; which included brats, hamburgers, hot dogs, and various side dishes.
- Many of the men from ACTC had their families attend. It was great to get to know and interact with everyone, and for them to spend time with their husband/father without supervision.
- The brother of one of the men from ACTC arrived with his two young sons, as we were closing down. The boys were very disappointed. Since we had one tube that had not been deflated, I put them in the tube and pulled them around the shallow end. We then played a game where I would push them to their father, and they would splash him when they got near. Soon it became a water fight with everyone getting

soaked. As we closed down, I helped them into the back seat of their car.

Unexpectedly, they hugged me and said that was the most fun they ever had!

- There were several times where Charles or I would be approached by family members, who would want to talk about their son/daughter and how they could help, while thanking us for what we were doing. Every time our response was, "The thanks goes to GOD!"
- One of the boat owners, who took most of the youth on boat rides, told Charles how much he had been touched by their genuine excitement, joy and thankfulness. He indicated that he wanted to become more involved with the ministry!

This was truly GOD at work and everyone was blessed!

FUN IN THE SUN (Continued)

On Sunday, the day after our party, Charles took his family and Jeremiah and his family to Cherry Creek Reservoir, to enjoy the wave runners! We met Jeremiah at ACTC, when he was transferred there from prison. He managed to successfully complete the ACTC program, and was released on parole over a year ago. He now has a good job and is reunited with his wife and family. When released, he and his family continued to attend Cherry Hills Community Church. Jeremiah brought his boat to Chatfield on Saturday and helped the youth and ex-offenders with boat rides and towing them on a tube. He helped make the day a success.

Though there were no plans for Sunday, Charles and Jeremiah agreed to bring their families, the boat and the wave runners to Cherry Creek Reservoir for the day. It was an amazing day as the families got to know each other and became good friends.

Unfortunately, in the late afternoon, the two wave runners collided, causing extensive damage. In addition Jeremiah and his wife were injured! To make matters worse, there was no insurance available for the wave runners. I thought the ministry's General Liability Insurance would cover the costs of the damage, but my claim was denied! We were looking at a cost of almost \$6,000 for the repairs. This would have put a significant strain on the ministry's finances.

There were many prayers, but nothing happened. I finally called the owner and after some negotiations, he agreed to lower the cost to \$4,700, to be paid in four monthly payments of \$1,175. Then GOD intervened. The next day, I ran into one of my "Bible Study" buddies, who asked me about the negotiations. I told him what the final outcome was. To my amazement, he immediately gave me a check for the first payment of \$1,175, and told me he would make the other payments when they came due.

GOD used this event and subsequent circumstances to bring friends and family closer together and closer to GOD and church, and blessed the ministry by providing funds to cover the costs of the accident.

GOD is GOOD!!!!

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