



# It's a bird...it's a plane...it's JESUS!

As the school year winds down and we all prepare ourselves for the summer, I hope and pray that you are enjoying God's peace. My prayer for each of you is that you will "be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58). This verse is a huge motivator to keep serving here in Wilmington. At this point, I will continue in the role of Assistant Director and teacher both this summer and this coming school year, trusting that God will continue to guide and direct me as I seek to follow Him wherever He leads. Serving God isn't always easy, but God is faithful to remind us that He is at work regardless of how we perceive different situations.



Jehosephat came to us at Camp Promise in the summer of 2014, planning to enter first grade that year. He has continued in Camp Promise's after school program for the past two years. Unfortunately, Jehosephat consistently struggles with his attitude. Oftentimes, he will talk about how he wants to kill himself. Based on some of the discussions we have had with him, he appears to have a disturbing curiosity with the devil and with evil. Last year, we would pull up to his school and he would enter

the van with a sullen and angry look; his posture and facial expression made it abundantly clear he didn't want to be coming to camp. As the kids shared about their days, it was a rare day that Jehosephat had anything positive to mention to the group. We often heard about what he would RATHER be doing: playing video games or Legos.® Likewise, he expressed feelings of boredom. He was NOT interested in God. As a camp team, we did only what we COULD do—pray. It has been almost two years. We have seen slight improvements in his attitude here and there, but nothing to write home about. Until now...which is exactly why I'm writing you this letter!

This spring, we have seen SIGNIFICANT evidence of the Holy Spirit's movement in Jehosephat's life! After being so adamant about not praying, one night while we were enjoying special relational time with a few of the campers (we took them to McDonalds and then to a play ground), Jehosephat raised his hand to pray! I was so close to falling right off the picnic table bench. I couldn't believe my eyes...after doing a double-take, my coworker Nakyanzi and I asked Jehosephat to pray for the group. We were both thrilled that Jehosephat actually volunteered to pray! However, neither of us were prepared for what came out of his mouth.

With sincerity and innocence, Jehosephat's heart overflowed with thankfulness. He thanked God for Camp Promise, for "camp night" (what we call our weekly relational time) and....for JESUS! None of us knew that God had been working in Jehosephat's heart this way! Just like a Chinese bamboo plant, which spends four years just developing a good root system and then all of a sudden grows 90 feet in the fifth year, God often works below the surface in the hearts and

minds of our kids before we ever taste the fruit of how God has been moving in a person over time. What a blessing to know that as we labor by planting and watering for our Lord's Kingdom, even when we don't see what God is doing, we can trust that God will use our faithfulness for His glory!

At a home visit this spring, we learned that this summer Jehosephat and his mother will be moving to Newark, a suburban town about 25 minutes away from Wilmington. We will definitely miss our time with Jehosephat!! However, we can trust God to continue to be at work in Jehosephat's life...after all, as Jehosephat expressed in his drawing, "Jesus is a hero!" Please support me as I serve at Urban Promise to love and care for the "Jehosephats" in Wilmington!

In Christ's love,

Bailey



Our camp staff with graduating 5th grade students who are transitioning into our middle school camps.