

Camp Meeting with Power!

by Lori Van Veen
as told by LaDel Brown

Camp—a time of friendship, fun, and food...and daily opportunities to have a life-changing encounter with God. Often at Stars retreats (third- through fifth-grade girls), fun and games are used to introduce even the most sacred spiritual lessons. The activities perpetuate the relaxed mood of being at camp, yet also help girls understand and accept the truths of God.

Susie Starr, pastor's wife and children's evangelist from Colton, California, had prepared her introduction as usual—a little laughter, a little silliness, and then the meat of God's Word. Her dummy's suitcase lay close by. These girls were going to have fun tonight!

As the worship time drew to an end, she realized this night was different. The Holy Spirit was present in a mighty way. She began to explain the presence of the Holy Spirit. She explained that every girl present could receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. She explained how it would empower them to be witnesses for the Lord as well as be a tool to help them grow in their walk with Christ.

Susie invited those who wanted to receive the Holy Spirit

to come forward. Many did, and as often is the case, the girls began praying and crying with great emotion. Susie recognized that the emotional aspect was overtaking the power of the moment. She asked the girls to stop praying and return to their seats.



After a little more explanation about the simplicity of asking and receiving the power of the Holy Spirit, she told the girls and sponsors to sit in their seats without touching anyone. (Girls have a tendency to huddle and cuddle when praying together.)

Susie asked that there be no talking or crying for a few minutes while she prayed and asked the Holy Spirit to come and fill the girls. After all the girls were sitting quietly, Susie instructed the girls to stay seated, lift their hands, and begin speaking in their prayer language.

At that time God moved in His sovereignty. As the girls raised their hands, the power of the Holy Spirit filled the room. Almost every girl (350 in attendance) was filled with the Holy Spirit. The room was filled with the sound of hundreds of tongues praising the Lord in different languages.

Since that camp, the girls have become prayer warriors and have made drastic changes in their lives. At least one has since felt a call to be a missionary.

While the magnitude of this event might be unique, Missionettes encounter the Holy Spirit at nearly every camp or retreat. As godly women pour themselves into the lives of God-seeking girls, change takes place. The soil of girls' hearts is prepared weekly through the Missionettes curriculum. The fivefold purpose of Missionettes

