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The Journey of a Lifetime

BY BRYAN FELLOWS

The time on my phone read 12 a.m. I rubbed my eyes, trying to get the tiredness out of them. My eyes glanced at the dashboard to make sure I wasn't over the speed limit. It had been a fun day, perhaps too fun. The bus was strangely quiet. Though I was glad for silence, I almost missed the noise my passengers usually make.

It all began six weeks ago with an announcement made at Pioneer Memorial Church during youth Sabbath school. I distinctly remember the buzz that Sabbath as one teenager after another came up to me and excitedly asked, "What are we doing for 'Sun, Fun & Faith' this summer?" It was a corny name, but it sure fit the program. This was year two for me as director. I walked into this position a year ago without a clue as to the grandiose endeavor I was about to embark on. This year was different; I was excited and ready.

Sun, Fun & Faith is a teen program that resembles day camp. It only runs from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m., except for a few occasions like tonight. Mondays are dedicated to fun outings like going to the beach or playing mini-golf. Tuesdays are water sports days, thanks to the support of incredible church members who give time and money to provide tubing and wakeboarding. Wednesdays are dedicated to outreach, giving the teens a chance to go out into their communities and be a living example of God's love.

Thursday resembles Monday. Our trips take us bowling or laser tagging, and we even plan clever events like our annual town-wide scavenger hunt—a huge hit with the teens. But the day I look forward to most is Friday. It's our chance to usher in the Sabbath in our unique way. Along with music and small group time, we also dig deep into



the Word of God. My staff and I try our best to make it a safe place for questions—a place where anyone can come and find the answers God has waiting for them. Church lights are dimmed and color lights enhance the walls, while food and drinks put the kids at ease. It is a place where teenagers can be themselves while they worship—a place to find a passionate love for the God of the universe who passionately loves them.

The clock reads 12:30 a.m. as I take the Berrien Springs exit. Tomorrow will hold many stories about their Cedar Point adventure. It has been a good week, a great summer and—just like our name expresses—today has been full of sunshine. It's been fun and our faith has flourished. For some a real relationship with God is a new thing; and though this trip is ending, their journey with Him has just begun.

I put on my blinker and turn into the Andrews campus. Tomorrow is another day full of new surprises and activities. It's a bit weird being in the driver's seat of the bus when only a few years ago I was the kid in the back. The cool thing is my Savior is the One who is leading us home.

Bryan Fellows is a junior theology student. He looks forward to graduating and continuing his work in youth ministry.