The Most Powerful Thing

Caitlin Jankiewicz

Andrews University
The Most Powerful Thing

By Caitlin Jankiewicz

I began to question whether I could actually do it. However, upon meeting my adorable junior campers, who named our cabin “Caitlin’s Cute Kittens” and made paper ears to match, I began to relax. Despite scraped knees and forgotten shoes, union week passed without calamity. Then arrived the tween campers. Gone were the little girls who refused to take showers. These 11 to 14-year-olds left me, only 19 myself, thinking, “Gone were the little girls who refused to take showers.”

I made paper ears to match, I began to relax. Despite torn clothes and occasionally cracked knees. Once I realized this, I could see she was actually having a lot of fun. It took a few seconds to make an impact on her, her apathetic attitude would fall away.

The next day, I briefly admonished D for the previous night’s behavior, and then went back to showing her as much love as I possibly could. It was almost as if she needed to see I would love her regardless of her behavior. I think that, for a few seconds here and there, her impish, ridiculous personality came out. D became the girl who loved me the most that week, a major change in her behavior. She organized the other kids’ camps, I and 18 other counselors were given fair treatment. On my roughest day, she organized the other rest of the group to walk with me, even putting her arms around my waist and pulling my arm around her shoulders.

By the end of the week, D was a completely different person. The only thing I did was to love her, regardless of her behavior.

I think that, as Christians, we often try to teach people by telling them what we need to change. We try so hard to be a light for God that we become a blinding glare, driving people away, rather than a warm glow that draws people to Jesus. Because God is love, the only way to show God to love people is by being loving.

I understand what’s going on and we’d love to be a part of our churches and be more involved,” Jae’Ona said.

Passing the Torch

By Malissa Martin

Sixteen-year-old Chicago-area twins, Jae’Ona and Jae’Bel Middleton, grew up attending camp meetings with their parents, Jeff and Donna, and noticed something striking happen over the years. Each year, they noticed fewer and fewer of their peers attending. “There used to be a time at a camp meeting where it wasn’t just workers going up [front to minister],” says Jae’Bel, who remembers the wide cross-section of people she saw participating. “Now a lot of who are going up are workers or pastors’ kids.”

However, instead of griping about the kids, Jae’Bel and Jae’Ona have plans for possible outdoor activities (volleyball courts, basketball courts, swimming pool), and new activities for camp meeting.

Since many of the members are in high school or college (the twins are home-schooled), the group hasn’t been able to consistently and confidently meet monthly. Nevertheless, the team remains in contact and all are still trying to make sure they are included when planning youth events for camp meeting.

The Youth Council is accepting new members; youth can be as young as age 12. For more information on how to join the council or to contact the Midwest youth twins, email: youth.contact@lcscda.com.