

Dear Friends,

The winter period at Coolamatong has again proven to be a busy and effective time as the schools continue to roll in, and sharing the Gospel continues each week. We have been hugely encouraged by the stories of ministry impact that we share amongst the team at the end of each week, showing that kids are hungry to talk about life and faith, asking questions about God, gaining the courage to declare their faith in front of peers. All of this indicates that the mission of Coolamatong is strong and that God is at work in the lives of young people. Check out these awesome stories...

One

Holly, Hannah and I were having lunch with some teachers and parents – they started asking us about volunteering at Coolamatong, why we are here, what we were doing last year and it lead onto one of them asking about what denominations we are from. We left the table and Dee came along and the school staff continued asking her questions about camp and church - it's not just the kids who are blessed by our faith.

Two

I was walking with a girl to activities when she started telling me about how this camp reminded her of church camps she had been on. We began talking about Christianity so I asked her what she thought being a Christian was all about. She explained about going to church, praying & reading the bible but ultimately she said she wasn't exactly sure. This provided the best opportunity for me to share that Jesus is my best friend and how amazing it was to have a best friend who was not only willing but did die to save me.

Three

My ministry highlight was talking to the main teacher Cindy about what we do, why we do it and what we believe. She couldn't believe the fact that we were volunteers and the hours we worked and everything we did. She thought it was all just amazing even though she didn't understand why. It was great to have those conversations with her.

Four

There were two girls who came up to me and said "Hayley, guess what we're singing tonight for the talent show... Blessed be your name!" So I asked if they went to church and they said yes. We then went and sat down and they sang me their song and we talked about church etc. Later talking to one of them she was excited but nervous so I said "I'll be praying for you" Her face lit up and she gave me the biggest hug.

Five

One night hike, I had numerous opportunities to talk to a few kids about my faith. It began with a tree and one kid asking where it came from, so I said it was just where God had put it. The kids started to discuss that they believed in Jesus but not in God. I questioned them about it and asked 'but isn't Jesus God's Son?' A number of them were surprised and realised that maybe God had to be real. Later a group of boys were asking about heaven and hell and where you go when you die. I said 'it depends on the choice that you make in your life. One boy said he knew where I was going, I said 'so do I, I'm going to heaven.' Another boy who had just been walking beside me and agreeing with me during the walk spoke up 'it's because you made the best decision anyone could make... God in your heart'

Six

I love the way that a simple conversation can open up so many door. Holly spoke to a few kids on night hike about Jesus being the Son of God + the way to get to heaven. What she didn't know at the time was that those kids would then go on to ask me questions the next day. I was up on the climbing tower when a kid started talking about trust vs faith and what it means. He kept asking about God and how I knew He was real. I got to have an amazing conversation with these kids on the tower all because Holly had planted the seed!



