



LORNA S TAKE... ON YOUTHS SPIRITUAL GROWTH

By Lorna Dueck, host of "Listen Up"

I don't know if I'd be following Jesus today if it wasn't for the Christian camps I attended as a youth. From as early as I was able to attend, my parents would pack me off to a ranch or camp for a week. They would get a break from their high-strung, high-energy kid, and I'd connect with the God who loved me.

Throughout those ten summers of Christian camping, I had evolved from camper to counsellor, and then to lifeguard. Yet it was during my final year as a lifeguard when, to borrow an old term from those days, I committed my life to Christ "for keeps."

My lifetime decision took place on a dark night with a crackling campfire in the setting. Ted Goossen, the camp director, had a tradition of challenging campers to place a stick in the fire if they were ready to accept Jesus as Saviour and Lord. And since I already had several encounters – including struggles with those earlier commitments – I sensed that this campfire invitation needed to be a permanent one. I'm thankful for such a vivid picture to anchor my spiritual history in.

How many others would benefit from new growth in their Christian journey if they had the same opportunity to roll out a sleeping bag and be under the watchful eyes of Christian leadership, eager to love them and teach them. All the more reason for us alumni to pray for our Christian ranches and camps everywhere and, most of all, for their ministry to our nation's youth. &



"There is nothing more important for children than to have someone model the Christian life for them. Not just teach them how to read the Bible and pray, but to be an example of how a Christian should respond to everyday living – from the most mundane activities to the most thrilling."

Tim Whitehead, National Administrator of Circle Square Ranch