

# English Camp Report 2010

## “Camp of the Cross”



Life in Knuell Camp, Germany, is simple, almost monastic in its rhythm, and the rich Christian heritage of Germany provides an beautifully historic backdrop for prayer, devotion, and worship.

### The Team

Elyse Burns (21) – Ohio; Tera Dupree (15) – Texas  
Mandy Mullarkey (17)–Texas; Patrick Sheehan(17) – Tx  
Austin Sutton (17) – Texas; Esther Sutton (24) – Texas

### Spiritual Leaders

Bishop Gerhard Meyer - Germany  
Bishop Ray Sutton – Texas  
Father Greg Miller – New Jersey  
Werner Heissenhuber – Texas

### Music

This year, Esther Sutton and Elyse Burns created the songbook which contained a combination of contemporary praise music as well as hymns. Bishop Sutton chose specific referring to the cross and Christ's passion which he utilized in his teachings. Our camp theme song was “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” which was sung every morning before the teaching. The hymn “Am I a Soldier of the Cross?” was concluding theme song when the teachings changed focus from Christ's passion to picking up our crosses and following Him.

Elyse Burns led music on the piano and was often accompanied by a German camper, Tolgahan Yucel, on the guitar. During special services, such as Holy Communion on Sundays, special songs were sung by Esther Sutton, Bishop Sutton, Father Greg Miller, Werner Heissenhuber and Vanessa Schweizer.

Many of the campers would play the piano and sing their favorite praise songs during free time. Several nights at the bonfire, the whole group worshipped and sang songs accompanied by Tolga's guitar, which provided another great atmosphere for singing our favorite songs and sharing in praising the Lord together.

### Campfire

At the end of a long day at the Knoll, with our hearts freshly kindled with the word of God, the campers delighted in seeking warmth and fellowship at the traditional campfire every evening. Along with the occasional silly song, the campfire activities included singing praises, snacks, and just getting to know each other. One evening the campers were touched with a service of absolution led by Bishop Sutton in which everyone threw a paper bearing their own private sins into the fire. This was an unforgettable experience for everyone at the camp and one that will be remembered for a long time. It was amazing the way that God touched our lives with the warmth of his word and also with the warmth of the fire.

### Sports



The integration of athletic relief into our Christian education benefited our English Camp greatly. We started out with the classic American pastime...baseball! It's not the easiest sport to explain to an English speaker, much less a native German. But nevertheless, we all enjoyed baseball, ultimate Frisbee, kickball, football (soccer), and volleyball. As a substitution for sports on some days, we visited a natural swimming pool, we did a craft led by Tera Dupree, and we went to a river for a canoe race! All in all, sports was a very valuable addition to our busy days.

### Teachings

In daily morning classes, Bishop Sutton summarized the message of the Cross by means of Martin Luther's influential "theology of the cross," and discussed the Heidelberg Theses which state that the Cross and Passion of Christ is the only means for revealing God to



fallen humanity. The Bishop discussed in depth the seven last sayings of Christ on the cross as the content of a theology of the cross. These profound statements of Christ detail the effects of Christ's passion: forgiveness (1), heaven (2), spiritual family, the Church

(3), bridging separation from God (4), quenching of spiritual thirst (5), finishing all that needs to be completed for the way to God (6), release from the world for the life of the world to come (7). Bishop Sutton completed his study with a talk on Johann Sebastian Bach, the eighteenth-century German composer who put the theology of the cross to music.

In the evenings, Father Gregory Miller of New Jersey discussed with the campers the theory of evolution which has been almost universally accepted as fact both inside and outside of the Christian community. The premise of his teaching on evolution was that the theory is a significant threat to Christian doctrine and is not supported by science. He demonstrated how, evolutionary theory undermines a Christian worldview because it erodes support for the fact that man was created male and female in God's image, the fact that man is distinct as a creature - not just another animal, the existence of right and wrong - a moral standard which stands outside of man's control, the concept of sin, the need of a savior, life after death, the hope of glory, and more. Father Miller discussed how recent scientific discoveries make evolutionary theory highly unlikely in that there is no basis for the complexity and order that is visible within the cell and in the Universe, and how evolutionary theory creates a worldview, based on faith in man only, which is a significant threat to Christianity and every human society.

### Devotions

Life in the Knuell Camp, started and ended with prayer and devotion each day. This year, we were blessed to have new copies of the Reformed Episcopal Prayer Book available to help lead us in worship.

The team members attended daily English Morning Prayer services, and in the evening, the team and campers came together for singing and Evening Prayer before the evening lecture.

After morning lessons, the team would break into small groups for discussion on the days' lessons for deeper understanding and practical application, which also provided an opportunity for prayer and devotion, and a way for campers to get to know one another on a more personal level.



On Sunday the team was able to share their Holy Communion service with people from the Schwarzenborn community. The service was read in German with a translation of Bishop Sutton's sermon provided by Bishop Gerhard Meyer. After the Sunday service, the team and campers shared a barbeque lunch with the visiting congregation.

One very special opportunity for worship came during the team's trip to Heidelberg, where there is a new Reformed Episcopal mission church at St. Peters University Church.

An Evensong service was planned and advertised in the surrounding community by the rector, and the team from the U.S. led the Evensong, including music performed by Elyse Burns on the church's pipe organ. Peterskirche is the oldest church in Heidelberg, consecrated to the worship of our Lord in the 12th century. The team was very happy to bring an English Evensong service to the new mission in Heidelberg.

### Germany Tour

After Camp Bishop Meyer organized a 5 day Reformation Tour which took the team to:

**Fulda** – St. Boniface (great English Missionary to Germany – Ambassador and Organizer of the Church).

**Rothenburg** – middle age City with surrounding walls (*overnight in youth hostel.*)

**Heidelberg** – visited the old Castle, had a service in St. Peters Church, (University Church) (*three overnights in youth hostel*);

**Straßburg**, France – great Cathedral (Martin Bucer - Reformer) and visited the European Parliament.

### Worms

here we visited Luther's trial place & the Reformers Monument, with all the Reformers and Protestant kings, princes etc. surrounding and supporting Martin Luther.

In 2010 we will celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> English Camp and would like to invite again a team and leaders to support



this outreach in Germany. As topic we have chosen "Camp of Creation".

*Thank you for supporting this special ministry to young people, pray also for growth in our mission churches in Germany as well as new opportunity in church planting.*

*In Christ's service*

Bishop & Grace Meyer  
[info@knuellcamp.de](mailto:info@knuellcamp.de)