

In June 2016, our team of teens and young adults went to Cincinnati, Ohio to work alongside our church there. Our mission was to help Christ Fellowship Church (the local GCI congregation) with a three-day festival/carnival on the church grounds, followed by a children's day camp for 5 days. Prior to the trip we had 2 full days of training for the team, preparing them for all aspects of the trip. At our training session one week before leaving on the trip, they learned that we only had 2 children registered for the day camp, but we were planning for 50 – 60 children! This was definitely a prayer point and yet we had faith that God would provide the right number of children.



By the time we arrived in Cincinnati, they had 9 children registered.



We then had the 3-day festival on the church grounds. The purpose was to connect the church to the community. There were several rides run by an outside vendor, as well as game booths run by our team and local church members. This kept our team members busy, as the festival ran 4pm to

midnight, not including set-up and clean-up.

At the festival we had a booth to advertise the upcoming day camp and a “Guess how many candies in the jar” contest. Each day the winner was announced and given the candies. Each day, everyone else who guessed received a phone call saying that they did not win the candy but they did win something even better - a free week at camp!



By the end of the festival on Sunday night (the day before camp), we had 29 children registered. By Monday morning, the first day of camp, we had 43 children registered. By Tuesday, the camp was declared full at 50 children!



We had prepared crafts for 60 children, so why did we declare it full at 50? Some of the children were 4-5 years old and needed one-on-one supervision. This meant we did not have the staff for more children. We learned from this that the youngest age should be 6 years old so that they have had training in school at working together in a group setting.



For the 5-day camp, our team of teens and young adults took care of registration beforehand, and during the camp they led the games, the worship, the Bible memory verses, and more.

The local congregation led the Bible story and the crafts, cooked and served the lunch, and handled the check-in/check-out of kids.

The Bible stories were all focused on the “I am” statements of Jesus, and the crafts and Bible memory verses went along with them. At church the weekend after the camp ended, about 70 extra people attended to watch their kids perform the songs their kids learned at camp. During the service, 2 campers and 1 parent were baptized.

Most nights of the trip, the GC Trips team had a dinner themed on a different country. Some meals were even cooked by the team members themselves! Each teen/young adult took a turn teaching the rest of the group about that country’s food and culture.

The goal is that a GC Trips team will return in 2017 to help with the camp, and by 2018, the local congregation will be equipped to run the camp on their own.