

DOVE TALES



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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK: COUNT IT ALL JOY

BY: EMILY LEVY, CAMP DIRECTOR



As we move closer to the summer season, I felt it is important to share a verse that has been on my heart since last year's decision to cancel our 2020 sessions. I was feeling defeated, disappointed and honestly...frustrated. 2020 would have been my first summer as the full-time camp director and I had poured a lot of time and energy into preparing the perfect summer for everyone. With the uncertainty brought on by COVID-19, I know it was a good decision to cancel our sessions last summer, but I was still upset, just like the rest of the Hollymont family. I started praying and found God leading me back to this verse multiple times: James 1:2-4. At the beginning of this letter, James felt it extremely important to begin with a call to believers...essentially stating that they needed a big attitude adjustment! We need to refocus our lens: What we may see as defeating, disappointing, or frustrating should be an expectation as a follower and believer of Jesus. We should be prepared and not caught off guard when a sudden trial comes upon us. Trials are part of the Christian experience. Jesus told His disciples, "In this world you will have trouble" (John 16:33).

When I think about trials, I definitely don't think of it as time to celebrate. Trials are difficult and painful, but they exist for a purpose. Know this: God knows that struggling has the potential of producing something good in us! As I kept reading this verse over and over throughout the summer, I noticed that James does not merely say "count it joy," but he says "count it **ALL** joy." For this reason, trials are an opportunity for expressing joy because knowing there is a bigger picture, we can consider trials as things to rejoice in. Even though joy is the opposite of our normal human reaction, James encourages us to work on changing our attitude toward troubles from dread to positive expectation, trust, faith, and even joy! Too often, we see trials in a negative light, or we assume that joy cannot exist in hardship. Sometimes we may even consider the hard times as God's punishment for our sin, rather than what they really are—opportunities to **joyfully** mature into Christlikeness.

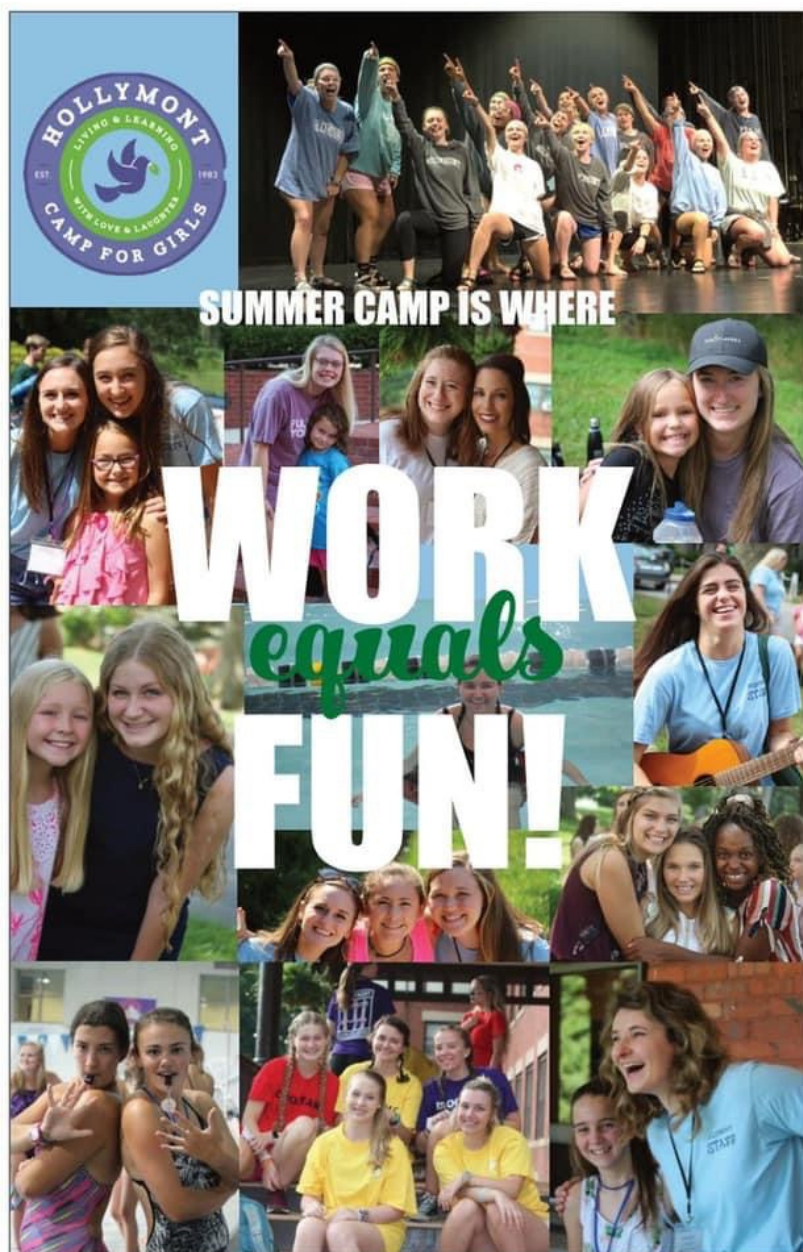
I once heard it explained like this: Trials are like training challenges for an athlete because they build physical endurance and stamina. The athlete even looks forward to the physical and mental challenges because of the benefits that follow. These benefits don't always happen immediately, a lot of times it takes weeks or even months of trials to see the positive results. Trials strengthen our spiritual muscles, giving us the stamina and endurance to stay the course (see Romans 5:2-5). We learn to depend on God and trust Him because faith that is tested becomes genuine faith (see 1 Peter 1:6-7). God also uses trials to discipline us (see Hebrews 12:10). If we were to walk through life and never face hardship, our Christian character would remain both undeveloped and untested.

James encourages Christians to embrace trials not for what they are in that moment, but for what God will accomplish through them. James 1:12 promises, "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him." Think about all you have learned about yourself and about God since last summer, despite not gathering together as we originally hoped for. While the Hollymont family struggled to embrace the trials of not coming together last summer, the ultimate result will be that much sweeter as we count down to Opening Day!

"Count it all joy when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." James 1:2-4

CALLING ALL COUNSELORS!

We have a few counselor positions left! As members of the Hollymont community, we know you are a great resource for helping us spread the word! Please reach out to friends with kids in college, babysitters, youth group members, etc. Please share about Camp Hollymont on Social Media and help us recruit rockstar counselors to add to our staff this summer!



WE ARE LOOKING FOR ENTHUSIASTIC, HARD WORKING, AND GODLY YOUNG WOMEN TO BE A PART OF OUR STAFF TEAM. YOU WILL MAKE FRIENDS THAT LAST A LIFETIME, BE CHALLENGED IN YOUR FAITH, AND LEARN THAT WORK CAN BE FUN!

Since 1983, Camp Hollymont has been welcoming girls from all around the world to enjoy a summer of "Living and Learning with Love and Laughter." None of this would be possible without our amazing staff. Share your love of art, sports, music, and FUN in the beautiful mountains of Rabun Gap, Georgia. Most importantly, share your love of God with girls ages 6-15 and make a difference in their lives that will last forever.

For more information, email Emily Dixon at emily@hollymont.com or apply online at hollymont.com. For news and camp updates, follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Debating an internship this summer? Working at camp may satisfy your internship requirements!

WINTER OFFICE
475 Lake Eden Rd.
Black Mountain, NC 28711
828 686 5343

SUMMER CAMP LOCATION
339 Nacoochee Dr.
Rabun Gap, GA 30568
828 252 2123

Know a young man who would be interested in working at our brother camp? Camp Rockmont for Boys is hiring at rockmont.com

CAMPER CORNER

BY: CHARLEE SANDERS, CAMPER



I can honestly say Hollymont has changed my life forever.

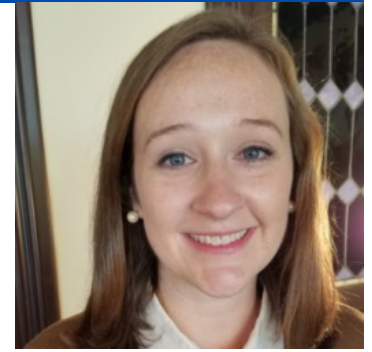
Hollymont is my home away from home, my family, and I wouldn't miss a chance to go back for the world. I have gone to camp since I was nine years old, and every year I am greeted by the sweetest smiles and the famous Hollymont sign as we drive up. The counselors become like older sisters and to me, I believe they are really strong warriors for God.

I love all of the skills they offer at camp, but I have to say my favorite thing may be the intimate conversations we have during devotions before bedtime. Devotions have brought me so much closer to the Lord and helped me build strong friendships that will last a lifetime. This will be my seventh summer as a camper and I definitely plan on going back as a Counselor-in-Training and eventually a counselor! I love my Hollymont family and so excited for this year. It will be the best one yet!

"Hollymont is my home away from home, my family, and I wouldn't miss a chance to go back for the world!"

FROM AN ALUM

BY: ANNA RAINEY DICKSON



Anna Rainey Dickson, former camper and staff member, is currently the Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, North Carolina. She holds a B.A. in Religion from Washington and Lee University and a Masters of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary. On February 14, she delivered a sermon that referenced her time spent at Camp Hollymont. A portion of her sermon, "Listen to the Vision," is quoted below:

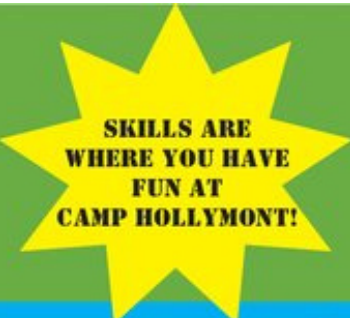
"Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead."

One of the formative experiences of my summers growing up was attending a small camp for girls in the mountains of North Carolina for a few weeks in mid-July. Every morning of those two week sessions, just after breakfast, all of us would wander from the mess hall over a small grassy hill into an old stone chapel. It echoed with our chatter and our giggles, and the secret handshakes of newly formed friendships, and every morning as we walked in we were greeted with the loud, and often just-slightly-out-of-tune and definitely out-of-rhythm strumming of the girls in the Guitar Skill, who would lead us in a few energetic opening songs. If you've ever been to Montreat, go ahead and strike that image from your mind. This was a much, much smaller scale, and much, much less professional operation. And I loved it for that reason. I don't know how they teach the lyrics there nowadays, but when I was a camper, the seat of honor was next to the overhead projector - you might remember the kind in the 90s that used to heat up to just about 2000 degrees - where for a day, you could be in charge of picking the songs and changing out the translucent lyrics sheets projected onto the back wall. Every morning, after announcements and silly skits, when the 20 minute service was over, we'd all file out the front door to what I now understand was a sending song - a song intended to put a devotional thought in your mind for the day ahead. And I can still picture the lyrics of one of my favorite sending songs, projected up on the back wall in scribbled Sharpie. I won't sing them for you this morning, but here they are:

*"Turn your eyes upon Jesus.
Look full in his wonderful face.
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim. In the light of his glory and grace."*

It was like an inhale, and then an exhale, a centering prayer as we walked into the day ahead. It's been a very long time since I've been in that echoey little chapel, but as I've grown older, and life has grown more complex, that song has come back to me when I have least expected it to crop up. An inhale. Then an exhale. A steadying prayer when I have needed a refocus, the ability to see beyond, to take what a friend of mine used to call "an eternal perspective" as opposed to one pushed and impoverished and made reactionary by the chronic anxiety of our age. To bring what is really real, and what is really important, and what is really true back into view.

To read the rest of Rev. Dickson's sermon, visit: <https://rb.gy/ulzprq>



ARE YOU READY TO SELECT YOUR SKILLS FOR THIS SUMMER?

6 Day Session

Link: <https://bit.ly/2txFqjx>



Mobile Option

13 Day Session

Link: <https://bit.ly/30HomDK>



Mobile Option

Haven't registered yet? Visit hollymont.com and click "Apply Online" today!

Be on the lookout for our next postcard about Trip Offerings!

CAMPERS, CITIS, COUNSELORS & PROGRAM STAFF: OUR APPLICATIONS ARE LIVE!



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website to
apply today!**

