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A Community of Light and Love Grows at Expo in East Tennessee



Well, God did it again! He never fails to pour out heavenly blessings upon each of our outreaches and this year's 14th annual Expo in East Tennessee was no exception. The sun was shining and smiles could be seen everywhere as God's presence permeated the atmosphere touching the lives of both those serving and participating through His economy of blessed to be a blessing.

From the 50 boat rides received by over 400 attendees and the 12 pound carp that was caught to the camel, monkey, baby kangaroo, horses and other animals fed and the Sunshine Ambassadors dancing, the faith-filled fun and fellowship was overflowing on June 22nd. Even those who were not able to take a boat ride or catch a fish were busy enjoying the other activities including kayaking, archery, airsoft, art, crafts, games with prizes, snow cones, popcorn, cotton candy, lunch, exhibitors and more! We even had a queen on site to greet folks as they entered the event. After 14 years of ministry it is still awe-inspiring to see God touch people's lives and bring more of Heaven to Earth in such a variety of special ways.

There are many miracles that happen before, during and after an Expo and while the work can be hard, the rewards are immeasurable. We are so blessed to have Christ-honoring churches and godly volunteers as part of our area Expo team who have such great hearts and do so much to make things happen. These folks really go the extra mile! Our ministry intern, Hannah Spradling, has added a great deal of administrative and logistical support and even recruited key volunteers for our registration area. Shady Grove Church has provided lunch at every Expo in East Tennessee since 2010 and New Freedom Missionary Baptist Church has come alongside us to provide much needed manpower and expertise in setup, outdoor activities and tear down that they are both cornerstone partners with the ministry in Christ. As Leanne and I used to say when teaching kids in church, “Many hands make light work”. So, the nearly 80 volunteers from these two churches and having Hannah there locally sure made things run smoothly. :-)



There is such a great sense of community at the East Tennessee Expo with everyone on our team seeking to shine the light of Jesus not only through their words and actions but with Bibles in every goodie bag, through our Gospel bracelet crafts and by taking prayer requests and praise reports at the Prayer and Care booth. Prayer is something that we all need and it is an honor for us to not only pray for but share and rejoice in the good things that God is doing in the lives of our participants.

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