

# SUMMER CAMP TESTIMONIALS 2009

## International Gideon Society

Jim and Debbie, thanks for letting our Gideon bunch distribute bibles at your camps. It was the highlight of our summer and I was most impressed by the young people that spent day after day helping you, all with great attitudes. Only the Lord knows the total impact you have had on all involved. May God continue to bless you and your family in a mighty way. Also thank you for the note book you prepared for us with the pictures on the cover. What a great way to remind us of how God keeps using us if we surrender to his will. Thanks again and I look forward to the next opportunity!

**Jim Adams**

We handed out 80 or so Bibles to another graduating class of Sports Quest at noon today in Bear Creek Park!

This is an amazing process to see all the new Christians as a result of this Christian Sports organization.

Coach Ivan called on 5 young people to quote the scriptures that they learned each day! It was like music to our ears to hear the Word of God coming out of the lips of these young people.

How Great our God is!

Thank you, Coach Jim and Debbie, Coach Ivan, and the entire Sports Quest organization that has been doing the work of God for 17 years – training bodies and minds for our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Mickey Culpepper**

Good Morning!

Let it be known - God answered the prayers of Tomball, Texas Gideons regarding access to young people with Word of God during the summer of 2009!

See below e-mail from Sports Quest = Christian Soccer Training Camp Group- for more details.

Over 1000 + Bibles distributed to young people of Houston during the summer of 2009. All of these blessing based on prayers of men and the faithful actions of one Tomball Gideon to deliver 1 Bible at a time to an individual, through the actions of Bob Burgin. The one Bible that Bob gave away to a young lady named Megan Spence lead to a summer of over 1000 + Bibles being placed in hands of young people, below age of 12 years old in the Houston area, by Gideon Businessmen and their wives.

Sports Quests leadership under the head Coach Jim Spence lead over 285 young people to Christ and 985 children heard the message of the Gospel.

I pray all of you have the chance soon to meet Jim Spence and his lovely wife Debbie. Jim who is originally from the UK came to know the Lord in America at the age of 24 and has won more people to Christ by his energy and leadership than most of us who grew up in a Christian home and "Christian America".

God hears our prayers – Ps. 116, " I love the Lord because He heard my prayers and persistent requests, He leaned over and listened to me; Therefore, I will call upon Him as long as I live. What will I return to the Lord for His grace and mercy? I will praise Him in the gathered congregation of Believers, I will pay my vows to Him, and I will offer thanksgiving to the Lord my God."

Have a Blessed Week!

**Mickey Culpepper**

It is a life changing event to see the way the young people listen to the coaches and our testimony as Gideons. Hope of our future as a Nation – young people will believe in faith in One God and One Salvation Source!

Regards,

**Mickey Culpepper**

Bible Men –

Jim Adams and I handed out over 150 Bibles at 2<sup>nd</sup> Baptist this morning before lunch at the Sports Quest week long soccer camp graduation program.

Several children were saved for Jesus Christ this week. Sports Quest will send us an e-mail of the number later.

What a joy! Amazing to see how excited the children are to receive Bibles and to ask for one for a friend or brother or sister.

Jim and I went next door to 2<sup>nd</sup> and had lunch at Café Express. One of moms from the distribution came up to us in Café Express and had her daughter (one of young soccer players) introduce us to her friend whom she had just given a New Testament. God gives us the \$s to buy the Bibles, we hand them out, and now the children are giving them away.

Praise God – Re-read Isaiah 55 – the first few verses and you will see the prophecy come true today – "Come whoever is thirsty – I will give you food and drink for free! – No money needed!"

**Mickey Culpepper**

You guys have made our summer very refreshing even in this heat!

To pull souls out of eternal life where ones lips are dry and throats are thirsty is such a blessing to hear. You guys and your staff will be blessed for preparing the way to life of refreshing cool living water of God.

Thank you for allowing us to participate!

**Mickey Culpepper**

You two have been such a blessing to us and we look at the results and how God is using Sports Quest to save so many precious souls. I don't need a picture to remember the expression on those little fellow's faces. I wonder when I look at the parents how many parents have been convicted. One of the mothers that received one of the bibles and heard Jim's message was as excited as the kids. She said she was going to read her bible wherever she goes when she waits in the car, I guess for her kids at school. Sports Quest has been a great experience and To God be the Glory! I want to thank God that He used Megan for us to be involved with Sports Quest.

**In His Service Bob Burgin**

Isn't it wonderful to see those young Sports Quest coaches working along with Jim and Ivan with such a dedicated commitment? Can you imagine what an investment this project means to their belief and Character as well? When I see kids out on the soccer fields on Sunday during church it takes them away from the Church, but when we see Jim and Debbie's program, a majority of these precious souls are saved and show them the Way, The Truth and The Life and even seeing the parents get so excited about such a Christian based program.

And now Mickey has a new name, Mickey The Bible Man!

God Bless you Jim and Debbie, and like Mickey says He already has.

**In His Service, Bob Burgin**

## Sports Quest Staff & Parents of Campers

It was my pleasure Jim!!! I always have so much fun with y'all! Loving on those kids is truly a blessing for me as well!

**Matt Richter**

Dear Jim and Deb,

Dirk and I want to thank you for another great soccer camp experience for Ryan, and we want to thank you also for giving Emily the opportunity to volunteer with you this Summer. She enjoyed every minute of it!! We can't tell you how much it means to us to have an outlet where she can mix her passion with ministry, and it warmed our hearts to see her wanting to go back for more. We already had an appreciation for the excellence in the work/ministry you do with the kids during camp, but now we also have an appreciation for your ministry to the staff and volunteers.

Thank you and thank you again,

**Raquel Cameron (Emily's mom)**

Hi Jim,

Thank you for the note, but the pleasure was all mine. The number of professions is awesome, and truly a testament to the work God is doing through Sports Quest.

It was a fantastic week of vacation for me. It gave me time with my boys, a break from the stresses of work and an opportunity to serve the Lord. I truly miss being out on the field, and wish I could roll back the clock and experience last week over again. Maybe the Lord will see my heart and work in a way that will allow me to do this more often or longer term.

Please be sure to thank your staff and volunteer base for making me feel so welcome and accepted.

**In Him, Matt James**

## Parents Via Email

My son enjoyed your camp in June. He said it was great! His only suggestion was to have the kids be in the shade "any and every moment" when they aren't active on the field.

Thank you for a wonderful experience.

**Mary Jo Capelli**

Hello,

Thank you for giving my daughter, Sofia, a great experience in soccer. She had a wonderful time.

Sincerely,

**Lisa Alatorre**

Our grandson (Jacob age 9) was so thrilled to get his little New Testament with, as he's proud to show me, Psalms and Proverbs. He hasn't let it out his sight since, showing it to Grandpa, Grandma (me) and can't wait for mom to be home from work to show her. He says he wished he had gotten one for her but he was going to share. The player testimony book has also been a favorite. I put it quietly by where he sits in the car and next thing I know he's reading it and sharing what he reads with me. He was very taken with the idea of soccer players whose grandmothers "made them go to church" and out of that they were Christians. I asked me if he knew what was so important about being a Christian. (He goes to a Christian school and can tell you all about Jesus.) But he didn't have an answer about why it is so important. That led of course to our talk about eternal life. So, Sports Quest, he brought home a lot more than just soccer from your visit to Second Baptist Church in Houston this week. Thank you!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Good Day,

My son (Nico) attended the camp this week at The Church of The Holy Apostles. He enjoyed it so very much. Sports Quest is a very well ran and professional camp. We love the fact that there is a Christian message with the training. We look forward to many more years of coming to your camps.

Thanks for such a great camp!

Best Regards,

**Greg Prioli**

I just wanted to send a quick note to say thanks for another great year. My kids, Katie and Scotty, really look forward to this camp every year. My husband said that we should skip it this year because both kids had too many activities during the day and were going to be exhausted the entire week. My kids, however, really wanted to participate and were so glad that they did. They love the spiritual part as much as the soccer part and you always make it fun. Thanks again, we hope we can do it again next year!

Sincerely,

**Ann Malcolm**

Thank you for a wonderful experience! We will see you next summer!!!!

**Micki Luna**

Dear Sports Quest,

Thank you for a wonderful week. My son, John Capelli, enjoyed your soccer camp very much. He said he learned a lot and liked being there, even though it was very hot.

**Mary Jo Capelli**

## Facility Hosts

Woohooo! 48 kidz chose to believe. That is awesome Jim. Thanks for all you do to spread the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is a hurting world and you are bright light piercing the darkness with His love.

It was our pleasure to help. I wish we could have done more. It was great to meet you, Ivan and Chad. Your team was great with the kids and the kids were very engaged. I really appreciate how you can reach across denominations. We struggle with that.

I also spoke to Chad about working together. He said he has a vision for expanding his help next year. I sent him an email and we'll see if we can get together and strategize. That's where I have fun. Please pray that we seek God first, that we never back down, that we push forward in faith and that He uses us for His glory.

Please let me know if and how I can help you.

With God, all things are possible...

**John Walls**

**Kidz Pastor**

**281-373-5446**

**[www.fairfieldbaptist.com](http://www.fairfieldbaptist.com)**

Thank you so much. We look forward to hosting you next year. You are truly a blessing to those you work with.

**Lorene Kettler**

**Office Manager**

**St. John Lutheran Church**

*"I can do everything through Him who gives me the strength." Philippians 4:13*

Jim,

Greetings from St. John! I look forward each year to Sports Quest's presence on our campus. This year we have been consumed, personally, with some family health issues, and out of town at week's end so I really missed greeting you. I hope next year to be able to have a more visible presence during the camp, but am truly delighted that you are able to share the gospel message with the youth and their parents. Blessings to you and your whole Sports Quest team. In Jesus... DLB

Abundant Blessings!

David Bahn

John 10:10

Senior Pastor

St. John Lutheran Church

[www.stjohn-lutheran.net](http://www.stjohn-lutheran.net)

## Parents Via Online Camp Survey

*"Please provide any other thoughts or comments you may have regarding your experience with the Sports Camp and the camp staff."*

Although I enrolled my child to be with friends, I plan to enroll next year because of the great program. I was impressed with the skill of the instructors and the way Christian principles were integrated into the soccer lessons and life lessons about sportsmanship.

The camp was absolutely wonderful, and my daughter loved it- even having never played soccer. We especially liked the way the Gospel was brought into the morning and the emphasis placed on bringing Spirit filled living into all aspects of life.

Great camp will participate again!!! Great staff!!!

My boys had a GREAT time! They loved the soccer devotional book and read the whole thing the 1st day!

My children had a great time and learned a lot

I loved the Christian emphasis and fun atmosphere

Coach Amy was extremely helpful getting my reluctant daughter to participate. The coaches were very patient and encouraging!

Excellent!

Camp was great! We loved it.

Very well organized, great lessons learned, top notch faculty

Zach loves this camp and will continue to participate for years to come.

My kids had a great time and want to come back!

My kids are happy and tired after camp, always come home w/a great lesson and great attitude. I am so pleased w/the structure, energy, and outcome of the camp. Always impressed with the professionalism and ability of the young adults/coaches to interact and have such a positive influence on my kids!

I was impressed with the coaches and their dedication to working with the young children. It didn't seem as though they had to be there but that they wanted to be there.

The kids had a good time while improving their skills. The staff was friendly and knowledgeable.

Thank you for being a great example for the kids- spiritually and athletically. We have already told many friends about the camp in hopes that they will get to experience it next summer! I appreciate that you help the kids to understand that improving both skill and attitude (sportsmanship) is important. All the kids that we came with were encouraged -- all went home feeling successful. Thank you again!

My then-5-year-old had never enjoyed camp in the past. He LOVED Sports Quest. Staff was terrific and he loved the Bible lessons as much as the soccer.

My children really enjoyed it, and I liked the religious aspect even if it wasn't a driving force for our registration. I liked the ability to order pictures also, especially candid.

You were all so enthusiastic. My daughter learned so much about soccer. She loved every minute of your camp.

We had a wonderful experience. Both of our children loved Sports Quest, and they have already asked to attend next year!

Wonderful! My son learned new skills and had fun!

Great staff, love the daily devotional!

Good quality of staff with respect to moral example and sportsmanship.

My son LOVED the camp...he learned a lot and enjoyed the Christian sports theme.

My Kids love your camp, they would love more training. We could only attend one camp this summer due to other activities but they would have loved more sessions. Thank you for a wonderful program.

Great work

Camp Coaches were EXCELLENT in teaching skills and message. Great with kids. Camp was extremely well organized. Younger kids loved the fun games and older kids loved the World Cup. This camp gave away more great stuff than any other camp.

We were referred to the camp by friends, and loved it. The coaches did a wonderful job communicating with them regarding the rules of soccer, how to play and good sportsmanship. Great job!

They are very helpful, funny, and on the kids level

Amazing!

We love this camp. It is one of the most organized and well run camps we participate in.

Great and God bless you.....Psalms 91

Pictures were a great extra perk

My daughter has attended several soccer camps over the past few years. This is the only one that she has asked if she can go back again next year. The values presented each day have made an impact on her. They were presented on a "kid's" level and were very understandable so they could relate and apply to their daily lives. Since the camp, she has made reference to things that were taught both from a spiritual and soccer standpoint.

I was so impressed with the Christian teaching in addition to the soccer training. Stephanie loved every minute of the camp.