

# ENGLISH CAMP!

Tucson temperatures are rising fast. The desert in the summer is unbearable, but some of the season's plans are looking very inviting... Plans to head for the hills!

This next weekend (probably at the time you read this) we will hold our first annual English Camp! The location is strategically and appropriately chosen... the mountains. Approximately 90 people from different nations, including many volunteers from various Tucson churches will gather together for three days June 8-10. There are several purposes for this event—(1)build relationships (2)teach English (3)find seekers. We will offer several classes, fun activities for the kids, and some delicious food served up by our wonderful kitchen crew.



Same camp- different occasion -2006

There has been a tremendous response of people to help. In fact, more volunteers than we need! God is good!! The campers are a lot slower to respond however, and although we expected the refugees to wait till the last minute to sign up, it still leaves a lot of room for stress. Cultural clash! Those Americans are always trying to plan ahead and keep things organized—event oriented. While many foreigners (particularly our Middle Eastern friends) don't give a thought for tomorrow much less several days away—they are people oriented. Relationships are important, but making a commitment for a given weekend in the future is just not common practice. Thus, our planning committee is left wondering how to proceed as we learn the delicate balance between two cultures. Flexibility is not optional... it is key!

We are very excited about the weekend that is fast approaching and are trusting God to pull together the details. It may not look like our original plan, but it will be beautiful. *"Trust from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; He's the one who will keep you on track. Don't assume that you know it all. Run to God!"* (Proverbs 3:5-11 THE MESSAGE)

I decided to send you this newsletter *before* camp rather than reporting after camp because we need your help. **Would you please pray?** I know that God has hand-picked each volunteer and camper and set aside this weekend for a time to gather together. May we honor Him. May we follow His agenda rather than ours. May we be living and breathing representations of Christ as we demonstrate His love to these international campers. May valuable relationships be formed that extend way beyond camp. May the campers catch a glimpse of Jesus and long to know more.

I invite you to please join us on your knees as honorary volunteers for English Camp June 8-10. In fact, it would be encouraging if you write me and tell me what God has laid on your heart to pray specifically for the camp, and I will share it with the volunteers. I can't wait to share with you some pictures and stories after we return. Thank you for lifting up this event. May our mighty God be glorified!

Roughing it for Him (camping is not my favorite activity)...

Cherie

TUCSON REFUGEE MINISTRY

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