

# Doe River Datapoint

## Milbourne Family Ministry Update

— Fall 2017 —



View from the top of the 800' SRX Zipline. Inset: Zipline rider passing over tubers



### Adventure Quest 2017

Praise the Lord with us for many changed lives!

In numbers:

- **251** students trusted Christ as Savior
- **327** students turned over past hurts and failures to God
- **501** made other significant decisions to advance their walk with God
- 1058 campers: Individuals and 9 groups from 21 states.
- Over \$62,000 in scholarships for 129 campers in need. No one was turned away due to lack of finances!
- 8 weeks for DRG staff and about 70 college students serving as summer staff, plus 17 days of staff training.

In words:

*"DRG brought me closer to God and helped me accept Jesus into my heart."*

~Ethan, age 15, Mississippi

*"I gave my life to God."*

~Taliah, age 13, Tennessee

*"My parents got divorced and I always thought it was my fault. This week I was able to turn this over to God."*

~Hayley, age 12, Georgia

*"This week I turned over to God my abuse both from my mom and dad, and all the friends who wronged me, and bullies at school. And I finally forgave myself."*

~Caleb, age 15, Mississippi

*"DRG is a haven for adventure. It challenges & grows children in ways beyond their daily norm. It is a perfect combination between 'being strong and courageous' & 'being still & knowing God is God.'"*

~Hannah, Youth Leader, Tennessee



The 2017 Summer Staff "Family". (Milbournes top left)



The new Mud Course!



Counselor and his boys hangin' out together

## Family News

### Winter / Spring

The kids continue **homeschool** classes, most via Kingsport Christian Academy (KCA). **Nancy** continues her second school year as Speech Language Pathologist (SLP).

Thanksgiving and Christmas: Family gatherings in PA.

December: **Mark and Nancy** celebrate **25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary** with a few days at Hilton Head.

January: **Mark** makes another trip to PA to help his brother Steve **move Mom** Milbourne into **assisted living**.

February: **Jon** (15) gets his driver **learner's permit!**

March: **Spring break trip to PA** to visit Mom M in her new digs. Then home via Pittsburgh to visit brother Steve (and Rita) and see some of the city sights.

February - April: **Flooding** from laundry tub overflow prompts replacement of carpet with (waterproof) vinyl plank floor in the downstairs bedroom and, while we're at it, a complete repaint.

May: We enjoy a few days of **camping** with friends at nearby South Holston Lake. **Mark and Nancy** travel to Jacksonville, FL to attend the **wedding** of Mark's cousin.

### Summer

June: **Kate** and **Nancy** travel to **New York City** where Kate's choir performs at **Carnegie Hall!** They also take in a show and see some of NYC. Two days later **Nancy** goes back up to New Jersey with her parents to attend her niece's **wedding**.

June / July: **Jon** (15) and **Kate** (14) each attend DRG **leadership programs**: Jon the three-week *SALT* program and Kate the two-week *17Three*. **Jon** helps Dad Furst again with **AV** for



## Car Knockers

A big winter/spring project for **Mark** was **repair** of one of the two big **railroad cars** that carries visitors into the gorge. A rotten beam needed replacing. This required removal of sides, seats and flooring. A locust tree was found on the DRG property and cut by a local mill to be the main part of the new 30-foot beam. Then new flooring and reinstallation/repair of sides and seats. Restain / re-paint. Thanks to good weather and much help from a few dedicated volunteers the car was finished in time to carry the first of many school groups that visited DRG in the spring.



*Family News—continued*

the worship and teaching time during the 4 weeks of *Junior Adventure Quest* while **Kate** helps lead the **singing**.

July: A short break in the camp schedule lets us make a quick spontaneous trip to PA to **visit Mom M** on her 87<sup>th</sup> **birthday**.

August: We return to PA to attend the **wedding** of Nancy's nephew, visit Mom M again and catch up with a few friends.

### Fall

**Jon** (10<sup>th</sup> grade) and **Kate** (9<sup>th</sup> grade) resume **homeschool** with a mix of KCA, online and co-op classes.

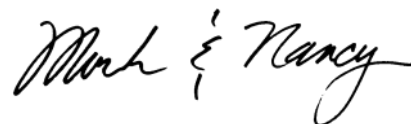
**Nancy** resumes her **SLP** work in Washington County Schools, cutting back to two days per week (while the kids are at KCA) to be able to better manage home school.

**Mark and Jon** help staff DRG's 20<sup>th</sup> annual *Father/Son Retreat*. We were blessed to have over 130 attend this year.

### From Generation to Generation..

After 20+ years we are now seeing children of former campers attending. We've also seen many former campers and summer staff move on to full-time ministry work, and many credit DRG's work in their life path. Thank you for your faithful prayers and partnership that have enabled us to play a vital role in this.

God bless you!



### Mark & Nancy Milbourne

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We'd enjoy hearing from YOU! Drop us an e-mail here.

Additional Partnership  
Need: \$475 / month

### Financial Partnership (tax deductible)

Payable to: "Doe River Gorge"  
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