



Peggy Darby (second from right) and other staffers at the Alabama WMU GA/Acteen Camp at Shocco Springs in 1988

Memories of WMU Missions Camp Days

Each June, I reflect on the treasured memories of my time at WMU missions camps, both as a camper and later as a staff member during my college years. These experiences shaped my faith, broadened my understanding of missions, and left me with cherished moments that continue to inspire me today.

I can still picture the winding trail leading to vespers, a time of evening worship when we would gather under the night sky to sing and reflect on God's Word. Craft-making sessions and daily Bible study with my camp counselors were both integral parts of my camp experience. The highlight of each week was the candlelight service, where I deepened my commitment to Christ and missions.

However, my most cherished memories are those spent with missionaries who visited our camp. Hearing their personal stories of answering God's call to serve helped me understand missions in a tangible way. These moments built upon the lessons I first learned in Girls in Action, providing real-world examples of what saying yes to God means.

I am deeply grateful that my parents were able to provide me with the opportunity to attend a WMU missions camp, where I could grow alongside other girls my age in faith and service. Not all families have the financial resources needed to offer this experience to their children. And this need inspired the creation of the WMU Foundation's Missions Camping Endowment. This endowment provides grants to help children and youth attend missions camps, ensuring they, too, can be blessed by the joy and spiritual growth camp offers.

Serving as a WMU camp staffer as a college student was transformative. The training I received covered everything from leading Bible studies and sharing the gospel to comforting homesick campers and teaching crafts. Yet the work of missions camp extends beyond the summer. Throughout the year, camp administrators seek ways to improve the camp experience.

The WMU Camp Directors Network plays a vital role in this ongoing effort. Thanks to the Kristyn Ross WMU Camp Network Endowment, grants support leadership development, retreats, and trainings. These resources help camp directors enhance their programs and create meaningful events for campers year after year.

Do you have a missions camp experience that has shaped your life? I would love to hear your story. Let's share our memories and work together to ensure future generations have the opportunity to benefit from the joy and impact of WMU missions camps!

.....
PEGGY DARBY is president of the WMU Foundation. She is grateful to be a former Alabama WMU missions camper and staffer!