

***A Word from Woody. . .***  
**“My MFuge Journal Jottings”**

Thanks to COVID-19, it has been two years since our church has had a youth mission trip at MFuge. And I am praising God we can return! Our trip this year was June 14-19 in Mobile, Alabama. The University of Mobile hosted us, and it was from there that we left each day to serve those in need. Below are some jottings from my journal from that time.

Monday, June 14: Kaylor Grimm and we Hingles—Woody, Elena, and Tiffany—left New Orleans in the late morning bound for Mobile. Since we can register as late as 4:00 PM, we can take our time traveling. Kaylor requested that we stop for lunch at Taco Bell, and I was fine with that—it took no twisting of my arm! We stopped in Gulfport and enjoyed ourselves. We reviewed over the MFuge trip a bit, and after stopping for dessert at a nearby Dairy Queen, we headed again for Mobile. We arrived just before 3:00 PM, and the welcoming crew from MFuge escorted us to the necessary stations—to get our t-shirts, group picture, register, and get unloaded in our dorm rooms. The male and female dorms buildings are separate, but we are only about 100 yards away from each other. We had a delicious supper at 5:00, had some down time, and then worship at 7:00. I found out we have a group at this camp of about 450 from various states—such as Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, and Kansas. The theme of this year’s camp is “Dwell”, and will deal with different aspects of the Lord dwelling with His people. Our camp preacher Scooter is a man who is passionate for the Lord, and preaches from the valley of dry bones passage in Ezekiel 37. This preacher has a busy life—he and his wife of 11 years have eight children—four through natural birth and four through foster care. Our worship leader is long in height and hair, and is doing a wonderful job of leading us to praise Jesus. We broke up from worship around 10:00 and met as a church group to review the day. This is Kaylor’s last MFuge, as she has just graduated from high school, and I can tell she is savoring her time here, as we all are!

Tuesday, June 15: After a good breakfast at 7:20 AM, morning worship at 8:00 AM, small groups, and lunch we prepared for the workday ahead. At 12:00 Noon we, along with a small youth group from Mississippi, were sent to a place called Feeding the Gulf Coast. This place is a lot like Second Harvest food bank. We helped them stuff small plastic ziplock bags for a fund raiser meal they will

have in September. Then we helped sorting out canned goods and other food items by their dates and we determined what needed to be thrown away. Then we arrived back at the dorms for about 4:00 PM, had some rest time, then supper at 5:30 PM and worship at 7:00 PM. The camp pastor Scooter preached on Daniel 6 on Daniel in the lions' den, and how we need to have God as our refuge—very good message! Then we had church small groups at 8:30 PM, and went back to our dorms for a good night's sleep!

Wednesday, June 16: Our mission today was to go to Hillsdale Community Center and play with underprivileged children in the area from basically 12:00-3:30 PM. This was a good chance to be a friend to children and do such things as play basketball with them, paint, and make bead bracelets. We also gave a devotional with the children, who seemed to enjoy it. We had an early worship service from 4:30-6:00 PM so we could have our free night out. We took advantage of this and drove a little over an hour to Orange Beach. Kaylor and Tiffany had about 40 minutes in the water and loved it. Elena and I sat on a beach blanket, took pictures, and watched the gorgeous sunset. Then we ate supper at 9:00 in Foley at Lambert's Café—the well-known home of the “threwed rolls”! It was a wonderful way to end a great day!

Thursday, June 17: After breakfast and small groups we head back to Hillsdale Community Center. It was nice to see the same children and start to build relationships with them. We arrived back at our dorm rooms around 4:00 and relax and then go to supper and 7:00 PM worship. After worship there is a special service designed to address some of the depression issue some youth may have had with the COVID quarantine. This service hit many youth emotionally, and they were able to talk a lot of things out in the presence of Christian fellowship.

Friday, June 18: There is a storm in the Gulf that is about to make landfall in New Orleans and is going eastward. We are concerned about how this will affect our traveling home on Saturday, so we are considering leaving for home after our service time at 3:30. Kaylor is saddened by the idea of leaving early, but has been very gracious. As we get weather reports we can see the storm will probably miss New Orleans a bit and will largely miss Mobile. We decide to stay the night and leave around 11:00 AM tomorrow, when the camp formally ends. Kaylor is very happy about this. We go back to Hillsdale Community Center and play with the children. It is tough to say goodbye at the end as leave because the children have

become dear to us. When we get back we have supper, worship, and get ready for something Kaylor has especially wanted to do—participate in Mega Relay! This is an event held at every MFuge where small group Bible Studies compete with one another by doing such things as running to a spot and put your head on the end of a bat and go in a circle three times. Fortunately, my role is watching and taking pictures! I thought Kaylor’s team had a chance to win, but alas, they don’t. Nevertheless, she did have a wonderful time—I can tell this because as she leave she is hoarse from yelling so much!

Saturday, June 19: I am so glad we did not leave yesterday! There were some thunderstorms around 5:00 AM, but by the time of breakfast at 7:20 we just had overcast skies and little, if any, rain. The worship service ends our time at MFuge, and we had a great time telling new friends goodbye. On the way home we stop at Arby’s for lunch in Gulfport, and then make a “necessary” stop at Dairy Queen in Diamondhead—the perfect way to end any trip!

Thank you for your prayers for us while we were away in Mobile. We truly had a great time. The Lord taught us much in worship and in helping others—lessons which will stay with us as we continue to serve the Lord!

Love in Christ,

Woody