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Where Have I Been?

By Teresa Hampton

It has been a few weeks since we've been together. Where have I been? Those of you who know me personally know it is unlikely I would ever attend a summer camp. But recently I was part of Future Leaders Camp (yes, indoors with air-conditioning). Young people in middle and high school came to us from parts of Tennessee, Georgia, Virginia, and Alabama. A host of Christian men and women helped with the young ladies.

It was a refreshing, rich experience. In just one week young women who never dreamed of delivering a speech or teaching a class (nightmares excluded), became confident and fearless teachers of ladies' and children's classes, as well as leaders of song and prayer in those classes, and quiet leaders in many other ways. They took to heart Solomon's instruction, "*Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth,*" (Ecclesiastes 12:1).

I came away with some great reminders about young ladies. I was reminded that they want to *learn* more about the Bible, the woman's role in the church, and working cooperatively with each other. They want to *hear* lessons about purity, modest dress, and controlling the tongue. They eagerly want to know what they may *do* in Christian service. They want to learn about differences in people, and how to use that knowledge to *involve everyone* in Christian service. They will take a challenge, and *rise far above* our expectations.

Today I have a deeper admiration and respect for young women and men. So, if you wondered where I had been, now you know. The young people of Future Leaders Camp were busy refreshing my soul. But you really don't have to go to camp to be refreshed by youth. Look around you. Are there young people in your congregation? Encourage them. Engage them in good works. Challenge them to stretch and grow in their spiritual walk. As far as I can tell, the future of the Lord's church is bright. It is up to us to fan the flame!

Today's Verse: "*For we have great joy and consolation in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed by you...*" (Philemon verse 7).

Photo: please see next page

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Future Preachers and Church Leaders Camp 2008
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