

Words of Hope

A request from: Mrs. Dick Kennedy also known as Nancy and LaaLaa

I am hoping that everyone who reads this will send me an email - sentence or a paragraph - about how they get through hard times. Given the turmoil in today's world - natural or political - I need your WORDS so that I may put your answers together in a notebook like the Kieve-Wavus prayer book.

My inspiration is former Kieve camper and counselor Evan Osnos. He wrote two brilliant pieces for the NEW YORKER Magazine on the subject of how the Japanese dealt with the horrific Tsunami that crashed into their nuclear power plant. I will always remember him as one tired little boy who got off the bus, went up to Dick and said, "I know, Mr. Kennedy, this is a very nice camp, but I will be leaving in the morning." Evan stayed on as a camper and counselor for seven more years. In his own words he describes that first day thirty years ago. "[I recall] my terror upon arrival and Dick's elegant way of steering me toward redemption. Lucky me, what if he had agreed to my request to go home? He did me the greatest favor by urging me on toward better things. I've been grateful ever since."

I have heard counselors and the youngest of campers, all ages, speak eloquently in chapel. I have seen the 9-11 families show their courage. The veterans are an honor to be with. Today I was given a lovely piece by a mother who had managed to walk around the lake frontage at camp. She said there are many roots in our lives we must get over. And another said there are boulders we must climb.

That reminded me of the last hurdles before the summit of Mt. Washington.

Campers, counselors, veterans, 9/11 families and more here at Kieve-Wavus remind me that each of us overcomes obstacles and loss in our lives. Please send me your words of courage and perseverance - of hope - in the face of hard times.

Thank you. I love you,

Nancy LaaLaa Kennedy

Please send emails to

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