

**May 23, 1980 – Friday**

Feast of St. Joan Antida – Lord, bless this special “soup kitchen” project today.

What a beautiful day –

Started the new St. Joan Antida “care” Center in honor of our Foundress! A simple tent, put up by local Khmers in Quarter 11 to feed 500 – CRS providing food.

It is very temporary since the people are still moving, but we will have a little clinic there. Actually the tent is on Care property where they were going to build a new kitchen, but all building was halted due to the movement of the camp!

I unite with my Sisters throughout the world in joyful celebration – thanks!!



**May 24, 1980 – Saturday**

Lord, it is so important the people stay independent – not too dependent on us as if we are Superiors. It is right to make certain demands – I believe such as making them clean up their garbage.

We can offer them the chance for school but it is up to them whether they want to accept this valuable gift.

**May 25, 1980 – Sunday**

Reading the book Trinity by Leon Uris

This too deals with the Irish – English struggle for power. I’m reading Maria Van Trapp – war situation.

“There is no present or future – only the past, happening over and over again – now.”

Eugene O’Neill

How true this is as I see in everyday situations. One can read what’s happening now in the bible often.

**May 26, 1980 – Monday**

Lord, help me overcome this bit of depression I am going through.

Lord, help me accept myself as I am – my limitations, my feelings of weakness. There are certain days I must quietly wait, being patient with myself and others.

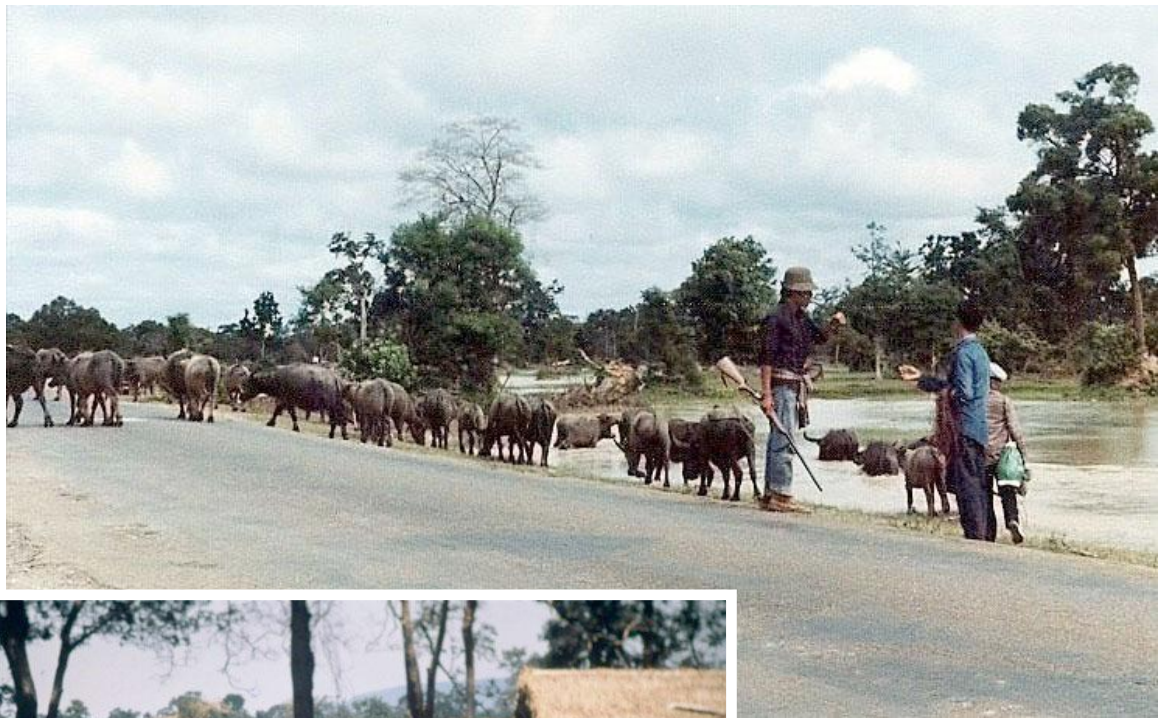
Wish I could understand what is going on in the minds of my people here – their loneliness, despair, fright. I could cry to see the children, especially the crippled, many have eye problems (blind in one eye), many limping, many do not talk and often appear very sad.

**May 27, 1980 – Tuesday**

Right to the Border!

This road leads deep into Cambodia. It is so peaceful, quiet, yet the horrors of war – the poison bamboo traps, the land mines. We stand in the center of Khmer Rouge, Khmer Seri, and Vietnamese territory. If only all could be united and live in peace as one.

The stillness presents a haunting feeling – as if all eyes are on us from the beautiful forest. The Thai would like the people way out here but must clear the land mines first. How fast they build the road with the laterite!



**May 28, 1980 – Wednesday**

Met B.J. from M-A-S-H and had photo taken with him!

Don't know the man but now must watch M-A-S-H when I get home. They say it is like a M-A-S-H unit here. Anyway, Mike Farrell helps the CONCERN of America and came here as a quiet citizen without fanfare to see the real action. He stayed with the CONCERN girls in Aran last night. I work closely with these girls and Theresa from CARE and the CRS people.

B.J. gave me his autograph for Norm Jr. He impressed me by his quiet, simple manner – no glamour – just an ordinary man.



**May 29, 1980 – Thursday**

The challenge of attending Mass!

Lord, you know our desire to attend daily Mass but you are really testing us! Sunday we went to Aran – no Mass. Tonight we get stuck deep in mud – Father stripped to his pants, working under the car in the mud placing boards to get traction – but no success.

Finally the city dump truck – huge – had to pull us out after we contacted the soldiers. Although it took an hour to get the car out, everyone worn out, we had a beautiful Mass. I made books from the Jesuit songs. Sr. Mary and I often sing to and from work – I love it!

**May 30, 1980 – Friday**

St. Joan Antida and Agostina Centers!  
Temple Tent or Agostina Center.

Three months ago, we wouldn't dare go near the temple – so far out of bounds. Now we have a feeding center there – a tent serving 500 children plus an OPD with the personnel of OPD I.

Jill found 70 pregnant women just very near the tent plus many small babies. Every home seems to have babies and little children in it. Two of the OPD personnel live in a smaller tent to guard the supplies – this is their home. Many people sleep in the big tent at night.



**May 31, 1980 – Saturday**

Temple Tent Agostina Center!

The soldiers (Thai) seem happy about our location for it moves the people toward where they want them, yet doesn't move the whole camp – however things change rapidly here and it wouldn't take much to move thousands of people. Many people express how afraid they are at night.

**June 1, 1980 – Sunday**

Trying so hard to learn Khmer!

I am such a slow learner – trying to learn but really not doing well. I would really want to study French when I get home. It seems I am picking up a few words gradually.

The people are more responsive to affection. I attended a beautiful Mass with high officials of CRS in Aran – more Sisters here.

### **June 2, 1980 – Monday**

Our tent fell, but we had a picnic lunch!

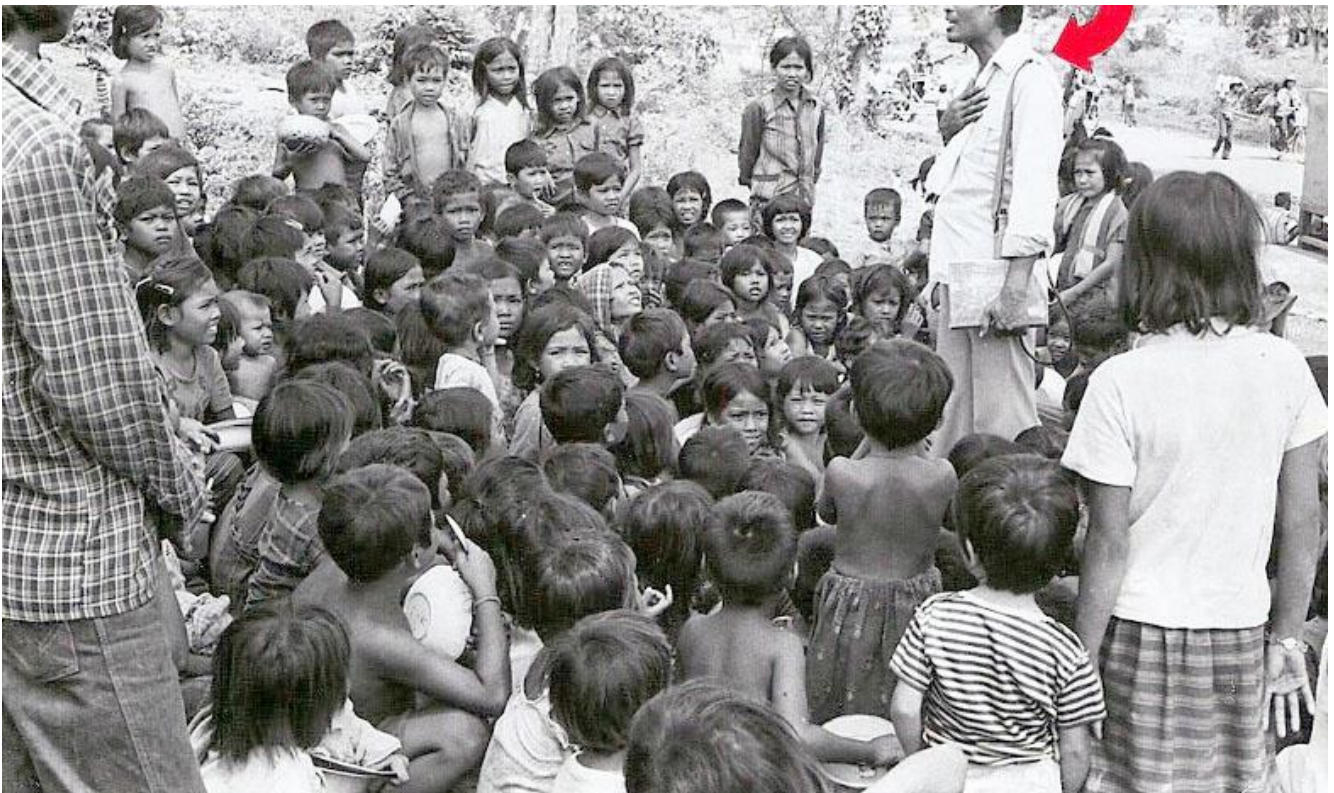
Lord, life can go on despite any difficulties. Since our tent fell, we are eating under the trees in the Temple Area – a lovely scene. It is so peaceful yet we know they are training soldiers and both Khmer Rouge and Vietnamese are near. There are more malnourished children – mothers coming with their babies. Our people from OPD I are in the clinic.

I continue to listen quietly to people's stories, reflect briefly but then must go on since one would fall apart at the horrors and sadness. The greatest sorrow is the lack of freedom.

### **June 3, 1980 – Tuesday**

Rad is my interpreter.

Rad is 42 years old. His wife and 5 children are back in Cambodia. He could never go back since he would be considered a traitor since his is an intellectual. He is constantly so near me which at times seems annoying. Yet he is a very sad, lonely man – a meteorologist who studied in Australia. I gave him a flashlight and some books – someone stole them – his few prized possessions. His house has no sides nor covering since he could not afford it. He sleeps on a wood hospital bed. He is always so gentle and patient yet I am sure he is crying deep within. His constant frequent comment is “I am very sad.”



**June 4, 1980 – Wednesday**

We had some more graduates of the nutrition program.

We had a simple party – crackers, cookies, juice and fruit. I brought peanut butter – no one used it. I bet they did not know it goes on crackers! How much we take for granted. I thought they would enjoy it!

I feel so ashamed for getting angry with the staff and children. There should be more discipline, yet these children and people have already suffered so much – now they must move again. The children just gulp down the food – if they were getting enough at home, they just wouldn't be so eager to get what we serve them. How they would enjoy a good home made meal!



**June 5, 1980 – Thursday**

One Camp is moving!

The people look at us with fear – what will happen to them. Where will they go? Temple tent site will be a helicopter landing pad with a Thai Military headquarters across the road. The people are so afraid – they are being moved into mine fields. Lord, I wonder how I would respond if I was just pushed from one place to the next. All freedom, dignity and independence are gone.

Joyce wrote about having breast cancer – I guess all of us must have the courage to fight our own wars. So often we never know the great sorrow and fears of others.



**June 6, 1980 – Friday**

I have a new job as nurse coordinator of Camp Samet.

Lord, my life is always full of surprises.

I am going up to Khon Kaen with a daughter of Charity to try and find my Sisters.

I stopped at the ICRC to visit Kelly. Noye said she wanted to talk with me. I had no idea what she wanted for I never talked to her before. She told me I was the new nurse coordinator of Samet – attend meetings and keep people up to date as to what is going on, act as a link between Bangkok and the boarder, be sure nurses get free time and are covered, coordinate all activities and set standards – ICRC should be the leaders in standards. What a challenge!

**June 7, 1980 – Saturday**

It's a miracle.

At Khon Kaen, I had breakfast with Sr. Perscillia, Servant of Mary from Ubon who knows our Sisters well! So I went to Ubon with her – what a great joy to see my Sisters who I so desired to see. They looked well, happy. They could go to the US but they are doing such a wonderful job with the very poorest here. They live in a simple, nice home, kitchen, bedrooms, “dining room”, blackboard, sewing machine.



*Highlight of my trip - visiting my own sisters and the people they serve in Thailand*

### **June 8, 1980 – Sunday**

I had a wonderful day with my Sisters. The sisters treated me so royally – Mass, a great dinner, visited the poor – so many now since the rich have gone to 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries. They are doing much good here and are loved by all – highly respected by the Priests. They have kept all of Sr. Anne's letters. They gave me some beautiful gifts to take home. We had supper at Ave Maria Convent.

### **June 9, 1980 – Monday**

Beautiful work and Spirit of my Sisters

Sr. Laurentia works in the clinic in the am and social work in the pm. Sr. M. Christine teaches catechism, does much work in the Parish. She prepared an excellent dinner! Four American volunteers teach English. I would like to work here awhile after I leave Cambodia if this is possible. There are also many very poor Thai Villagers.

Lord, I am so grateful for being with my Sisters these two ½ days – indeed they live the true life style of a SCSJA among the poorest. I hope I can live this simple life all my days until I am united with You!

### **June 10, 1980 – Tuesday**

All the Sisters are so kind – Servants of Mary, Ursalines, Daughters of Charity

I stayed at Ave Maria Convent in Ubon.

Sr. Percillia – Superior Provincial

Sr. Felicita - Speaks English well – full of joy

Sr. Agnes – runs the orphanage – Am. “Jimmy”

Lord, how can I repay the kindness of all during these days! In my room, I found soap, powder, shampoo, toothpaste and brush, coffee, soda, cookies, ice. Excellent meals with the Sisters, a beautiful Chapel – so peaceful grounds! Our Sisters made their last retreat here and occasionally come by the sisters. Sr. Percillia watches them well. I spent one hour telling them about my life in the camp – many young Sisters! How do I deserve this caring!

### **June 11, 1980 – Wednesday**

Yes, there really is a monsoon season!

It is beginning to rain daily now; the farmers are plowing their fields by hand and ox for rich planting. Lord, the cloud formations are magnificent – come so fast – even in their gray doom they appear majestic. When it rains, it pours.

Within a few minutes, there are huge (sic) water puddles. There are now streams running through the camp and we wear boots knee high since often we step in mud that high. Cars and trucks are often stuck in the camp – road system is so poor in and to the camp. How do our bodies take these bumps!

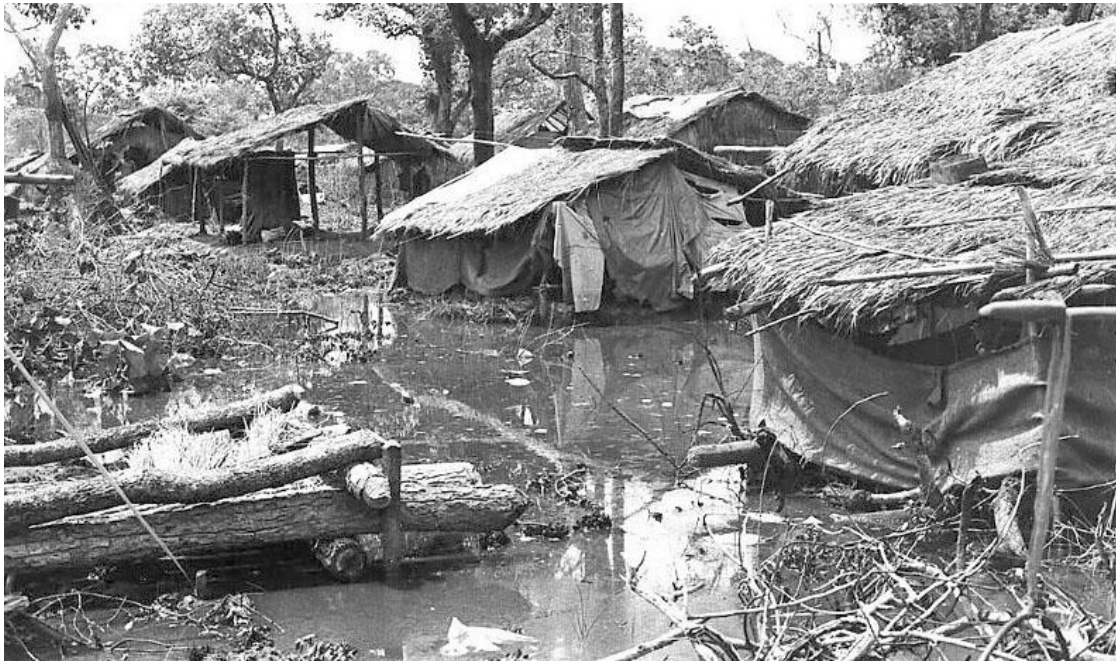




**June 12, 1980 – Thursday**

To live through sorrow now, we remember joys of the past.

Lord, as I see the disorder of our camp now, I remember the orderliness and the willingness of the people to care for themselves. Now the once dry, dusty land is filled with greenish slimy ponds. Our OPD's are closed and we have temporary tents. The children still laugh and wave – what will they think when they grow older. The administration is full of corruption as always – they get richer and the poor get even poorer even in a refugee camp. The market place goes on, business runs as usual as a whole new camp is being established in a new relocated area!



**June 13, 1980 – Friday**

Lord, my work here fits so well into the Spirit of our Community!

Rome and Sister Anne keep saying our work must be among the poorest – including financially poor. Presence – Your Presence is the greatest gift we can give. I have limited my material gifts to prevent dependence – have been emphasizing Spiritual caring. The people are beginning to show affection – which they never did in the beginning. This is a positive sign of new life in them. I most admire the gentleness of the men – Mr. He, Jahn, etc, whose manners express a kind of peace.

Some of our Khmer  
workers - so faithful  
in serving their people



**June 14, 1980 – Saturday**

Priest from Italy said Mass – his sister is in our community.

P. Mario Marazzi P.I.M.E.

Via Monte Rosa, 81

20149 Milano, Italy

He is a very gentle man, beautiful sermon who impressed all with his dignity. It is a gift and we are most fortunate to have this opportunity of being able to serve the poor.

**June 15, 1980 – Sunday**

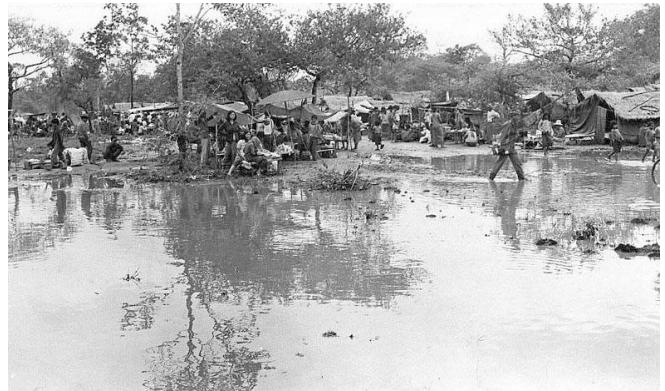
War destroying a simple human being!

Rat – 43 – meteorologist has literally become dependent on me – is like a little boy tied to his mother’s apron string. I could cry at the sadness of seeing human dignity destroyed. People live in constant fear of being abused or killed. “I stay with you so I don’t have to think of reality.”

**June 16, 1980 – Monday**

Oh, the horror of what man does to man! Isaiah 41, 17 – 24

Lord, I see so well You alone can fill our needs and lead us to the land of Peace. We, as man, are so selfish for ourselves, abusing others to satisfy our desires for power and prestige. How I see it with their people who are innocent victims of a Godless people. These people are living in unbelievable, swampy lands on a rich field, forced there by others. You must send the rain for the fruitful use of the land, yet these people suffer because of the swamp. I believe You will lead them to a land of freedom and peace.



**June 17, 1980 – Tuesday**

Romans 1, 1-17

“I am not ashamed of the Good News!”

“The upright man finds life through Faith.”

Lord, one’s faith life is so deepened here for if we don’t believe in You and Eternal Life, what meaning has this life! I need seek no glory – rather just live the quiet life continually in Your Presence – You do the rest! You have lead me to this mission – my mind is overwhelmed at the greatness of your plans.

Sister Anne wrote – our union with You is of utmost importance. Each hour I spend with you I feel so at Peace. I bring all the suffering Poor before You – You know their needs.

**June 18, 1980 – Wednesday**

Isaiah 42, 1 – 9

Lord, my heart never ceases to be grateful for this privilege of being here. Now I see so many ways You were preparing me for this mission. It is indeed a privilege to serve and you have gifted me greatly – thanks! My heart should continually announce a trust in You for You lead me from darkness – sin – to light – life in You. Someday these people who suffer so much now will experience this joy and peace. I am amazed at their gentle Spirits and smiles in spite of their woes.





**June 19, 1980 – Thursday**

Walk through new camp

Saw some lovely gardens in tiny areas. Saw some beautiful pit latrines! Have been encouraging people to clean up rubbish, make gardens, etc. and people are showing interest in their homes. Actually conditions are bad because of the rains. There are “model” sections of the camp – one such was named after “Bill Parks.” It is still important to work with the chiefs and get them to motivate their people. I feel disaster has hit our new tent feeding center for we feed over 1000 at each meal and it is so difficult to control all the little kids together.



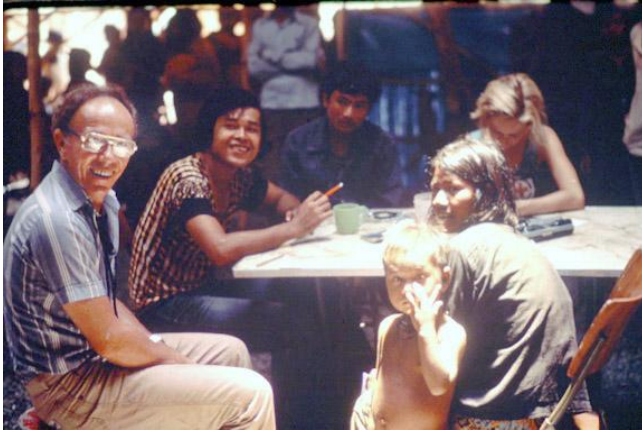
*Rebuilding the camp*

**June 20, 1980 – Friday**

Lord, bless all coming to replace us!

We have some beautiful new nurses with us – very open, willing to carry on previous programs, very willing to help wherever needed. Our goals are still teaching - especially the basics.

Many people who have been in other missions say here is the worst they have seen – so many people, such poor living conditions, such a gloomy future. The greatest poverty is the lack of freedom. The spark and bounce of the children add so much life to a State of much hopelessness.





*The bus to freedom?*

**June 21, 1980 – Saturday**

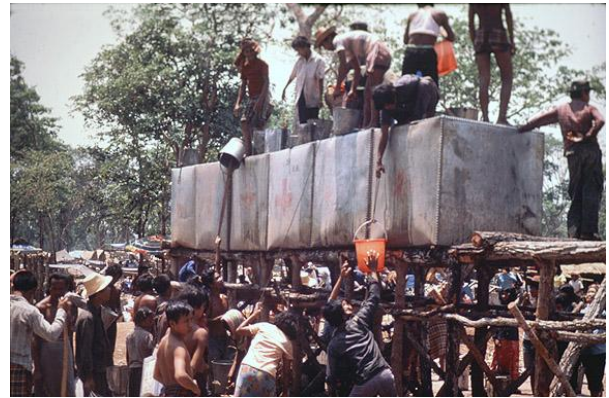
Lord, I think so often of my dear father lately and could just cry – still miss him so much. When will I be joining him? My desires are very open to your will. I only wish to love people and serve as he did – especially the very poorest. I feel him very near the poor here for this is what he did all his life – he would love this mission.

**June 22, 1980 – Sunday**

Lord, I am getting anxious to go home now. I really miss my Sisters and wonder what is happening at home! I hope I am always really good to my Sisters – for being far away makes one love and appreciate more. I long for my retreat but am not the least excited to get back to work. However I will really miss my dear people here.

*The camp is cut off from the rest of society.*





I will never take water for granted again.

Water – a basic commodity – had to be trucked into the camp.

*“Do not worry about anything; instead pray about everything.”  
Philippians 4:6*