

Press On...Win the Prize...IT'S WORTH IT!!!!

Tracy Rhodes, Summer Activities Director

This summer...what can I say? It was one of the best ever!!!! This is my 9th year at New Day and the 5th year of leading summer programs. As I reflect on these past 5 years of being in a leadership role, I can easily see God's provision in bringing the right people at the right times to come alongside to encourage, assist, and fill the gaps. No matter how challenged I've felt at different times through the years, it's all been worth it.

It seems God continues to challenge us beyond what we've "always done" and constantly gives us new and exciting ideas on how to make things better. It takes an incredible amount of work, but again, so worth it! Two summers ago things seemed overwhelming with all the changes we felt God asking us to make. I was hesitant, but He reassured me saying, "Trust ME. Watch and see what I can do, if you let ME...it will be worth it."

The summer of 2010 required more faith, more staff, more work, and more money, but once again, beyond worth it. And of course, we made even more changes for 2011. We offered over 30 special interest clubs, Boys' basketball and Bible studies, Youth Group Nights, Girl's Purity Group, 5th and 6th grade Girls' Basketball League Team (We won the championship!!!), overnight camps, various field trips, and an amazing end-of-summer performance and award ceremony. With all of the activities going on at New Day, Sis, Tara, and various youth mission groups were out doing Open Air Bible Clubs and touching nearby communities with the love of Christ. God blessed us with an amazing staff. I really appreciated Megan Miklos, who assisted me. I can't imagine a better staff! But experience and The Word assures me that God is always able to do more than we ask or imagine.

Our theme this year was based on Philippians 3:14 (NIV), ***"I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."*** At New Day and hopefully in each of our lives, we will continue to live this out long after summer is over. Not only do we get the promise of reward for eternity, He also gives us many little prizes each day along the way. Ask for eyes to see them and He will show you. I am thankful to be part of this ministry, and grateful for all of you whose prayers and support make it possible. I don't get to see all of the many sacrifices that you make in order to keep New Day sharing Christ's love here in Johnstown, but trust me...it's worth it!