

# REPORT FROM CAMP AGAPE



**There is wonderful news from this Diocese of Easton campsite. With just one minor detail still to be worked out, the global energy crisis has been solved.**

What we do is package the energy released by a dozen campers and several counselors when they go in swimming and *voila!* no more need for imported oil, goodbye to polluted air from coal-fired generators, and all vehicles run silently, swiftly.

OK, the unsolved problem is how to collect the energy. We're working on it, though.

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One of the swimmers had a bad moment Tuesday. He's actually one of the non-swimmers who wear red wrist bands. (Swimmers wear green.) The reds have to stay inside a line of small buoys where the water is more shallow. Suddenly he began crying and sobbing. The sun had dipped a little, turning the otherwise crystal clear water darker, and its darkness frightened him. That's when Counselor Sarah Long stepped in.

Sarah took him in her arms as a mother would comfort her child, holding him, consoling him, assuring him she was there and he was safe. Then she gave the boy a lesson in floating on his back, holding him up and training him to move his arms. After a while he regained some of

his confidence, but he was tired and getting cold so she wrapped a towel around him, took his hand and they walked back to camp.

Later, Sarah said, she tried to interest him in painting as they waited for the others to return. "I don't want to paint," he told her. "I want to read. Have you got a book I can read?" He was last seen with his nose buried in a book about 50 ways a kid can change the world.

Someday, maybe, he really will find a solution to the energy crisis.

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Camp Agape isn't all about swimming. Some of it is about learning. Each afternoon Chaplain David Dingwall (St. Paul's by-the-Sea, Ocean City) quietly leads them through an exercise based on the letters in the word agape. Tuesday's word was G for graceful. Like most classroom settings, even one on a dock over a creek, some of the children eagerly and happily participated, and a couple hung back, not certain if this was their cup of tea. David is really good at this, though, and I bet by the end of the week he'll pull the reluctant kids into the circle.

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