

## Billy Orris' Legacy Spurs on CPBC Leadership Program: A Mother's Reflection

It had been a long time since I was with a group of high school students, and I had no idea what to expect. I felt anxious - wondering if I would be able to stay up all night, play games, and sleep in bunk beds, let alone connect spiritually. I was at Covenant Point for a week-long experience that had begun five years ago in the Central Conference called Adventures in Leadership. Along with a team of youth workers and CPBC staff, I was invited to help facilitate. Together, we were going to embark on an adventure that would change all of us - but mostly me.



After we gathered on the first night with some introductions and games, I got up to share my story. I told the group about my oldest son, Billy, who came to Covenant Point for the first time as an Island camper. The experience had a profound impact on him: being nurtured by camp staff, his love for the outdoors grew, as did his love for Jesus. Then I told them that Billy had been killed in an accident less than one year ago at the age of 26. I had tears streaming down my face and I could barely speak. There was a deafening silence in the room, and it was at that moment that I knew I was meant to be there: I knew my pain was speaking to their pain.

Billy knew he had a call to ministry on his life, and he possessed amazing gifts for leadership, but he spent most of his young adult life trying to figure out where God wanted him. My message to these campers was this: a leader doesn't have to look a certain way, have a particular personality or disposition; rather, God uses us just as we are, the particular way He created us to participate in advancing His kingdom on earth right now.

Over this last year, I have groaned, ached and grieved over the loss of my son. I was determined that his life would be remembered: his strong convictions, his love for God's creation, and his deep

love for family and God. After my week pouring into these campers' lives, I knew this was to be part of Billy's legacy.

Rev. Lisa Orris, Hope Covenant Church

*The Billy Orris Memorial Fund was established at Hope Covenant Church, (Crystal Lake, IL), to provide scholarships to youth so that they can attend Covenant Point and Covenant Harbor. Over \$3,000 was awarded this summer to kids attending both camps, including a \$2,000 gift toward those selected for the AIL program. The Orris family has made a commitment that scholarships will be given each year in Billy's memory to AIL. If you would like to donate online, visit [HopeChurchcares.com](http://HopeChurchcares.com), and note "Billy Orris Memorial Fund." Thank you.*



As a parent and a medical officer, I always appreciate the level of concern and kindness that is shown to the campers and staff members at Covenant Point. There is a strong atmosphere of love, respect, and kindness. It is this atmosphere that encourages campers and volunteers to continue returning to CPBC and to want to be a part of this great organization."

CAMPER PARENT

