

“Our Inheritance” – Second Generation Summer Camp

Lisbon, Portugal, 4. – 9. August 2013



We had a hard time to find a fitting place which could accommodate everybody. Finally we found a place at Porto Covo, south of Lisbon. 43 children, 12 staff and elders, who came for a visit, participated sharing a wonderful time together like a family - grandparents, parents and children. We wanted to have a smaller workshop than the previous year, just for the second-generation and Jacob children, however still we had close to 60 participants. Our Motto was "Our Inheritance".

As always the camp was partially sponsored by FFWPU and the participants had to pay a participation fee. Sunday we started with introducing the general rules. Since last year we have a written document with guidelines for the children and parents. Love has rules and it takes time to learn them. It helps a lot having them clearly specified.

This year the WS lasted 6 day. Normally we only have 5 days to spend with the children. We felt that this time the time passed much faster than normally. It was like a blink of the eye. Good times make the time pass rapidly.

Children worked in teams and had to fulfill various tasks. One of them, and it turned out to be a tricky one, was to build the ten tents. Another difficult task was to bring everybody back from the beach on time. The five teams worked very well. Nobody got lost and the responsible children got their first taste of leadership. Needless to say that the beaches were like paradise.

Many of the presentations were given outside in the nature. We divided the workshop into two groups, children from 6 to 11 and from 12 to 18. Since the motto was about heritage, the presentations were about the fall of man, tradition, lineage, prayer, gratitude, true love and testimonies from elders. As always at our workshops we started each day with HDH and an opportunity to pray and reflect. Of course not everybody was happy about the early morning wake up time and the time we have set for going to bed. It was a battle to fight the bad habit of going to sleep and wake-up late. Having HDH in the nature with a lot of fresh air was wonderful.

We had various sport activities accompanied by a lot of running, shouting and laughing. One night we went to the light-house and had a candle prayer with singing Tongil holding hands and cheers of ok-mansei. It was very beautiful. Everybody wanted to take pictures afterwards. May be this moment was the highlight of the workshop.

We had such an enjoyable time together and we are very grateful that there were no critical incidences. For sure there is space to improve in many aspects. Our second generation will grow and organize it better in the future with the help and experience of those who have participated and have taken responsibilities in previous workshops. Most likely this aspect is more important than the happy time we had, preparing the future caretakers.

The closing ceremony took place in the church center with prayer and ok-mansei.

In reflecting on this workshop I have to say that it was very helpful to have a manual, which we improved over the years, listing all the important necessities for the camp. We just needed to practice and follow them. It was a very good experience and a chance to be an extended family where all of the adults were uncles and aunts and all the children were ours.

Greetings from Portuguese family.

Sergio Neto, National Leader of Portugal

