

FaithBIT



Take a Hike!

Reflection by Dave Nieting

You've seen the pictures. With as many trips to the Cloud Peak Wilderness area as this church has done, is there anything left? What can I possibly say that hasn't been said? Well, maybe you are new and have not seen the pictures or heard the stories. Maybe you have, and yet you still love to hear them new every time. It's a bit like Easter or Christmas isn't it? You know the story. It was a long ride. It was beautiful. It was wonderful, hard, difficult, thrilling, challenging, satisfying and amazing. So, let's start fresh.

I went on a hike with a group of people that was very diverse. I was the eldest, and the youngest was, well younger than me. We live different lives, but on the trail, we had a common goal. Put one foot in front of the other. I think we all succeeded very well in that, as far as I am aware nobody did a face-plant. Our trek in the mountains brought us across cold cold streams where trout could be seen. You walked in and by the time you hit the other side, your feet were a bit numb. Our trek brought us up mountains where the air is thin. Sometimes the terrain was so tough I felt I didn't hike, I just huffed. I would catch up to my group, all in my good sweet time, and when I got there, they were light and fleet of foot again – I wasn't. . . We toiled, and ate, and toiled some more. We stank, well I know I did, I couldn't really smell anybody else.

“...sometimes sore and tired I got to spend some time with God.”
- Dave Nieting

There was a lot of sharing, snacks, meals, beef jerky. We shared sunscreen (thanks Pr. Paul) bug juice, and chores. We also shared tales and stories, and best of all faith things. We shared our highs and lows of the day. The lows

tended to be difficult stretches, or something like mosquitoes. The highs were vista views, overcoming those difficult stretches, and more vista views. Of the highs that I heard, my favorite was “right now, doing this, sitting with all of you”. The present, what a Present! We also got to share faith. We weren’t all just Lutheran’s, we had a wonderful cross section of the body of Christ. Even with all those different faiths we could see one common thing with which to marvel. God’s great and beautiful creation. Every ridge, mountaintop, and corner brought a new view, a different lake, a different peak, a different snow field. Snow? Yup, don’t eat it though. It’s not yellow snow, on no it’s a bit pink. It looks like pink cotton candy just to tempt you. It’s actually an algae that has laxative properties, not a good thing when you have no ready bathroom, and to do...that...you have to dig a hole.

As I walked and huffed, usually at the end of the line, sometimes sore and tired I got to spend some time with God. I would have random Bible verses float into my head to keep me going. “I lift mine eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD.” “They will soar on wings like eagles; they will hike and not grow weary...” and of course, sometimes I had to burst out in song, “In the jungle the mighty jungle the lion sleeps tonight”. Hey, it’s not all church.

I hope you can do a hike. Take yourself out of your comfort zone. You will see things up there that you cannot see any other way, and you will thank God for showing you them.

Backpacking in Wyoming, July 20 - 27

This is a multi-generational experience for young adults, adults and youth who have completed 8th grade. Students who have completed 7th Grade may attend with a parent. All are welcome! More information:

<http://www.immanuel.us/youth/backpacking>

Family Friendly Wyoming Base Camp, July 20 - 27

You could stop by for a couple days on your way to or from Yellowstone or the Black Hills or stay for the whole week.

More: <http://www.immanuel.us/adults/wyoming-base-camp>