

I want to start this very personal letter by saying a big “Thank You” to the many of you who pray for us and support us so faithfully. Some of you barely know us, yet you let us know that you pray for us all the time anyway! When our beloved daughter, Kristen, called us from camp with the news that a series of unexplainable coincidences had resulted in her and her roommates *not* being in their cabin when it caught fire, I immediately thought of you all who pray for us. I thanked God for His protection over Kristen, and I thanked Him for you.

With Kristen’s permission, here is what she wrote a week after the event that will forever have an impact on her life.

***God is AWESOME!!!***    *By Kristen Ross*

Every now and then, God sends us little reminders to tell us once again that He has power over everything in our lives. He keeps trying to get it through our heads that we CAN’T do everything on our own. I got a reminder from God two days after my 14<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 27, 2007 at 8:35 P.M.

Last week I went to Doi Inthanon (The highest mountain in Thailand) National Park for Outdoor Education with the junior high from my school. They were teaching us survival stuff and how to make sure that God is the center of our lives. We went caving and it was amazing to see God’s creation at that level. I really saw how precise in detail God makes His creations. I thought that was all God was going to teach me. That was NOT all by a longshot.

Tuesday night was one of those nights that you have at every camp. The boys went in one cabin, the girls in another for a meeting about some of the hard things many people our age go through. The girl’s meeting was supposed to be in my cabin, but then at the last second they decided to change it to the cabin across from mine. The meeting was supposed to go from 8:10 – 8:30 P.M., but there was a miscommunication that made the meeting start and end 10 minutes late.

As I left my cabin, I tossed my Bible on top of Michaela’s bag, which was right by the door. No one noticed that the hot pot was now almost empty and still plugged in. I did notice something strange, though, that I hadn’t noticed before. Somehow a hose ended up in front of our cabin, and it was running full blast.

We were supposed to be back in our cabins at 8:30, but because of the time mix-up, we were just finishing up at 8:35 when I heard three huge pops. I looked and saw flames shooting out the windows of my cabin.

After that, everything was in slow motion. My mind was a blur. I tried to move, but my legs wouldn’t budge. My head was spinning. I always hate it in a movie when there is a dangerous situation and the person in the story just stands there frozen. But that was me! I couldn’t move! People were yelling at me to go. We were in immediate danger where we were. I finally forced myself to move. Using all my strength to force my feet to move with every step, I made my way to the door. I pushed through the crowd and out the door. I stared at my blazing cabin in shock. I remembered that when we had tried to open the windows earlier, they had been jammed. The front of the cabin was completely engulfed in flames (hot pot had been next to the door). If I had been in there, I would have been trapped with no way to escape. *I would have burned to death.*

The raging fire lit up the night. Tears were streaming down my face. I was so relieved that God had protected me. I was praying and thanking God out loud. I didn’t care who heard me, and I didn’t care what anyone thought. A Thai man sprinted past me, grabbed the running hose, and started fighting the flames. I ran to my friend, Kerry, and hugged her, sobbing shaking almost uncontrollably from all the adrenaline.

**God's ultimate power over everything was clearly shown. Somehow, the man was able to put out the fire by himself with the hose that had been left running in front of our cabin before it spread anywhere else. The fire had blown out a couple of the windows, and literally melted the curtains! I went to bed that night (in a cabin up the mountain a ways) thinking that I had all lost everything. But the next day, we learned that although most of us had lost a few things, only three of my roommates had lost everything. When the hot pot exploded, it set Michaela's things on fire first. Michaela's bag and everything in it burned completely to ash. My Bible, which was on top of her bag, shows no sign of being in a fire. It doesn't even smell like smoke! The fire could have spread to the other cabins and the forest SO easily, but it didn't. No body was hurt. God was watching over us, and we knew it. *Never underestimate the power of God!***

Please pray for Kristen and the others who were affected by the fire. There is lingering trauma that manifests itself in different ways. New fears and "what if" scenarios can run away with a person. There were positive things as a result of the fire too. Kristen couldn't believe it when she heard about the junior high boys who stayed up all night praying for them. Some even skipped breakfast so that they could give the girls involved their food! I think it wasn't just the girls of cabin 101-A who grew up that night!

We took a vacation with a few other families about week later. It was a very restorative time for Kristen and the rest of us. Kristen even got her hair corn-rowed!

We feel so blessed! Thank you again for covering us with your prayers. We have lots more to tell you about what we've been up to, but this letter is too long already. So you will hear from us again really soon! As always, we would love to hear from you.

With deep gratitude,

Kimberly & John for the Ross family

***P.S. If you read this with your kids, it might be fun for them to count the miracles in Kristen's story.***





*Please do not forward without permission. Thank you!*