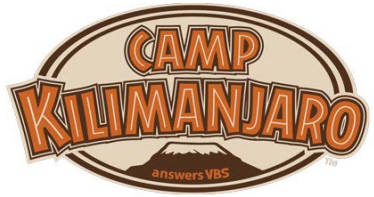


# **“Camp Kilimanjaro, An Epic Expedition Through Proverbs”**

***Vacation Bible School, 2015***



What a place to kick off the summer ... at “Camp Kilimanjaro,” nestled at the base of the highest free-standing mountain in the world ... *Mount* Kilimanjaro! How exciting to have 35 young people, over 30 adults, and 28 workers along for our imaginary safari, which means “journey” in Swahili, the official language of Tanzania ... the African country where the majestic Mount Kilimanjaro sits. Although the temperature at Base Camp can reach a sweltering 100 degrees or more, the temperature plummets to below freezing at the peak, with icy winds. Of the 20,000 hikers who attempt to climb it every year, many of them don’t reach their destination, but in their imaginations, *our* “hikers” climbed a little further up every night until they reached the summit at last ... 19,000 feet high in the air, we might add! So, if you want to walk in the clouds, that’s the place for you, which is why Mount Kilimanjaro is nicknamed the “roof of Africa,” and why it’s sometimes called the “island above the clouds.” Although we saw some amazing scenery, pondered some interesting words in the Swahili language, and encountered bunches of beautiful creatures, the most valuable thing we experienced was our life-changing, epic expedition through the book of Proverbs! Nothing the magnificent landscape offered could ever compare with the lessons God has prepared for us in the wisdom of His Word!

Tembo, the elephant, showed us that we can be wise by “**Listening Up**” and having **ears** that hear and DO God’s Word . . .

Twiga, the giraffe, taught us that we must show wisdom by “**Checking Up**” on our **hearts**, making sure that we “trust in the Lord with *all* our hearts” ...

Kiboko, the hippo, said we need to “**Build Up,**” wisely using our **tongues** in a God-honoring way.

Tumbili, the monkey, reminded us that we show wisdom when we “**Wake Up,**” wisely using our **hands** to get to work for the Lord!

Duma, the cheetah, showed us that we should “**Wise Up**” and have **feet** that walk with the wise, being careful of the friends with whom we surround ourselves.

These weren’t the only animals we met on our trek ... a friendly elephant wandered into our Base Camp, and we were amused to discover his name was “Karanga,” which is the Swahili word for “peanut.” Our hikers lured him into our opening assembly every night with an orange, marshmallow “peanut” ... he had a fondness for such “elephant bait!” On family night, Karanga stopped by to help present the plan of salvation to our hikers and their families. What a blessing to realize that when we surrender our lives to Jesus and follow Him, we can truly be used by God.

## **Only then can we:**

wisely use our **EARS**, to hear and do God's Word;

wisely use our **HEARTS** to trust in the Lord continually;

wisely use our **TONGUES**, to speak in a Godly way;

wisely use our **HANDS**, to get to work, and serve God;

and wisely use our **FEET**, to walk with the wise  
... guided by the Lord Himself!

We are so grateful to our trail guides (teachers) for opening God's Word to teach our hikers how to be wise in the Lord:  
"Zebras" (ages 3-4) ~ **Wendy and Adrian** / "Lions" (ages 5-6)  
~ **Stephanie and John**/ "Warthogs" (ages 7-8) ~ **Lindsay and Anthony**/  
"Meerkats" (ages 9-10) ~ **Misty and Carol**/  
"Impalas" (ages 11-12) ~ **Homer, Glenda, Willis**/  
"Wildebeests" (ages 13 and up) ~ **Jim and Bernie**/ "Hyenas"  
(adults) ~ **Pastor Peters**

We're thankful for each and every person who was involved in making this African adventure come to life for our young people: *Music Instruction* ~ **Melanie**/ "*Serengeti Scottie*" ~ **Scott**/ *Nursery, Assistants* ~ **Jerry and Shelby**/  
"*Karanga*", *Assistant* ~ **Marshall**/ *Cooks at the Safari Snack Station* ~ **Gary, Denice, Ruby, Wanda, Kathy, Clyde, Terry, Ann, Shaila**

From hanging posters to serving juice boxes, from running errands to painting a giraffe ... every gesture made it a team effort, and the Lord knows all about the sacrifices your family made as we worked together to reach young hearts! It is with deep gratitude that we say a heartfelt **thank you** ... "*asante*"! For all ages, it was an epic expedition, indeed ... studying the passages from Proverbs, a book full of God-inspired principles for **all** areas of life!

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

~ Proverbs 9 :10

