



REVIEWING PRESS CLIPS... Jon, right, and Chuck check the Newsweek story. Jon is holding a Latin American newspaper that also printed a story and several photos on their work.

Colby Boy Back from Mission Camp in Brazil

by RAY HANSEN

There's a photo of a Colby boy in Newsweek magazine this week. It's on Page 65 of the Aug. 4 issue.

You can't see his face, and you probably would have trouble recognizing him because he's only part of a group.

But that's all right, because he didn't do something on his own. What he did was with a group.

The photo and story are in the Religion Section. The story is headlined "God's Boot Camp."

The boy is Jon Barnett, son of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Barnett. Although the story is about the group effort, it did involve action on Jon's part. He had to make a decision.

As he told The Prairie Drummer, "I wanted to serve Christ, and this seemed like an exciting way to do it."

Jon just returned Monday night from approximately two months in Brazil, helping build a Christian Youth Camp. With him in Colby for a day before continuing on to his home in Idaho was a friend Jon met during his summer experience, Chuck Hawley of Coeur d' Alene, Idaho.

Jon left Colby on June 5. He met Chuck in Denver before they boarded a bus which took them to Merritt Island, Fla.

They spent 10 days there preparing for their work in Brazil.

The Newsweek story is mostly about the training camp in Florida.

The "Bood Camp" prepared them for their work in Brazil. The 29 youths--both boys and girls--couldn't complete the boys dormitory building they were working on, but they got it all finished except the roof, and that is to be completed later. Jon explained that six days of rain prevented completion of the job.

Jon wasn't the only Northwest Kansas youth in the program. Tina Lewis, 18, of Hoxie, also helped in the dorm-building project.

"The girls worked right along with the boys," Jon said. "They mixed cement, laid brick and all the other jobs...and the guys helped washing dishes, cooking meals, etc."

Jon and Chuck are typical of the group. It was a non-denominational project, with the youths coming from all different church backgrounds. Jon is a Baptist and Chuck is a Catholic.

Each felt he is "serving Christ."

In case you think this was an easy and inexpensive way

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Colby Boy Gets Taste of Missionary Life in Brazil

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to travel to a foreign country, forget it right now. Not only did Jon have to pay his own expenses, he had to take almost \$1,000 out of his savings account to come up with the money.

Jon also received some support from supporters in his church and from friends, to whom he is most grateful.

"I want to thank everyone for the help," he said.

Why did these young men do this?

Here is the way Chuck answered that question:

"I wanted to find out first-hand what missionary life was like, and I wanted to grow in my relationship with Jesus Christ."

Did the experience match the expectation?

"Definitely," Chuck replied.

Jon agreed. "Definitely," he repeated. "I'd certainly do it again if I got the chance."

It was no vacation, though. "Most of the kids found out it was a lot more work than they anticipated," Jon said.

They got up at 5 a.m., started work at 5:30 and at 7 broke for breakfast and devotions. At 8 they were back on the job and worked till 5:30 each afternoon.

Jon explained that they couldn't work longer days because the place they were, Fortaleza, is almost directly on the equator, so there are 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours



MISSIONARIES. The dirtier the better.

NEWSWEEK'S PHOTO ...Jon helps girl over wall.

of dark. Sundays were spent visiting churches in the area and distributing literature to homes.

The Newsweek story explains that this project is sponsored by Teen Missions in Cocoa, Fla. During the past five years the program has trained more than 3,000 youngsters for the conditions of missionary life.

The daily schedule includes instruction in bricklaying, carpentry and ditch-digging, geographical and language briefings and regular KP sessions to learn how to wash dishes so as not to get dysentery.

There is also a daily, stamina-building obstacle course where campers are given 8 minutes to swing on hanging ropes across water, weave their way along a muddy, vine-covered jungle path, scramble through thick rubber tires, and then hoist themselves over a 12-foot high wall.

That must be the photo used in the Newsweek story. Jon is the lad giving a girl a boost over the obstacle, and his friend Chuck is sitting atop the wall in upper right.

"Get Dirty for God," exhorts the camp creed, and the campers obey. Teens sleep in tents scattered along a muddy ground, drink water out of plastic jugs, wash their hair and clothes in pans and dig drainage ditches to clear standing water out of low areas.

Candy and pop are confiscated and dating is frowned upon. "Most of the kids are here because they want to serve God," said one camper from Oregon.

That's what Jon Barnett was doing this summer.