

On the Rock

One glimpse revealed the tough childhood. My heart broke for him.

Here we were, the North Shore of Lake Superior holding our church's first VBS program in the area. The first afternoon we went to a state park for some relaxation. While walking along the sunlit shoreline searching for agates, I noticed him sitting alone on a rock outcropping at the shore's edge. Curious as to why he was so far from everyone and alone, I approached him.

As our conversation ensued, it became apparent that his emotional condition was the same as his physical. He was from a rough home. As we watched the waves beat against the rock on which we sat, I mentioned how nice it was that the rock was unmoved. He readily agreed. It was obvious the 12 year old was anxious to talk. I explained to him how God had created the beautiful lake in front of us and the rock on which we sat, and the creator was like this rock, unmovable and strong. He was all questions as we discussed the parable of Jesus from Matthew 7:24-27; Jesus said that those who respond to His words "*may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock,*" Jesus Himself being the rock.

The young man compared his life to that of the unstable pebbly shore, moved by each wave; he compared Christ's life to that of the solid rock, unmoved by each wave. He wanted Christ's life. He believed the promise, "*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*" He rejoiced and said that, "he had always wondered if there was a God and Creator." And now he knew Him! Satisfaction was written all over his face.

After a bit, I watched him walk away from the rock on which we sat, never to see him again. His worn out, ill-fitting clothes and girl's shoes were forgotten in the joy of his salvation. I sent him a Bible and letter of encouragement. He wasn't allowed to respond.

I have never forgotten the boy *on the rock*, who discovered the True Rock that beautiful day. This Rock would "*never leave him or forsake him,*" for Jesus is unmovable!