

Unexpected Camping

Sandra

Twenty-three years ago, we purchased a new house in Carlsbad and sold our old house. There was supposed to be a couple of weeks between when we closed on the old house and could move into the new. We decided that two weeks of tent camping with our two young children at Carlsbad's wonderful beaches would be a fun way to welcome ourselves to Carlsbad.

We were operating our business from the campground on cell phones. It was a challenge, but an adventure. However, we were in for a bit more camping time than the initial two weeks. The two weeks turned into three, then four as we moved from campground to campground. And the closing of our Carlsbad house continued to get pushed back. The summer weather started to cool off and those cold, morning outdoor showers before work and school became a test of perseverance and intestinal fortitude. We never knew when we were going to close, so we couldn't figure out more permanent housing and the builder kept telling us that closing was just around the corner.

Finally, after three adventurous months of camping, we were able to move into our Carlsbad house three days before Thanksgiving. To this day, I relish my warm shower every morning. We were houseless by choice, but that experience has given me tremendous compassion for those among us who don't have the luxury of a real roof over their head.