

The CAMPSITE | Camp Joy Newsletter



Issue Five ♦ September/October ♦ 2009

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“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.” II Peter 3:18

Attention class, what do you get when you combine “school” and “camp”?

Answer: *A life-changing experience!*

Many of the God-sent revivals that we have seen the Lord accomplish here at Camp Joy have been during school camps. One memorable school camp began with a group of teenagers who were unusually hard to the preaching and pulpit ministry. They were determined not to allow the Spirit of God to penetrate the hardened walls of their hearts. Toward midweek, after much intercessory prayer amongst the school and camp staff, the spiritual barriers began to weaken. By the end of the week, true revival had taken place in the students’ hearts. A majority of the students responded, broken, to the altar call, over a dozen had accepted Christ as their Savior, and the next morning’s testimony time hit a record length. The test of true revival was met when the teenagers returned home to their normal daily routines. Within a year, the spiritual temperature of the entire Christian school and church had risen to the point of true zeal for Christ and His Word.

The question arises: What is it about school camp that causes the atmosphere to be one where the Holy Spirit is able to work? School camp is unique in that all of the campers are not only cabin-mates, but also classmates. There is already familiarity with one another and with their teachers, making the week more effective - there is no pretending. Also, the teachers and staff know how best to help the students spiritually. The camping experience draws the students closer to one another, to their teachers, and ultimately toward God. The atmosphere and focus of

the week prepares the soil of the heart for the planting and yielding of spiritual fruit.

The school camp atmosphere is constructed to promote spiritual and academic growth. The students can experience hands-on learning and participate in life-skills development through small group activities. The camp activities allow students the opportunity to “think outside of the box” and develop problem-solving skills under the guidance of the camp and school staff. Being exposed to creation in a natural learning environment ignites the senses and causes the students to enjoy their learning experience - even more.

There is no greater investment than one that is made for the heart. Seeds are sown that will yield fruit throughout the students’ lives, well beyond the school year. A week of school camp is an experience that is life- and school-changing, not only academically, but most importantly, spiritually. ♦



A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

By: Scott Hatchett - Camp Director

Now that summer is over, the fall schedule at Camp Joy has begun and we continue to be blessed with the opportunity to minister to a variety of ages through upcoming camps and retreats. Through the end of 2009, we will host a multitude of activities for youth, college students, adults, senior citizens, schools and churches.

Fall in Wisconsin is always a pleasant time. The landscape transforms with a beautiful array of color that delights the eye, and temperatures become comfortable for all levels of activity. But, nothing can compare to the powerful preaching and the great fun that can be had by those who attend a fall camp or retreat at Camp Joy. The wonderful spirit of the staff, the godly atmosphere, uplifting music, and attention to detail will make your time spent at Camp Joy not only one of physical refreshment, but real spiritual encouragement as well. As you think of Camp Joy, please remember us in prayer, as there is much happening for which prayer is needed.

First, please pray for our ministry opportunities. A lot of Christian schools are struggling with their attendance this year and we have already experienced a few cancellations in both our school camps and other camps. This not only denies us precious and important ministry opportunities, but it affects our finances dramatically. Our biggest need at this time is an increase in our school camp schedules. Pray that the Lord will provide students for the schools and campers for us.

Not only has the economic crisis impacted individuals and schools, we know that church budgets are also tight. This has led to budget cuts in their mission giving. Please pray for these circumstances as well as for the Lord's provision and protection for camp staff members and myself as we visit churches to present the camp ministry this fall. In order to have the camp be effective in lives, we need to see many new churches become involved with Camp Joy's ministry. We will be covering a lot of miles, so please pray for our safety and a good vehicle to use in our travels. Pray also for the Driftwood Village progress. This is a very exciting facility development that will allow for individual church groups to run private camps alongside other larger camps scheduled during the same time frame. Progress on this project continues to go forward as we get volunteers to help us.

When you think of Camp Joy, don't just think of the beautiful scenery and facilities, but also of the happy faces of those who sacrificially give of their time and resources to make Camp Joy a reality. My mind quickly thinks of folks like Carol Doherty, Jim Kirk, Gene Kerr, Mike and Charlotte Jones, and literally hundreds of others who make up the real value of Camp Joy. Often, we have young people volunteer from area churches to help us run a week of camp or weekend retreat. These precious young people are sacrificially and joyfully "giving of the strength of their youth" to make a difference for eternity. So, as you pray for Camp Joy, remember the countless faces of those that both minister, and are ministered to, through the Word of God and our Lord Jesus Christ. ♦

STAFF SPOTLIGHT RACHEL LOGAN

Rachel has served three years at Camp Joy as the assistant cook.

MOST PRESSING PROJECT: Getting out three good meals a day ... on time!

UNIQUE ASPECT OF THE JOB: Being flexible with the variety of food the Lord sends, cooking huge quantities of food. Most of the time, we don't use recipes!

FAVORITE PART ABOUT CAMP JOY: The kitchen! I'm not saying that because I am supposed to - I really love what I get to do!

UNIQUE FACTS: I really love being out in the country. I think I must have some "hillbilly" blood in me!

MOST IMPORTANT TRUTH LEARNED AT CAMP JOY: The importance of thankfulness in everything. It seems simple, and yet it has been one of the biggest areas the Lord has used to bring me closer to Him.

HOBBIES: I like being outside, walking, swimming, etc. I also love to bake, and do anything creative, artistic, or innovative! I like adventure!

FAVORITE WEEK OF CAMP: Family Camp: Especially the week of the Fourth of July!



*"I am crucified with
Christ: nevertheless
I live; yet not I, but
Christ liveth in me:
and the life which I
now live in the flesh
I live by the faith
of the Son of God,
who loved me,
and gave himself
for me."*

-Galatians 2:20

WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE

Testimonies from the Summer Ministry Team '09

The summer season is over, but as Dr. John Goetsch, Sr. said in a message this summer, "In life you need to make some memories and leave some footprints." That is definitely what the Summer Ministry Team 2009 has done this year! Here are a few personal testimonies of what they have seen the Lord do through them:

"One morning, we were particularly burdened for a camper who we suspected was lost. I prayed specifically for God to grant this young man repentance, and that very night he responded to the invitation and accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. Surely God answers prayer exceedingly abundantly above all I could ever ask or think." - *Joseph Baker, Op Staff*

"Every week, I saw the Lord answer so many specific prayer requests that I just had to stand in awe of what He was doing." - *Ruth Steinbart, Counselor*

"I think that when we get to heaven we will see that the soul of one camper who comes to Jesus Christ will be worth years of service here on earth." - *Luke Schurman, Counselor*

"I came this summer not knowing what God had prepared for me, but only knowing that He wanted me here. He has done so much in my heart - He has revived the areas that had grown cold to Him, and helped me to grow in my daily walk with Him." - *Ruth Logan, Kitchen*



"NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND" PROGRAM - RESULTS

By: Charlie Hatchett - JBC Foundation Director

In the May/June issue of this newsletter, we introduced the JBC Foundation's summer camp scholarship program called "No Child Left Behind." In this issue, I would like to share how the Lord used the generosity of several businessmen and individuals to change the lives of scores of young people this past summer.

The first (and as it turned out, the easiest) part of the program was raising the scholarship funds. When a few godly businessmen heard about the program's purpose and the need, some funds began to arrive. Within only a few weeks of the Lord's directing us to pursue the idea, there was money on hand that would allow us to begin communicating to churches that we wanted to help them get kids in need get to camp. At first, the response was not encouraging. But, as camp promotions and word about the scholarships got out, churches and individuals began recruiting campers for the program.

As time went on, we saw more and more interest and more and more young people registered through the program. This interest, and the fact that the word was out, brought in more funds and by the second week of camp, the foundation was able to offer another round of scholarships. Only in heaven will we know the total result

this program had on the lives of the 153 scholarship recipients from 36 churches that attended. Their week at Camp Joy was a result of the donors' generosity and recruiters' work, and was a wonderful testimony of God's goodness.

One week of camp, I remember a church that arrived at afternoon registration with several teens they had recruited right off the streets of their city. Then, later that day, the same church came back with some others that had failed to show up when the group first left for camp. Some of these kids literally came with only the clothes

"My main goal with the foundation is to build a scholarship fund that will enable us to help young people, who cannot otherwise afford camp, attend a week at Camp Joy.

they were wearing. They had been told they could come to camp, but had no concept what that meant. It was exciting to see staff members raiding their closets and personal items to provide clothes and other necessities for these campers for the week. They showed a demonstration of true Christian love and patience as they shared not only their belongings, but the message of a loving Savior who gave His very life for them. Most, if not all, of these young campers made at least some profession for Christ that week. I wish everyone who gave and worked to see the "No Child Left Behind" scholarship program become a tremendous success could have been at Camp Joy. They would have seen the young people go forward and be dealt with by their counselors from the Scriptures. They also would have heard testimonies of lives changed by the grace of God during the morning services. We are still receiving letters from churches and individuals telling us of the great things He has done. Words cannot really express what the Lord did in the lives of those who attended through this program, but perhaps these quotes will help a little:

One camper said: *"I realized that I was a sinner and was for a long time. I've always wondered about whether I was saved or not. I'm so glad that I was able to come to camp this year, because otherwise, I probably wouldn't have gotten saved. I'm very thankful for the person who paid for me to come to camp."*



A pastor wrote: *"I wanted to personally thank you and those involved in the scholarship program this summer. We utilized it to send three campers to camp that would otherwise not have gone due to financial strains in the families. We already as a church offset costs for some of the other campers that had gone, but these three needed even more help, which is where the scholarship program came in. One of the campers that went decided to accept the Lord as his Savior, one of the other ones made some good decisions (he was already saved) and the third still needs Christ, but heard the gospel multiple times and we are praying that the Lord will use what he heard at camp to break his heart and bring him to Christ. Thanks again for your ministry and may the Lord continue to bless and use you for His glory."*

These samples illustrate that the Lord definitely used the "No Child Left Behind" program for His glory. We are already praying for and anticipating His provision for campers next summer, souls to be saved, and for support for Camp Joy. Please share the good news and help us promote camp to your friends, family, schools and churches. ♦

EXPERIENCE DRIFTWOOD VILLAGE - OPEN FOR FAMILY VACATIONS



Escape as a family to a wholesome and Christ-honoring atmosphere! *Rooms include: king size bed, a sitting area around a fireplace, loft and bunk room, and a private bath.*

DATES AVAILABLE:

September 1-7
October 18-21
October 25-31
November 2-5
November 15-30
December 1-27

Call today to
schedule
your family
get-away!
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PRAYER NEEDS FOR THE MINISTRY

LAND - please pray for the provision of land. We have approached a family about buying their property. Pray that the owners of the land would be willing to sell at a reasonable price.

SCHOOL CAMPS - please pray as we launch into the school camp season. Pray that the Lord would do a great work in the hearts of the students and draw them closer to Him this school season.

CALENDAR - there are many weeks that are empty this season. Please pray that the Lord would fill our calendar with some good camps. We desire to continue to serve the Lord with gladness this autumn season.

DRIFTWOOD VILLAGE - pray that we will have the funds and the workforce to quickly complete the Driftwood Village Cottages.

STAFF - after a fruitful summer, please continue to pray for our staff for health, safety and strength.