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Save the Date!

Spring Celebration

DATE:

Monday, April 28, 2014

TIME:

6:00 PM appetizers

6:30 PM Dinner & Program

PLACE:

Shady Maple Banquet Center

Call by April 18 deadline

STEPS FORWARD

by Gregg Horst, Administrator

A youth group, new to Tel Hai Camp, was with us in March. The youth leader wrote back “. . . knowing the staffs founded faith and yearning to pray for us excited the leaders and myself. Prayer is very important and it is obvious you spend time listening to God’s vision for the camp. We were very pleased with everything. I know it made my time easier to pour into the youth. The little things; having the fire built, meals ready, clean cottages, not having to clean the smore’s forks. All I can say is AMEN. Thank you again for what you do. It has impacted my life and the life of God’s youth.”

It is exciting to hear these words of affirmation in our mission. I hope it encourages all of you who invest in the Tel Hai Camp ministry.

Have you ever wanted to sponsor a child to attend camp? If you would like to invest in the life of a young person by helping him or her attend a week of Christian camp, please designate your gift or a part of your giving to the “CARE Scholarship” program. What a wonderful way to invest in the “eternities” of many children!

Pray with us as we face several significant financial burdens in addition to our ongoing needs. Over \$25,000 in unbudgeted expenses already this year. We know God is able, and we thank you so much for your partnership with us!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

April –May

Homeschool Classes

April 28

Spring Celebration

May 10

Work Day

May 16-18

Mother & Daughter Spring
Getaway

June 5

Golf Tournament

June 18-21

Dad & Lad Camp

July 28-August 1

Adventure Camp

September 19

Spaghetti Benefit Dinner

October 28

Membership Dinner & Meeting

November 27

Turkey Bowl 5K Race

*Visit telhaicamp.org for more
details about these events*

COMING EVENTS

The HAI LIGHTS

Spring 2014
A Publication of Tel Hai Camp & Retreat

Transitions and Changes

by Mary Elvin

Listening, it’s a skill that when truly acted upon causes us to be still, ponder, reflect, and even absorb the message of the one who is speaking. The LORD in his word even tells us “*Be still, and know that I am God*” (Psalm 46:10). One of the things I love about camp is taking time to listen to what God is saying and doing in the lives of people. Sometimes I hear God speak in the story a camper or a guest who shares with those of us who serve and volunteer, whether it be while serving in the Dining Hall, volunteering on the Challenge Course or Zip Line, working with groups who come to help split wood or help with an improvement project, or even sharing a meal with the summer staff during summer camp season. I love hearing people’s stories and how God has drawn them to himself.



Kids playing “ga-ga” ball

Listening is not just practiced directly in the face-to-face conversations, however. Listening for me at camp also happens when I’m poking around, like weeding the flowerbeds and tending to little stuff. In the summer I love to go over to camp and work in the flowerbeds. I love to be outside in the sunshine and fresh air, but more importantly, can I tell you a secret? I love hearing the noises of camp.

As I write this we are heading towards the end of winter, and if you’re like me, you are eagerly watching the tons of snow from the winter melt away, diligently watching for the crocuses to bloom, holding your breath in anticipation of Spring and warmer temperatures. But take a moment with me, will you? Let’s remember and listen. Do you hear the sound of the engine on the lawn mower tractor starting? It’s coughing and sputtering, but give it a minute, and she’s ready to go. Time to cut grass out on the ball field over by the lake. There’s the thud and slap of the ball hitting the boards on the Gaga Pit, and then you hear the cheers as one camper has just been crowned champion. There’s the sound of a cabin door slamming. One camper forgot his Bible for

Chapel, and he’s running back to get it off his bunk. Do you hear the sound of cheers and chants as cabin groups make their way to the Chapel? There’s the sound of feet running down the driveway past the mini-golf; they don’t want to be late for the drama presentation in Hemlock Hall. Oh yeah, there’s the sound of the camp truck, Ellie. (Yes, Mater, the old truck that is no more, is forever in our hearts, too.) Our summer staffers love Ellie dearly as she helps them deliver the water jugs to all the key spots in camp to help keep everyone hydrated. Down by the entrance of camp, while taking a moment to be still and quiet, the sound of children’s voices is heard as they worship the One, True, God – “I’m coming back to the heart of worship, and it’s all about you, it’s all about you, Jesus...”. Nothing sounds better than a child’s voice praising God. It sounds even sweeter when you hear it echoing through the trees, God’s creation, making sounds for His glory.

In the afternoon, if you choose to be still for a moment, the sounds of boats and kayaks splashing on the lake are heard. Squeals, too, as one camper just fell in or “accidentally” paddled near the fountain. Up at the pool there’s splashing and squealing as campers have fun. Yup, the lifeguard’s whistle rings through the air, time for Sweet Shop. Who wants a treat?

In the evening, do you hear the sound of campers as they talk in the Dining Hall? They’re sharing about their favorite part of the day and what they are looking forward to tonight. The kitchen staff is chatting with each camper as they go through the line. The sound of kind words of encouragement can be heard being loaded onto plates, along with the great food. The sound of staffers working together is a one of a kind original melody. Sitting on the picnic tables, taking a moment to rest, the sound of tired feet is heard approaching – it’s the program and maintenance staff shuffling in from their assigned areas to grab a bite to eat. Their bodies may feel physically weary from a long day in the sun and heat, but their hearts are overflowing with the blessings of the LORD, for today they lived their lives completely for him. Do you hear God’s word speaking? “*How beautiful on the*

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*Be still
and know
that I am
God*
-PSALM 46:10

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Our mission is to encourage all to be followers of Jesus Christ and to provide a special place where people can meet with God and God can meet with people.

Be Still and Know

(continued from page 1)

mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" (Isaiah 52:7).

Evening comes and day fades into night. The campfire is started and the campers make their way to sit in the glow of the fire. To hear once more the truth that Jesus is the Son of God and to hear that those who trust in Him will be saved. The strum of a guitar echoes in the night. "In the Secret, in the quiet place, in the stillness, you are there. In the secret, in the quiet hour I wait, only for you cause I want to know you more..." Once again it's the sound of children's voices, offering worship to the Great I AM. It's lights out, and the last sounds heard are the quiet whispers of a child as he asks Jesus into his heart and thanks Him for this day. Followed by the sound from somewhere of angels dancing in Heaven – "In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (Luke 15:10)

The sounds of camp, they sound glorious. As I remember the beautiful noise that makes up the ministry of camp, I'm reminded, too, that this noise has been going on for generations, and with God's favor may it go on for generations to come! As you read this and remember, please know, we at camp are thankful for the part you have played in this beautiful medley! On behalf of the camp, thank you for your prayers, for giving of your time and energy, and for your financial support. Thank you for adding to the worship of God through Christian Camping Ministry. Without your support, the music (or the noise) of the ministry could not be heard.



Boating by the fountain

Cabin Challenge Update

We have dropped below the halfway mark on the original mortgage. Praise the Lord, and thank you so very much for each of you who have invested in the ministry of the camp through this project. These cabins have been such a blessing to all who have used them. Soon we will be placing a plaque to recognize a family that has paid for an entire cabin. What a wonderful way they have honored the memory of their loved ones.

At the Spring Celebration banquet April 28th at Shady Maple, we will be introducing the "Coins 4 Cabins" bank as a means to continue to address this mortgage and close out this debt burden. If you are not going to be in attendance at the banquet and would like to know more about this fun way to invest in Tel Hai Camp, please give us a call or email us.

Thank you for your partnership!

Mortgage
Balance:
\$138,220

Watch for our new website @ www.telhaicamp.org

BETWEEN the LINES

by Bruce Gregory, Program Director

As I look back over the almost 20 years as Program Director, I have been blessed to see thousands of children and youth come through camp. Running the programs and facilitating the summer camps is a big responsibility, yet what a humbling privilege it is to serve the LORD and be used in this way; especially knowing how important these little ones are to Him. Jesus said, "Let the little children come unto me," and "unless we have faith like a child we cannot enter the kingdom of God." What a great ministry we have here to reach these young ones for Christ and help them to grow in the Lord.

One of the ways we have done this is through our Dad and Lad Camp. Now going on its 20th summer, this has become a special time of the year for many dads and their sons. Some dads have been here many years with 2 or more sons, and some granddads have brought their grandsons as well. This is more than just a fun time of doing all the activities around camp



like horses, archery, climbing wall, and the swimming pool. For the dads it has become a time away from the busyness of life to spend quality time with their son, fellowship with other dads, to be encouraged, and to be challenged spiritually.

The sons also make

great memories with their dads, make new friends, hear from God's Word, and maybe see their dad in a whole new light. Along the way, they all have a fun time playing water polo, ga-ga, or street hockey, singing silly songs around the camp fire like "Baby Shark," or conquering the zip line.

A special time of the week is our Pinnacle Moments after the Friday campfire. This is a rite of passage time, for 12-13 year old boys who are becoming young men. The dads and lads commit to each other – the dads to disciple their son and through God's Word to help him grow into godly manhood, and the son to learn from his dad and to follow his Heavenly Father. This has been a meaningful time as we hear the dads share their hearts with their sons.

The most important lesson that I always hear from dads is that they realize how much their son needs them and wants to know them and learn from them.

Dads don't miss out on this great opportunity. Dad & Lad Camp runs June 18-21.



Coins 4 Cabins - ask us!

WISH

- 1 kayak (\$250 each) 2 have recently been donated in honor of loved ones.,
- Multimedia projectors for meeting rooms (cost, \$729 each—3 needed)
- 5 basketballs and 5 volleyballs
- 3 safety mats for climbing wall (\$175 each)
- Our 2002 van is showing its age. We are seeking a small car with good MPG that can be used by staff for running errands to the hardware store, market, and for other business
- 12" bandsaw (\$250)
- Gas-powered pole pruner
- Volunteers, willing to be trained to help on the zip line, challenge course, and rock climbing wall
- Volunteers to help in the kitchen on Saturdays and Sundays during retreat season
- Volunteers willing to help in the office periodically.

*If you can provide any of these items or services, please contact the Tel Hai Camp office by phone (610-273-3969) or e-mail (admin@telhaicamp.org). **Thanks** to those who have already given toward these specific needs.*

