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Save the Date! Spaghetti Supper

DATE:
Friday, September 19, 2014
TIME:
4:00-7:00 PM
PLACE:
The Tel Hai Camp Dining Hall



STEPS FORWARD

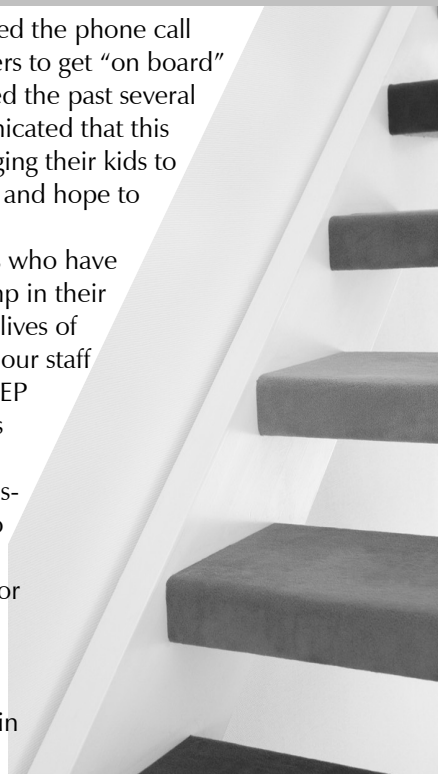
by Gregg Horst, Administrator

It was such a great encouragement when I received the phone call announcing the desire of a family to encourage others to get "on board" and give toward eliminating the debt we have carried the past several years. From their heart they simply want it communicated that this comes, "from a family that thoroughly enjoyed bringing their kids to mother daughter and dad/lad camp for many years, and hope to bring their grandkids here in the future."

Wow! What a blessing! There are so many families who have for generations now seen the impact of Tel Hai Camp in their lives, in the lives of their children, and many, in the lives of their grandchildren. It is such a delight to hear from our staff as they share their heart for this ministry and the DEEP desire to see lives transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ. All I can say is "AMEN."

If you would like to invest in lives through the ministry of Tel Hai Camp, we have many opportunities to join with us. From a critical re-roofing of the gym (23K), to a pool pump (4K), to connecting a generator (3-4K) and on I could go. These are the practical aspects that enable us to open our doors and practice hospitality to campers and other groups throughout the year. I hope it encourages all of you who invest in the Tel Hai Camp ministry.

I have said it before, "We know God is able," and we thank you so much for your partnership with us!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

July 28-August 1
Adventure Camp
August 24
Coins 4 Cabins
"Drop in" dessert
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

Summer 2014
A Publication of Tel Hai Camp & Retreat

God's "Full Circle" Plan

From Camper to Camp Director by Devin Blankenbiller

Ten young boys . . . sitting up in their cabin till after midnight with hearts so full of God's presence and love that they just can't stop praying. That was one of my most memorable experiences as a camper at Tel Hai.

When I think about Tel Hai, it's hard to put into words the enormous impact the camp has had on my life, but words like growth and ministry training come to mind.

My first year at camp was in 1986 when I was just nine years old. During an evening chapel that week, I remember responding to an invitation to let Jesus be the Lord of my life. Having very little Christian upbringing at that time, I didn't fully understand what "surrendering to Jesus" meant or what God would actually do with my life. Little did I know that I would still be involved in camp almost thirty years later!

I continued to return every year for a week of camp with the Hopewell network of churches. When I was eleven, I experienced God's presence in a very real and powerful way at camp. After one of the evening chapels, ten of us boys returned to our cabin. Of course lights out by 11PM is an important rule at camp, but we were just so full of God's presence, we simply could not stop praying and seeking God! We all sat in a circle on the floor and prayed together till well after midnight. I will never forget how God revealed Himself to me through that experience, how He changed me and drew me

Devin "directing" at Tel Hai



closer to Himself. I had many more "God encounters" throughout my growing up years at camp. However as a teen, I really struggled with being fully surrendered to Jesus. I would swing back and forth between following Him and running after the junk of this world. This is one of the reasons I'm so thankful for the grace and mercy God

showed me through my camp experiences. Attending Tel Hai each summer helped build my knowledge of God and strengthen my trust in and commitment to Him.

By the time I was sixteen, I think I knew I wanted to stay at camp for as many years as possible (we call those people "lifers"). My camp director allowed me to begin serving as a counselor to the youngest campers. This opportunity to counsel was the start of a very important process in my life. God slowly

gave me a desire to really connect with and minister to young people. The camp directors did an excellent job of teaching and challenging us young counselors. Over the next few summers, I spent those camp weeks learning and growing in my ministry gifts, loving and leading the campers, and growing so much in my walk with the Lord. Even after starting college, I continued to return to counsel each summer at Tel Hai. It was always one of the highlights of my year.

When I met the young woman I *hoped* would eventually become my wife, I just had to talk her into counseling at Tel Hai Camp as well! Camp had become such an important part of my life, I wanted her to experience it too. Thankfully, she loved camp as much as I did and we counseled right on through our dating, engagement and early years of marriage! It was at camp that I was given my first opportunity to speak to an audience, and what a forgiving audience young campers are! However, even in my early twenties, when I was learning to teach and preach the Word of God at camp, I NEVER would have imagined that God would eventually lead me into becoming a full time youth pastor and one day head pastor. Even my supportive young wife would have laughed if someone

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11

(Continued on page 2)

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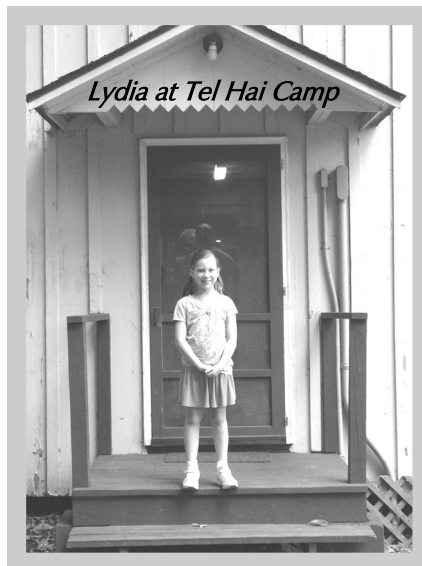
Our mission is to encourage all to be followers of Jesus Christ and to provide a special place where people can meet with God and God can meet with people.

God's "Full Circle" Plan

from page 1)

had told her I'd one day be pastoring. But this is the amazing way God works. He very gently leads us into situations where we are stretched beyond our comfort zones, where we are challenged to trust Him and seek Him more than we ever have. He begins to drop new desires, giftings, and passions into our hearts. He is so gracious in the way He leads us and gives us time to grow and mature.

Now as I look back over the last thirty years, I can see how clearly and purposefully God was working in my life and how He very effectively used my many weeks at Tel Hai camp. I can also see how God has brought me "full circle" so to speak in my growth and training at camp. I have spent the last eight years serving as an assistant director at camp each summer. Who would have guessed that a little nine year old boy would eventually go from camper to director? One of the most amazing aspects of God's "full circle" plan was last summer when my first child, my daughter Lydia attended camp for the first time! Next summer, her younger brother will follow. I look forward to when all four of my children will attend camp. What joy this brings me to see first hand the spiritual fruit that has come from all the years of *others* investing in and "planting" in my life through camp. And I know I am only one of the thousands of lives who have been changed at camp. Words cannot express the gratitude that I feel towards this camp and all of its supporters. God has used this place to do a deep work in me, so that I can touch other lives today. I am incredibly humbled and grateful for God's full circle plan!



Cabin Challenge Update !!

It's a MATCH!

WOW! Do we have news. We have dropped below the halfway mark on the original mortgage (\$117,000). Praise the Lord! In addition, a family who loves Tel Hai Camp have set a **matching gift** until the end of they year. If we meet this match, it will ELIMINATE the cabin mortgage. As of July, our *remaining* target is to receive \$58,500 which will then be matched. We have already received \$7100 against the match since the challenge was given! Will you prayerfully consider being a part of helping us lay this debt burden to rest?

At the Spring Celebration banquet at Shady Maple, we introduced the "**Coins 4 Cabins**" bank (See article below) as a means to continue to address the cabin mortgage and close out this debt burden. If you 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!

Coins 4 Cabins—Drop in celebration

We introduced the "**Coins 4 Cabins**" bank at the Spring Celebration and planned August 24th as a first time to return the banks and "empty" them and celebrate together what God has done. We will enjoy a light dessert, after returning the banks to you and so you might "fill" them once more for another planned gathering in early December. Time is 6:30 in the Tel Hai Camp Dining Hall on August 24th. **We request a courtesy RSVP (610-273-3969).**

BETWEEN the LINES

by Melody Gregory, 2014 Summer Staff Director

Though this is my first year as summer staff director it's not my first experience with camp. Tel Hai has been a "second home" or "home away from home" for about as long as I can remember. My childhood memories are jammed packed with all of the good times I've had here; swinging on the camps swing-sets, fishing over at the lake with my family, hunting crayfish as well as salamanders in the creek, so many of our family parties, and countless more adventures. This is where my parents brought us to enjoy God's creations in nature and to teach us that serving God meant serving others.

Despite having so many good times here at camp there is one that far exceeds any other experience or story I could tell. This one took place about fifteen years ago during a winter retreat weekend. My family and I were volunteering for the weekend and staying in Spruce overnight. We all were going to sleep in the living room because the fire was lit and it was nice and warm. I believe we had just finished our family devotions and were singing

songs before going to sleep. At that time there were deer heads on the wall and to my six year old self they were terrifying, especially so when paired with the shadows cast by the flickering of the fire. I explained to my parents that I would not be able to sleep with the fear of these deer hanging around. At that my dad took the opportunity to explain, not for the first time, that I didn't have to be afraid if I had Jesus in my heart. That I would never be alone and that he would take care of me always.

I'm not sure why but this time it clicked! I wanted that! I wanted Jesus, who came for me and died so long ago to save the world, to be with me forever. So right there and then we prayed. I asked Him into my heart and true to my dad's and His own promise (Hebrews 13:5) He has never left me since. I'm so thankful for that day and all those trips to camp for the weekend in the winter, all those weeks in the summers and every year I've worked here as a teen and now young adult. God truly has blessed me and my family through this camp in so many ways.



Visit our new website @ www.telhaicamp.org

WISH LIST

- We are in great need of a car that staff can use to run errands. We are putting significant amounts of money into maintaining the 2 vehicles we own and . . .
- . . . our 2002 van is showing its age. Significant rust is taking its toll. 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 and it would be nice to find another mini van for the larger pickups from the food bank, BJ's wholesale, etc.
- Multimedia projectors for meeting rooms (cost, \$729 each—3 needed)
- 5 basketballs and 5 volleyballs
- 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.*