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Save the Date! Coins 4 Cabins

DATE:
Sunday, December 7, 2014
TIME:
4:00-6:00 PM
PLACE:
The Tel Hai Camp Dining Hall
BRING:
Coin bank and small batch of
your favorite cookies to share.

STEPS FORWARD by Gregg Horst, Administrator

I shared at the Association Banquet in October how I have such a hard time wrapping my mind around the fact that we have had the opportunity to minister to nearly 6000 people this year. **6000!** Lucas Ho (Food Services Director) tells me that they served over 22,000 meals in the summer camp months alone. Beyond that—and more importantly—the hundreds of commitments to Christ that were made. God alone knows the depth of impact and change brought about in the lives of so many young people. I have seen it. I have heard it. I know that God has etched in their hearts the “GOOD NEWS” of Jesus Christ. **THAT IS WHY WE EXIST!** Our mission: “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.”

May I be open with you? While we are truly excited about the prospect of paying off the \$30K on the cabin mortgage, we are facing a critical need that could easily cost us \$350,000. I ask for you to partner with us in prayer. Pray for the board to have wisdom in this process! I have seen God provide in unexpected and surprising ways, and I will continue to seek HIS face for HIS direction.

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

COMING EVENTS

SAVE THESE DATES!

November 27
Turkey Bowl 5K Race
December 7
Coins 4 Cabins
Cookie “Drop in”
April-May
Homeschool Classes
April 20
Spring Celebration
May 9
Work Day
June 4
Golf Tournament
May 15-17
Mother & Daughter Spring
Getaway
June 17-20
Dad & Lad Camp

Visit telhaicamp.org for more
details about these events

The Hai Lights is published three times a year by Tel Hai Camp & Retreat, 31 Lasso Dr., Honey Brook, PA 19344
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The HAI LIGHTS

Fall 2014
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Camp Has Changed My Life! by Nathan Norman

Camp has changed my life.

My camp days started as a young child in Michigan. I remember going to a Christian children’s camp as a third grader. I was terrified and missed my parents tremendously. Luckily, my brother was in my cabin and helped to keep me focused on the next event.

As a middle school and high school student I attended a Christian camp in Indiana. As a pastor’s kid, I was thinking that this whole “church thing” was just for old people. I can still remember going to the first night service and being blown away as I saw teenagers my age pursuing Jesus Christ with all that they had. Year after year I attend this camp, and it was here that I felt God begin to call me to full-time ministry.

Fast-forward many, many years later... I took a job as a Youth Pastor at Immanuel Church in Wilmington, Delaware seven years ago. All that the youth in my youth group would talk about was “camp.” If there was a moment where they felt the closest to God, it was at camp. If there was a funny story to tell, it was about camp. Camp was the #1 thing that I knew I had to continue as the new incoming Youth Pastor.

Camp in full swing



My first summer as the Youth Pastor, I knew I had to be there to experience some of it for myself. I remember being asked by my father-in-law to preach opening night of Teen Camp. I was honored, and did not really know what to expect. Obviously, I knew we had a huge God that could do anything, but I was still shocked. After speaking, dozens of teens flooded the stage to lay on their faces before the Lord. This camp was changing lives, and I knew it didn’t have anything to do with me! After a turn of unfortunate events for one of the camp directors, I stuck around a few more days to help out in any way that I could.

Camp was changing the lives of teenagers.

After the camp, I was still stunned. As a Youth Pastor of some of the teens at this camp I was perplexed. I had never seen this kind of response to the presence of God. Maybe I was not a good Youth Pastor. Maybe I was doing something

wrong. Or maybe, this camp was doing something right, year after year. Distractions are taken away, Godly

counselors are put in place, engaging skill classes, gym time, pool time, and the list goes on and on. Playing hard and having fun followed by the preaching of God’s Word. The walls in teenagers lives come down and God’s Word is able to take root.

The more I became familiar with Hopewell Summer Camps and the Tel Hai staff, I realized that the two were working hand-in-hand for a greater purpose. Tel Hai has been an integral part of the success of Hopewell Summer Camp. Tel Hai gives us the opportunity to put our fingerprint on each of our camps, and supports us in order to help make camp a memorable and life-changing experience for all involved. The staff at Tel Hai wouldn’t be the ones to tell you how they bend over backwards to help us have a seamless week. As Hopewell Summer Camps, we sometimes have some pretty out-of-the-box requests. From riding in on horseback to coming out of Guerty’s time-machine to bring the Bible to life, our Tel Hai family has had a hand in all of it.

Year after year I have seen it with my own eyes. At our church, we make it our priority to send every child and teenager to camp. We know that if we can get them there, God will impact their lives. One of my favorite times of the week is on Friday when we have our morning chapel time for testimonies. Hearing it from the student’s mouths is so encouraging.

“On Retreat” at Tel Hai



(Continued on page 2)



www.telhaicamp.org

TEL HAI CAMP & RETREAT

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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.

Camp has changed my life (from page 1)

You would think I would be used to it by now, but I am constantly blown away at how camp changes lives.

Knowing that camp changed my life and is still changing lives today, my church began holding retreats at Tel Hai in the fall. I have come to learn that Tel Hai is a very special place for the Kingdom of God. As a youth group, young adults group, and a men's group we have had the opportunity to seek God in ways that we may not have been able to without Tel Hai.

Camp is continually changing lives.

It's at Tel Hai that we brought a teenager to a retreat. He was brought along by a friend. He seemed to have a mixed up view of God stemming from some new age background mixed with Islam. After the second night of the retreat he waved me down saying that he wanted to give his life to Jesus Christ. I was ecstatic, and with his permission, announced to the group what had just happened. Just minutes later another teen came up to me saying, "whatever he just got, I want it to!" God was moving, and He was moving at camp.

Now, on the brink of moving my family to Costa Rica to live as missionaries, it is hitting me that I am going to miss Tel Hai camp tremendously. It was at Tel Hai that God allowed me to pour into my teens and see Him move in their lives. It was at Tel Hai that memories were made on the challenge course, in the pool, playing carpet ball and running through the woods on our retreat. Tel Hai gave me endless opportunities to show Christ's love to a generation that so desperately needs Him.

To our Tel Hai family, thank you for all that you do to allow God to move!

Camp has changed me.

Bound for the mission field



BETWEEN the LINES

by Bruce Gregory, Program Director



As I am passing the 20 year mark of being on staff at Tel Hai Camp, I have been reflecting on God's goodness and how much He has taught me through my years of camping ministry. Including my years at another camp, I have been serving in camping ministry for 31 years now. My brother says I am a "lifer". At Tel Hai we say that camp is a place where "People can meet with God, and God can meet with people." Though I received Christ at the age of 5, God met with me and spoke to me at camp 31 years ago, and the rest as they say is history.

While I have learned much over the years, what I have learned the most is that God is faithful. He is faithful even when we are not. He is faithful to His character, faithful to His promises, and faithful to His work in our lives. One of the ways He has shown His faithfulness is in how He provides for our needs. Ephesians 3:20 says that He "is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us." I have seen God provide over and over in my years of camp.

One summer I was short staffed and had no lifeguards or staff director. I had to fill these roles myself. The Friday before the start of camp, I was worried about how everything would work out. Fifteen minutes before our Dedication Dinner I got a call from someone who could help out the

first week. Every week was the same, I would find out on Sunday who God was providing that week. I learned to stop worrying and just wait on the Lord to see how He would provide.

Years earlier I learned another lesson in how we don't always understand God's ways and how He knows what is best. One of my first years as a counselor at another camp, I was excited about working with the campers, but one very hot, humid week I had to do maintenance. That week I helped build a staff quarters above their dining hall, putting up fiberglass insulation and drywall. I was miserable and couldn't understand why God would have me doing this instead of working with kids. Fast forward about 7 years. I was working full time at camp, had little money, and had to vacate the house I was living in because my roommate was getting married. I was worried about being homeless. Well, I ended up living in the very staff quarters that I had helped build all those years ago. God is faithful and knows our needs way before we even know them.

Tel Hai Camp has some large needs at this time. I know God will provide. Just maybe God wants to use you to make that provision happen. And just maybe your children or grandchildren will someday use the very thing that you helped to support. God knows. God is faithful.



Visit our website @ www.telhaicamp.org

WISH LIST

STILL NEEDED: We are putting significant amounts of money into maintaining the 2 vehicles we own :

- Our 2002 van is showing its age. Significant rust is taking its toll. and it would be nice to find another mini van for the larger pickups from the food bank, BJ's wholesale, etc.
- Also, it would be nice to find a small car with good MPG that can be used by staff for running errands to the hardware store, market, and for other business.
- Expense of Multimedia projectors for meeting rooms (cost, \$729 each)
- A new paddle boat to replace one damaged beyond repair (est. \$800)
- A huge THANK YOU for donation of a new leaf gathering system for our mower. What a blessing!
- 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.*



Cabin Challenge - Coins 4 Cabins - Drop in celebration!

Still dropping! Can you help? We need only raise \$30,400 by the end of the year, and when joined with the promised matching gift, we will eliminate the cabin mortgage! Isn't that wonderful? Will you please consider how you might partner with us in reaching this goal?

And speaking of "change" (see above article), one of the means we are seeking to raise the money to eliminate this debt is through the "Coins 4 Cabins". Many are gathering their "change" and filling banks for this purpose. Is yours full? Do you need to empty it? Did you ever get a bank? Please contact us and we can help!

We are planning once again a **Coins 4 Cabins—Drop in celebration**. Mark your calendar for December 7th—a Sunday afternoon, at 4:00 as we will gather for fellowship and once again see what God will do to lay this mortgage to rest. 4:00 in the camp Dining Hall. Bring along a small batch of your favorite cookies to share as we gather around the fireplace together. (If you don't have a bank, we take checks.) 😊

Thank you for your partnership!

GOAL:
Raise
\$30,400
By year
end which
will be
matched.