

Fall has come upon us. The color is present in the trees, the geese are on the move, and our retreat season has fully begun. We have been blessed with many great groups in August, September and October. Numerous reports from the Summer and Fall have been such an encouragement as we see and hear how God has been impacting lives through the ministry of Tel Hai Camp & Retreat. I hope you have read some of these stories in this Newsletter.

We plan to begin a monthly email update to keep you current on events and details of the Tel Hai ministry. If you have an email address, please let us know it or confirm that we have it correctly in our database. We are seeking news ways to keep you informed on the “story” of Tel Hai and the ways that God is using this ministry and her people.

Thank you for your continued support. You are a part of the Tel Hai story that will soon enter it’s 60th year. May God bless you richly.

The Hai Lights is published three times a year by Tel Hai Camp & Retreat, 31 Lasso Dr., Honey Brook, PA 19344
tel: 610.273.3969 • fax: 610.273.3558 • email: info@telhaicamp.org • website: telhaicamp.org

COMING EVENTS

October - November
Climbing Class for
Homeschoolers

October 20
Membership Dinner &
Meeting

November 26
5K Turkey Bowl Race

April
Tel Hai Scrapbooking

April 19
5K Turkey Bowl Race
Visit telhaicamp.org for
more details about these
events

The HAI LIGHTS FALL 2009
A Publication of Tel Hai Camp & Retreat



Tel Hai Welcomes New Facilities Director:

Tel Hai Camp & Retreat welcomes Ken Sweigart, Jr. as the new Facilities Director. Ken is joined by his wife of 20 years Cherie, his son, Dakota age 12 and their dog, Amber. Ken grew up in Lancaster County. He attended Ephrata High School, graduating in 1986. Ken spent 13 years as a Navy Reservist. Serving as a Construction Mechanic. Prior to being employed at Tel Hai, Ken was employed at Bomberger’s Store in Lititz, PA for 14 years. He worked in the Lawn and Garden Department and served as a lead mechanic. Prior to moving to Tel Hai Ken served at New Joy BIC in the Youth Department and Youth VBS teacher. Ken and Cherie also served in a traveling performing arts ministry (P.I.C. Puppeteers) for 20 years. He got involved with this ministry when he started dating Cherie. The ministry used puppetry, drama, clowning, and various performance styles to share the Gospel creatively wherever invited. Ken served as assistant director and Tech Crew director for 10 of these years. In his free time, Ken enjoys model trains, wood working projects, DIY projects, music and being with his family.

Cherie, like Ken, grew up and attended school in the Ephrata area. They met and started dating during their Senior year of high school. Cherie attended RACC and has her AAS in Early Childhood Development. Cherie is employed by the Cocalico School District in Denver, PA. For the past 2 years, she has served as the In-School Suspension monitor. “Although the title sounds like it requires a mean-spirited person, in reality that’s the last thing it involves. As weird as it sounds, I love the work I do!”, Cherie stated. Prior to working at Cocalico High School, Cherie

The Sweigart Family: Ken, Cherie & Dakota

was a lead teacher at Sonshine Child Development Center (preschool) in Lititz for seven years. Cherie served at New Joy BIC as a Sunday School teacher and the Props co-coordinator for the Drama Team. During her 20 years of service with P.I.C. Puppeteers, Cherie served in every aspect of the ministry from puppeteer to Director as well as PR Director. In Cherie’s free time, she enjoys photography, reading, crafting, gardening (flower and vegetable), desk top publishing projects, sewing, and cooking.

Dakota is a typical 12 year old kid. He previously attended the Ephrata Area Intermediate School. This fall he will be entering the 6th grade and attending Conestoga Christian School. Dakota has played alto saxophone for the past two years. He is hoping to continue his lessons at his new school. Dakota loves to build and make things out of any materials that will allow him to do so. Working with his Dad on projects around the house gives him the chance to learn and hang out with Dad doing “guy stuff” or “anything that involves getting dirty.” One reason he was so excited to come to Tel Hai was because he’d have a safe place to ride his bike and indee, he has been riding. Dakota also enjoys helping out in the kitchen to make food with his mom.

All of the Sweigart’s are excited to be at Tel Hai. “It’s been obvious from the beginning that we were truly called to be here. It’s exciting to know that we’re in God’s will and are able to use our gifts in such a unique way.”

From the Eyes of a “Newbie”:

First Impressions from Cherie Sweigart

Gregg asked me if I’d be willing to write a segment for the newsletter from the perspective of being a “newbie” and to reflect on my first impression of Tel Hai. I said, “Sure!”

Impression #1: The Staff

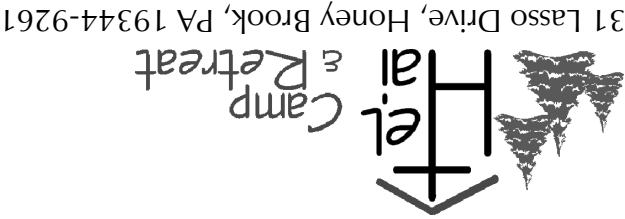
Wow!! What an incredible group of people. I was and continue to be completely amazed. The Tel Hai staff have been so gracious and welcoming it goes beyond my ability to express. I will admit to some hesitation on my part about coming since I’m not an overtly out-doorsy type of gal. The staff has made camp that comfortable that the transition to being here has been easy. Granted, I’m still getting used to the creepy crawlies that I might encounter on a daily basis. The fact that its pitch dark here at night is still a little unsettling. However, I know deep within my being that should I need anything, there is an incredibly supportive family here that I can turn to for help. It’s also been fun to discover the quirky sense of humor that comes develops in a camp setting. The goofy things have been great and lets people know it’s OK to have fun. This humor also provided an outlet for us a family to be ourselves and have a great time.

(Continued p.2)

www.telhaicamp.org

TEL HAI CAMP & RETREAT
31 Lasso Drive, Honey Brook, PA 19344-9261, tel: 610-273-3969

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 2
HONEY BROOK
PA 19344



(continued from page 1)
The best part that was the....hmm, loss for words here....depth in the relationship with God on the part of so

many of our staff that became so apparent to us. I guess I was just expecting the Summer staff to be flighty teenagers that just needed a summer job. I am pleased to say that wasn't the case for many of the young men and women that serve here. The other impressive thing related to our son Dakota. He deals with some minor challenges that in the past have made people wary of developing friendships with him. The staff received him with all his quirks with open arms and have made him feel like such a part of the team here that I can't begin to express my gratitude. For our family this is HUGE! To the staff: You are incredible! May God Bless you beyond your wildest hopes and dreams.

Impression #2: The Facilities

Having been affiliated with Camp Conquest in Denver, PA I had some idea of what is available at a camp. Tel Hai is like a big gift in a little package. It might not look like a huge deal from the outside, but once you get here there's so much to do and explore. It's been fun to have family and friends come to the house and give them a tour of the camp. Everyone has been so impressed with what we have available and the overall appearance of the camp, not to mention the feel they get from being here. I will confess that I LOVE our new cabins. They look inviting and fit the mental picture I would create for myself if I were to design a camp with cabin facilities. The variety of activities that are available to campers is great. There is a little something for everyone's skill, interest, and exploration level both physically and spiritually. The grounds are well maintained (I'd say this even if my husband wasn't the Facility Director) and look inviting. The fact that the available activities are in relatively close proximity to each other is also a plus. It makes moving from one thing to another easy. Top this all off with the beautiful back drop of the forest and you find a winning combination of rustic and fun. Another plus, in the event that the weather is less than cooperative, there are buildings and activities that can be used for indoor activities to keep campers occupied.

Impression #3: General Observation

This part is hard to describe but I'll try. Tel Hai is a special place. You know it the minute you get here. Its a combination of all I've described previously and more. In a very real way you can sense God's presence here just by being here. The only way to put skin on that is to say, "You can feel so much positive energy here" which is rather New Age and I'd prefer not to travel that path but it's all I can come up with right now. It has to do with Jesus putting skin on and being here through the staff, counselors, and campers topped with the opportunities to share about having a personal relationship with Christ. That's powerful stuff! All I can say is if you haven't been to the camp you need to come to fully understand this. It is an amazing thing that has to be experienced.

Lastly, there's so much more that could be said, but I figured Gregg would run out of space in the newsletter. Besides, this is what stood out most prominently in my mind. I'd encourage everyone to spend time here even if it's only a few hours. We'd love to see you get caught up in the blessing that IS Tel Hai Camp & Retreat.

Cabin Challenge Update

Cabin Challenge	
	\$ 300,000
	270,000
	240,000
	210,000
	180,000
	150,000
	120,000
Raised to date: \$70,304	90,000
	60,000
	30,000

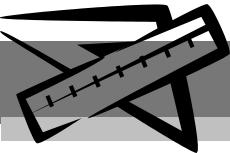
The new cabins have been a tremendous blessing! We thank each of you who have helped and are helping us pay for them. We have received just over \$70,000 of the needed \$300,000. Please pray with us toward meeting this need. We are grateful to all who have stepped up to aid us in reaching this need.

I mentioned the financial challenges before us in the last newsletter and said that "God is able." He has been providing and again I say thank you to all who have taken this ministry to heart. We invite you to join with us! Pray. Volunteer. Contribute. *Thank you for your partnership!*

WISH

- Rowboats/Canoes
- Walk-behind blower
- Commercial-grade cordless drill
- 30" or larger TV and DVD player
- Various hand tools: tape measures, hand screwdrivers, etc.
- Golf cart/utility vehicle for campus use
- Drag harrow for horse arena grooming
- Volunteers to help in kitchen Saturdays and Sundays during retreat season

If you can provide any of these items or services, please contact the Tel Hai Camp office by phone, (610) 273-3969, or email: admin@telhaicamp.org.



As we make preparations for the beginning of a new fiscal year budget and the addition of three new board members, I'm reminded of a few other new encouragements recently at the Camp.

1 One is new financial supporters. We received a gift recently from a new foundation as a result of someone involved in the foundation who attended Dad and Lad Camp in June. The Lord led him to recommend the support after enjoying the Dad and Lad ministry conducted by the Tel Hai staff. As always there have also been new individuals who have sent in financial support. Since 15-25% of the Camp's annual operating income depends on monies from individuals and organizations, all of these new supporters, as well as new gifts from existing supporters, encourage the staff and board.

2 The second is new groups. The recent new cabins have been a blessing and as a result of the cabins we've had several new groups make reservations for the upcoming retreat season. One group is bringing their youth leaders after holding a youth retreat and enjoying the new cabins. That's one of the results we were planning on in upgrading the original cabins.



3 The third is new relationships. There were new relationships with groups and churches, but maybe more importantly, new relationships between dads and sons, mothers and daughters, and campers and the Lord. One testimony came from a woman who noticed a definite difference in her husband's relationship with their son after they attended Dad and Lad Camp. There are tremendous stories – as there are every year – from summer camp group leaders about campers, counselors, and leaders who made decisions for the Lord or who were encouraged by watching the Lord work through their week long camp.

Anyone involved with Tel Hai over the past 59 years, knows these really aren't "new" things. They've happened over and over again through the years. Nevertheless, these types of blessings from the Lord continue to bring new encouragement and new reminders of how God uses the people associated with Tel Hai. Thank you for your prayers, gifts, and volunteer hours that have been used by God to make all of these "new" things happen.

BETWEEN the LINES by Bruce Gregory, Program Director



As I look out the window and see the leaves changing to their fall colors, I am reminded of the glory of God and His wonderful creation. I am truly blessed and thankful to be able to live in a setting where I can experience this first hand.

I am also reminded of how God can bring change, not only in nature as the seasons change, but also in the lives of the children who have come to camp. Numerous times this summer, I heard stories of a camper coming to Christ, of dads and lads testifying how much they need each other and God, of mothers seeing their daughters growing in their desire to live for God, and recently at a camp banquet hearing counselors testify how God touched their lives and their family's through camp ministry. In my own life, God made Himself real to me during a leadership program at a camp and transformed my direction in life. Twenty-six years later, I am still intimately involved in camp.

I often hear youth leaders say that they see more positive changes from a weekend at camp than they do all year. Coming to camp takes kids away from all the distractions and worries of life and allows them to hear God speaking to them. I love Bill and Gloria Gaither's song, "God Loves To Talk To Boys While They're Fishing." That song has been true in my life. When we quiet ourselves before God, we will hear Him speaking to our hearts.

I truly believe that camp is integral to reaching children for Christ. From what I have read, the latest push by mission strategists is a 4/14 window meaning, reaching children between the ages of four and 14. They are saying that 85% of those who make decisions for Christ do so between these ages. This has been our goal here at Tel Hai Camp to reach these young ones for the Lord. But we need your help. We need your prayers, time, and support. We work **together** to reach children for Christ.