



Smoky Mountain Christian Camp Newsletter

Camp Newsletter

September 2009

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Dear Friends of the Camp,

September has arrived. We enjoyed one of our nicest Augusts I can ever remember. The weather has been terrific. Plenty of rain and not as hot as what we have seen during past August months. It has been nice for groups and we look like we will have a good fall with plenty of groups scheduled to use the camp this fall.

Will Smoky Mountain Christian Camp Survive?

I have a great amount of faith in God, but at the same time I am very realistic. I always think about other options for me and my family in case things did not continue to go well in the place that I am. As I think about the question above, it leads me to think of where we have come from, how we have gotten to where we are, and then what I believe will happen from here. When my Dad came to the camp, 20 years ago now; the budget was just \$50,000 dollars. My Dad made something like 16,000, and camp expenses took up the rest. The camp was small, had just finished building the dining hall, in no way had money to build new buildings, hire new staff, or do anything like that. Yet Dad loaned money to the camp to build the desperately needed girls dorms, and in the meantime began recruiting "friends of the camp" to help raise funds for the camp. 13 years ago now I came to the camp full-time after finishing up my degree from Johnson Bible College. The camp didn't pay me much and I didn't really need much at that time. Dad made it possible by keeping his salary low and helping the camp to pay me. Since then I got married and have two children. The camp has increased my salary and built all kinds of new and needed facilities. It couldn't possibly afford to do all that it has done and pay the salaries that they pay. Yet we continue on, and continue to survive. This is the case even though we are one of the smallest Christian Camps, with the fewest Christian Churches surrounding it. How is it possible? It is possible because God continues to bless and provide when we need it. Through churches that give consistently and then once in a while give above what they had done. Through "friends of the camp" who give consistently and then every once in a while one gives an extra big gift that gets us through. Then there is Dad who will take up any slack and just pay for things on



A Look At Next Summer

We have made a tentative schedule for next summer. Those that are helping will have to look over it to see if it fits their needs. But the plan is to have all the weeks be at held at the main area of the camp, none up at the wilderness camp area. I think all the wilderness weeks of camp we will now be calling adventure weeks. So next summer there will be 4 regular weeks and 4 adventure weeks. I and my summer staff will be able to be involved in all the weeks of camp; hopefully adding to the activities, and safety, as well as being able to use all resources for every week of camp.

his own when times are at its tightest. So, one way or another, yes, I see the camp continuing to survive. The camp has become our life. We work hard to make it better, which is always the goal. But if nothing else, it will survive. Why, because number 1 God continually blesses us. But also because, we will cut back our salaries, take on other jobs, and do whatever is necessary to see this work continue. We do it because we love it, and we believe in what it has done and continues to do for the lives of young men and women, boys and girls... Did you know we also do it at a cost much less than many camps can do it? Wesley Woods Camp, which is the church camp for the Methodist Church and is in Townsend, charged on average \$340 per camper this past summer. We charged that for our trip to Yellowstone. Our Regular weeks only cost \$135 for a full week. All of you who support the camp are each responsible for allowing the camp to do that. Each of you has helped make the camp what it is here at Smoky Mountain Christian Camp.

September Camp Board Meeting

September 10 is our next camp board meeting. We will discuss the past summer and next summer and things that we need to do between now and then. It will be at 7:30 at West Towne Christian Church. The meeting will not include a vote on the camp-ranch lease agreement. Thanks to Roy Row for getting a lawyer and having the lease rewritten. We will call a special meeting when I hear from the lawyer and can send out the rewritten document to all the churches. I will let you know as soon as I can when that date will be; and I will give you at least 30 days warning as to when that vote will take place.

Thanks for reading this newsletter. I can't tell you how much the camp, my Dad, and I value your support,

Sincerely,



Billy Clark
Smoky Mountain Christian Camp

