



Echoes from the Hills

Rock Haven Ministries

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Rock Haven Ministries Newsletter

July/Aug 2023

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From Our Mission Director

Dear Friends of Rock Haven,

There are a lot of things that have changed or ended in the last two years. One of the most disheartening things is the number of Christian camps that have closed post-Covid. In the culture that we live in, we need more Christian influence in the lives of our youth, not less. I do not know all the details of why some camps did not open back up, but the reality is there are camp ministries that did not come back after the virus. I do not even want to imagine what it would be like if Rock Haven was not available to our campers and community. That is not arrogance but humility, because I know that we only make ourselves available to be a part of God's plan. I am thankful that Rock Haven Ministries is supported by a community of believers that encourages us to keep fighting the good fight. When I think about the saints that keep Rock Haven prayed up, I think of the last sentence found in James 5:16, "Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." It is because of your faithfulness to prayer that we are still here making ourselves available for God to use in His ministry.

We had a fantastic summer of camp ministry. Kermit will elaborate more on the camp program, but I do want to share some numbers with you.

One of the biggest expenses of camp is feeding the kids and staff. I asked our Kitchen Director, Bonnie, to provide me with some information that I hope you find interesting and helpful as you continue to support the Bible Camp. The kitchen staff prepares some very good meals for the kids to eat.

We used the following:

- 120 pounds of ground beef
- 300 dozen (3600) eggs
- 21 gallons of milk
- 4 gallons of ranch dressing
- 100 loaves of bread
- 75 packages of hamburger buns
- 25 packages of hot dog buns

Of course, this list is not everything we used, but I hope it gives you a better understanding of just the food costs that are associated with camp.

We had a total of 248 campers attend Bible Camp this summer. That means 248 kids had the Gospel message firmly planted in their hearts.

The most important number I can share with you is 14. Fourteen of the 248 campers trusted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Praise the Lord! Each night when the invitation was given, the campers were given an opportunity to speak to an adult so they could counsel them in any decision that they needed to make.

One of our most important programs at Rock Haven is our scholarship fund. Many years ago, the decision was made that any kid that had the desire to come to Bible camp would be able to come even, if their parent or guardian could not pay the registration fee for them to attend. Not one kid will ever be turned away from Rock Haven Bible Camp because a fee cannot be paid. I am so thankful to be a part of a ministry that will not turn a kid away because of money. This summer, seventy-nine of the 248 campers this

Continued on next page

Continued From Our Mission Director

year could not pay the registration fee. Please consider giving to the scholarship fund, and when you send your donation, indicate that it is for the scholarship fund.

The kids had such a great time at camp this summer! A large part of that is because Kermit had an exciting program lined out with great teachers of the Bible that shared the Gospel message with the campers in a way that they could understand. During elementary week some of the campers gave me the name "crazy cafeteria guy," because I was there helping and trying to make it as fun as possible while we fed 129 kids eleven meals. They did not call me the "crazy cafeteria guy" because feeding that many elementary kids would make a person crazy, but because I wanted them to have fun even while they were waiting in line.

Our Rock Haven staff really shined this summer. Many of them stepped into multiple roles to ensure that the kids had a fun and safe

time at camp. I am thankful to serve with so many people who love the Lord and want to make sure children can come to a place like Rock Haven Bible Camp to hear the Gospel message.

Thank you for all the many ways you support Rock Haven. Your prayers and donations of items and financial support continue to encourage us and provide us with the means to serve the campers that need Rock Haven Bible Camp.

Andrew Campbell

Andrew Campbell

Mission Director



Rock Haven on the Go at The Church at Silver Valley



Rock Haven On The Go at Mt Judea Bikers event.



We were privileged to participate in two events since the last Echoes. We are praising the Lord for being so well received. Thank you for your continued prayers and support of Rock Haven On The Go.

We have a registry on Walmart.com to let everyone know what things that are needed to make the ministry a blessed time for the children and families. Please check it out by going to www.rockhavenministries.org/donate. There you will see an option to our Spark Good Page and look at the items needed for this ministry.

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RV-ers' Welcome

Come visit the beautiful Ozarks.

Help out at camp and stay free in your own RV.

Rock Haven has 4 RV Sites nestled in the woods on our Camp facility. A convenience center with laundry facilities, baths and showers are available. For information please call

Office 870-429-5845



Upcoming Bible Camp Events




Rock Haven Bible Camp
Girls Retreat Ages 9 - 14
September 15th - 16th



Boys Retreat
September 22nd-23rd
COMING SOON



Fall Festival
Rock Haven Bible Camp
Saturday, October 21, 2023
Starts @2:00 pm

Pumpkin painting
 Games
 Pie eating contest
 Pie Auction
 Popcorn
 Sack Race
 Hay Ride
 Food



From Our Camp Director



Dear Friends and Family,

Several years ago, I heard a story that always makes me think. Some of you may have heard or read it. The story is called, "Acres of Diamonds". The story goes that a farmer in Africa kept hearing of great diamond mines being found, and he was bitten by the diamond bug. He sold his farm and all his possessions and began a lifelong obsession with trying to find those diamonds. Like many diamond prospectors he found none and finally, after years of failure, he threw himself into a river and drowned. Back at the farm that he had sold, the new owner was crossing the small creek on the property and saw a shining bauble that he thought was a piece of crystal. A visitor saw it and realized that it was one of the largest diamonds to ever be found, and that farm became one of the most productive diamond mines on the African continent.

Why do I share this story? I think of the acres of diamonds around us. Some people call these diamonds kids, others call them youth, teens, etc. I call them campers. I am thankful that this ministry focuses on the community around us. That during our camp season we see hundreds of campers. Most coming from our own "back yard". And because of that fact we can continue having input into many of those lives throughout the year.

We were blessed this summer to have roughly 250 campers come through our camping program. We praise God for those that made decisions this summer. Our final count

showed there were 14 salvation decisions, 5 reassurances, 2 rededications, and 8 of what we call "other decisions".

Thank you for your prayers during the camp season. It is easy to begin focusing on the program and not the purpose of why we do what we do. Luke 15:10 tells us that the angels rejoice when a sinner repents. Rejoice!

We couldn't have camp without our staff and volunteers, and I want to thank those people. These include cooks, dish crew, speakers, Bible teachers, activity coordinators, lifeguards, SWAT, SWAT leaders, office personnel, and especially cabin leaders who spend not only awake time with campers, but also must sleep in the same room with campers. Every week I was concerned that we might not have enough for two leaders in each cabin, but God provided. Be in prayer now for next summer. Someone asked what we do the rest of the year. My response goes something like this. Camp ended on August 4th. About August 5th we start planning for next year. That may be a little inaccurate, but by September we are already in the process of finding potential workers for next year.

Continue to be in prayer for Rock Haven. We have several events coming up and many are like mini camps. They are just one-night events, but we still need cabin leaders, kitchen help, teachers, and speakers.

Especially pray for changed lives.

Kermit Lowery

Camp Director



Roof replacement needed



A staff house needs a roof replacement at a cost of \$4,500. A total of \$2,775 has been designated for this project. There is still a need of \$1,725 to complete the project.

We shared the need for a new commercial lawn mower. \$4,765 has been raised

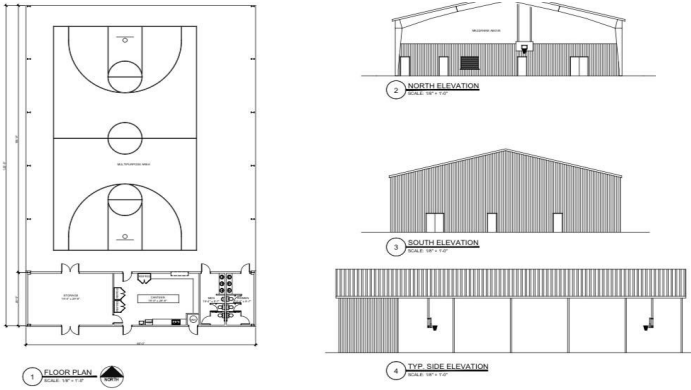


2023 Rock Haven Bible Camp

- Sept, 15-16 Girls Retreat
- Sept. 22-23 Boys Retreat
- Oct. 6-7 Rental
- Oct. 13-14 Ladies Fall Retreat
- Oct. 21 Fall Festival
- Nov. 4 Fish Fry
- Nov. 17-18 Nerf War



Tim Bartlow Recreation Center Update



This summer I was able to show the new renderings of the Tim Bartlow Recreation Center to many people that were at the camp. Each of the groups that rented our facilities this summer along with some guests that were just stopping by were introduced to the recreation center project. I have taken groups out to the planned site of the recreation center, and we have prayed over the ground where the recreation center will be built, because we want God's Hands all over this project. We have a supporting church that takes up an offering each week specifically for the Tim Bartlow Recreation Center. If a few more churches would consider following their lead and take up a special offering for the recreation center, it would help us reach the goal that is needed to complete the recreation center.

With us just coming out of our summer camp ministry, you can be assured that we are reminded just how much of an asset that the Tim Bartlow Recreation Center is going to be to the Bible Camp and the community. There were days of rain and extreme heat that made it evident that if we had the recreation center available it would have made camp a lot more enjoyable and safer for the campers and the staff.

There are three main ways that I share information regarding the Tim Bartlow Memorial Recreation Center. The first is when folks call me wanting information, the second is when a time is scheduled for me to meet with a person or group, and the last way is through this newsletter. The last several months I have been getting the same question. It is not always asked the same way, but it is still the same question. "Do you really think that it is a good idea to try to build the recreation center during a time when inflation is at the highest level it has been in a long time?" I want to be very honest and transparent with you because the first couple of times I was asked the question, it kind of caught me off guard. It was during a time of personal devotion and prayer that God gave me His answer to the

question. God's provision is not determined by this world's problems. What better time to build a recreation center that is going to be used for God's glory? We will be able to look back on the day of completion and be able to say, "Look what God did during a time of high inflation when we thought it would be impossible!" So my answer to the question is, we are going to build the recreation center during this season because of God's sovereignty. He was not caught off guard or surprised by the change in our economy. So when the recreation center is completed, we will know that it was completed with God's Hand all over it and for God's glory.

I reported to you in June that we had \$38,350 in the recreation center fund. In the last 2 months that number has increased to \$47,700. Praise the Lord that another \$9,350 has been raised for this project.

The first phase is broken down like this:

Foundation

Ground preparation and dirt work:
estimated cost \$6,000

Footings, reinforcement placement,
under slab plumbing: estimated cost



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All Contributions to