



From Rodney Stromlund, Board Member

Greetings from Rock Haven Ministries,

In 1968, Ruth and I felt that God was leading us to move to Harrison, AR to begin ministry with the American Sunday School Union. We were living in Jay, OK and pastoring the church there that we had started after finishing Bible College. Our only knowledge of Harrison, AR was driving through on our way to Little Rock, AR. We only knew that we felt that was God's leading in our lives. As we look back that was definitely the direction God took us to begin a lifelong ministry here in the beautiful Ozark Mountains. I can say that one of the highlights of that ministry has been my long-time association with Rock Haven Ministries. I have served on the board for many years and as interim director on several occasions. Once again you are hearing from me as I write to share with you that our Mission Director Andrew Campbell has resigned to take a new position with Camp Paron that is located just west of Little Rock and owned by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

I have had the privilege of working with Andrew and Kim for the past 13 years. He came on staff with me at the Newton County Baptist Church as our youth director and did an outstanding job. He asked me to mentor him, so we had a very close association. After working together for six years I felt that it was time for me to step aside and allow him to lead the church. It was a great transition, and the church has done well under his

leadership. He also felt lead to take the lead at Rock Haven and has been a great director.

Andrew and Kim feel that God has been preparing them for this very position that has opened for them at Camp Paron, so they have resigned the church and the mission effective January 1. It is with mixed emotions that we bid them farewell. Andrew is a very gifted administrator and leaves some big shoes to fill. We will sorely miss him and yet rejoice that the Lord has called him to use his gifts in building up another camping ministry.

Please pray for us as we are once again seeking God's man as Director of Rock Haven Ministries. The field is white unto harvest and God has a man that can lead this ministry to even greater heights than ever before. In the meantime, I can promise you the board and staff will carry on and continue a full schedule in anticipation of what God has planned for us.

Always amazed by grace,

Rodney Stromlund

Board Member



From Our Camp Director

When I was little, one of my brothers had an 8-track tape. For those who don't know what an 8-track tape is, ask your grandparents. The 8-track had stories from Cousin Minnie Pearl of the Grand Old Opry. One of the stories she told was that her new boyfriend had called her a "Breath of Spring". The person she was talking to questioned her on that, and she explained that he said, "I looked like the end of a hard winter." Perspectives. Isn't it amazing how God allows each one of us to view the world from our own perspective. One person looks at something in a negative sense and another person looks at the same thing positively. Perhaps both see something positively, but for different reasons.

From the perspective of a camper, the question sometimes arises, "why do you come to camp?" The answers may be surprising. Many come to be with their friends. Some come because they know that they are safe and others because of the activities. There are also sad reasons. Parents divorcing so the camper knows that when they go home one of the parents will be gone. One young man stated that at least he knew that he would get warm meals.

From our perspective, our primary objective is that a camper learns about Jesus and the salvation that He brings. Other issues are dealt with, such as dealing with pain, heartache, or a loss in their life, but we know that ultimately, true healing comes through Him. We ask that you begin lifting these youth who come to our weeks of camp up in prayer. Pray that they would have a life changing experience with Christ. To help with that, in this issue of the Echoes we are giving the dates of our camps and the times specifically for you to be praying. When I say specifically, I am referring to the scheduled service times. We should be praying all the time, but these are times that we know that there will be a Gospel message given to the youth. Through your corporate prayers, I believe we will see great things happen.

Pray:

July 8-12 7:30-9:00 PM

July 15-18 7:30-9:00 PM

July 22-25 7:30-9:00 PM

July 29-August 1 7:30-9:00 PM

Be praying and asking for God to work in the lives of those who will be attending camp this summer.

Sincerely,

Hermit Lowery

Camp Director



2024 Rock Haven Bible Camp

April 12 -13	Ladies Retreat
April 19 -20	Youth Retreat
July 1 -3	Summer Staff Training Week
July 6	Rock Haven Reunion
July 8 -13	Teen Week
July 15 -19	Jr High Week
July 22 -26	Middle Week
July 29 -Aug 2	Elementary Week
Sept. 13 -14	Girls Retreat
Sept. 20 -21	Boys Retreat
Oct. 4 -5	Ladies Fall Retreat
Oct. 19	Fall Festival
Nov. 9	Fish Fry



Recreation Center Update

Have you ever been at a ball game and had to sit through a weather delay? That is where we are at with the Recreation Center construction. 2024 came in with an attitude. We have had below zero temperatures, snow, ice and rain. However, even with this delay, progress continues. This delay gives us the opportunity to go back over our plan, see if something has been overlooked, and possibly make adjustments.

We will be starting the dirt work as soon as possible. Then, we will continue with roughing in the utilities and pouring the

concrete. Currently, we have all the funds in place to complete this first stage of the project.

The next phase will consist of purchasing the steel building, metal roofing, and erecting the building on the slab. The approximate cost for this stagewill be \$135,600. I hope and pray that you will continue to support the funding of this wonderful addition to Rock Haven Bible Camp.

Sincerely,

Scott Teague



SWAT Mission Trip Update

Thank you so much to those of you who have financially given toward and prayed for the SWAT mission trip to Texas in March 2024. I ask that you continue to pray for the leaders and the SWAT kids that will be going on this trip. Currently, we have raised a little over half of the estimated cost of this trip. Please pray with us that the Lord would continue to meet this need.

Currently, we do not know our complete schedule while we are in Texas, but we do know that we will be helping other ministries and churches and hopefully we will be able to go to the Dallas Life Homeless Center and minister like we were able to do before Covid. We are

very blessed to have our friend Jimmy Vaughn, pastor of Authentic Life Fellowship in Greenville, TX, as our guide for this trip. Jimmy is very involved in area ministries and really loves to work with teens. He is the perfect guide for our group.

Please pray for the leaders, the SWAT members, and Brother Jimmy as we minister and travel to and in Texas. Also, please pray about the needed funds and about how you might be able to help us.

Sincerely,

Donna Bartlow

SWAT Leader



Rock Haven Ministries P. O. Box 40 Hasty AR 72640 ~ Phone: (870) 429-5845

Email: office@rockhavenministries.org

www.rockhavenministries.org



Upcoming 40 Year Milestone!

On the floor in the maintenance building someone wrote in the concrete the date Oct 23, 1983. This was the first building to be placed on this property. Starting from that date, the rest of the construction of the “new” Rock Haven Bible Camp began. In the summer of 1984, the first camp session began. This summer we celebrate 40 years of ministry on this site.

Many people I meet tell me of their attending camp when it was on the river. I remember being on that property one time when I was only five and I vaguely remember that event. In the winter of 1984, my dear friend Tim Bartlow asked me to come and help him do some work at the camp. The job was to put in a hanging ceiling in one of the bedrooms. I tell people that I have only installed two hanging ceilings in my life. That one. My First and my Last. Yet, I kept coming back. I remember that the original chapel was downstairs where the game room is now located. There was no hanging ceiling to hide the pipes, wiring or rafters. The pews were from the original camp. They were simple wooden pews with

a few places for song books and Bibles. The one thing that I do remember is the changed lives. I don't know how many accepted Christ in 1984, because I didn't start volunteering until that winter. I thank God for allowing me since then to see many come to know Christ.

In celebration of this we are planning now for our 40th year of ministry at this location. Every year before our camp program starts, we hold a camp reunion. This year we want to make this a very special occasion. In the past, we have held reunions on the Sunday before camp starts. This year we are planning on moving the reunion to Saturday July 6 from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM. We are planning to have more activities at this reunion. The bounce house will be up and running, games for the kids, and times for testimonies. We would love to hear how Rock Haven Bible Camp has affected your life.

Sincerely,

Hermit Lowery

Camp Director



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