



# Echoes from the Hills

Rock Haven Ministries

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Rock Haven Ministries Newsletter

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## From Our Mission Director

Dear Friends of Rock Haven,

It has been a wonderful couple of months of ministry since our last Echoes was sent out. The staff programmed a girls' retreat and a boys' retreat that were well attended and lots of fun was had by the kids. We are blessed to have so many folks who love to minister to the kids in the community. The retreats give the kids a fun, safe environment where they can learn about how much Jesus loves them. Betty and her volunteers just finished the Fall Ladies' Retreat. Eighty ladies attended the retreat. The staff and volunteers always do such a wonderful job ministering to the ladies that attend the retreats.

As I reflect on the last 10 months, I realize just how busy the staff has been while doing ministry and all for the Glory to God. There is a lot to do for the staff to prepare for the rental weeks, camp weeks, retreats, and events. The many prayers, contributions, and donations help us as we program and staff the events. We cannot do all the ministry that we do without the help of our faithful supporters. God gets all the glory for the decisions that were made during camp and at retreats, but we also know that God works through those who love Him and are obedient to His Word. Your words of encouragement carry us from one camp week to the next, from one event to the next.

If I had to put into words what currently causes the camp ministry the most aggravation it would simply be the two words: "water leaks". Many years ago, there was a saying that the devil is in the soundboard. It came about because if something was going to derail your Sunday morning worship service it would probably come from the soundboard. The last couple of years we have seen water leaks popping up here and there. It's as if the devil is in the plumbing. It would be very difficult, if not impossible, to have camp weeks, retreats, and other events without water. We are blessed to have men like Bob and Kermit who, as soon as we find out about the leaks, are quick to diagnose the problem and

then resolve it. Last winter it seemed to be leaks in the underground pipes. This fall we are noticing that leaks are happening at water heaters and fixtures. Bob and Kermit are being very diligent in fixing them as they come up and to even getting ahead of some of them by doing replacements on old fixtures. The only common denominator is that a lot of the equipment has a considerable amount of age to it. I mention the water leaks as a matter of prayer. We need our prayer warriors to continue to lift the camp ministry in prayer.

I have asked before but as a reminder, please keep us in your prayers as we seek to end 2023 as strong as we started. We are looking forward to hosting the Fall Festival and Auction on October 21<sup>st</sup>. This has become a wonderful opportunity to open the campground to the community to come and enjoy the fun and fellowship that is the Fall Festival and Auction at Rock Haven Bible Camp. We have the Annual Fish Fry coming up on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. This is a fundraiser for the Bible Camp. The Naff Family Singers will be providing a gospel concert during the Fish Fry. The money raised at the Fall Festival and Auction and the donations made at the Fish Fry will go toward the maintenance and upkeep of the boys and girls cabins. We also have the Nerf Wars retreat coming up on November 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. This has become a favorite retreat for many of the campers. The staff works hard to prepare the campground for the "nerf wars". Thank you for your encouragement, prayers and support this year. We would be grateful for and would use wisely any contributions that you would like to give as end of year gifts. Kermit will be providing more information regarding the Bible Camp and the needs we have as we look forward to the next camping season.

Andrew Campbell

*Andrew Campbell*

Mission Director



Dear Friends and Family,

Growing up I used to think that Spring or Summer was my favorite season of the year. The main reason was the fact that in the summer we had no school. I now have come to enjoy Fall. When you are young, ticks, chiggers, and other biting creatures didn't seem to be so bothersome. Today, if I go into the woods my first thought is where's the bug spray. Fall especially in October and November are much more enjoyable. Soon the sound of the mower will be replaced by the sound of the blower or rake moving leaves. Daylight begins to wain and the nights become crisp and cool.

That does not mean that we are not busy here. In September we held the girls' retreat with 22 in attendance. I am grateful for those ladies who take this retreat and run with it. Then at the boy's retreat there were 30 boys attending. It is always fun to challenge these young men in our activities and training time. In October we will host our annual fall women's retreat. The excitement that I hear from these women who attend is infectious. They are always so appreciative of the speakers and the breakout sessions. In October 2020 we held our first Fall festival. At the time because of Covid, there were very few activities to do in the area. Every year the Fall festival has a few more people attend and are so grateful that we can do this event for our community. The last youth retreat will be the Nerf War retreat held in November. Going through some old pictures and flyers, I

realized that this will be the 7<sup>th</sup> year that we have been holding this retreat, and we know that for many of our campers this is one of the highlights of the year for them.

And we're not done. December 2<sup>nd</sup> we will again be hosting a women's ornament making party. This will event was well attended by the ladies, and we look forward to this again. Finally, one last thing. Every year someone suggests doing some type of drive through Christmas light tour or something of that nature. This year we have a plan. This plan is called Nativity Lane. This will be a path that we have lined with lights and both sides of this path will be Nativity scenes. There will be wooden cut out scenes, wire framed scenes, plastic blown scenes, and even a Precious Moments scene. The path will end at the tabernacle which will be decorated with nativity scenes as well. We are inviting churches and individuals to be a part of this. We will supply a place for you to erect your own nativity scene if you choose. We will even provide lights. We look forward to being able to share more information soon.

We invite you to be a part of what is happening at Rock Haven. Whether it is a retreat, fall Festival or Nativity Lane, we look forward to seeing you.

Kermit Lowery  
Camp Director



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**Rock Haven Ministries**

**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 faculties, baths and showers are available. For information please call  
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## SWAT Missions Trip to Texas

SWAT stands for Students Worthy And True. This program is for 13- to 18-year-olds who serve at Rock Haven during our camp events. Our verse for this year was Mark 10:45 NLT, "For even the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve others, and give himself a ransom for many." Our goal is to be like Jesus and to serve others, not be served.

For several years before the start of Covid, Tim and I were privileged to take several groups of young people to Texas to let them experience service in a different area and with different groups of people. We still hear from many of them how this trip impacted their lives. The SWAT young people that we are wanting to take on this trip are ages 15 to 18 years old. We hope to take 6 or 7 of these teens on a trip during their Spring break in 2024. During this trip, we will be helping 2 or 3 different ministries with projects as well as learning about their ministries and how they help in their communities. This will be a great time for the young

people as they see many ways to serve the Lord. For us to go on this trip, we need to raise between \$3000 and \$3500. This money will be used to rent a van for the trip. We find that renting a van is better than borrowing one for several reasons. We will also need to pay for the gas for the van as well as other expenses. Each teen and leader that goes will need to raise \$150 to \$200 to cover the cost of food and other expenses once we reach Greenville, TX. We want to be able to help those that can't meet this expense as well.

Please pray for this trip and for the teens and leaders going on the trip. Pray for safety, for their eyes to be open to opportunities to serve the Lord in their own communities and pray that we can raise the money needed to make this trip possible. Thank you for your prayers.



Donna Bartlow  
SWAT Leader



*Update*



Thola Community Church

The Thola Community Church in Searcy County has a Kids' Night the first Thursday of each month during the school year. For our October Kids' Night, David Day, of "Rock Haven on the Go", was our guest teacher and also engaged the children in a variety of fun games with the parachute. The fourteen children who attended were encouraged to learn a Bible verse, engaged in singing songs to praise God, and were taught a Bible lesson on one of the fruits of the spirit; peace.

The Kids' Night leaders and Pastor Kenny McDaniel are very appreciative of the time and effort that David Day put forth to spread God's word to our youth. We also thank everyone who gives to support this minister. May God bless you all.

Kathie McDaniel



Bounce House Purchased



Thola Community Church

We shared the need for a new commercial lawn mower. \$4,765 has been raised specifically to go towards the John Deere Lawn Mower at a cost of \$8,500. We have

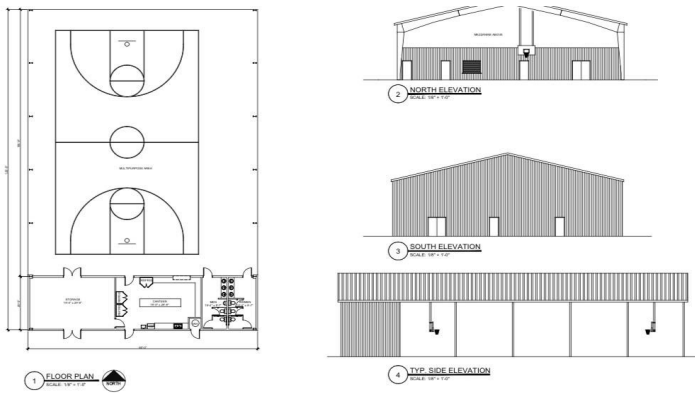


## 2023 Rock Haven Bible Camp

Oct. 13-14	Ladies Fall Retreat
Oct. 21	Fall Festival
Nov. 4	Fish Fry
Nov. 17-18	Nerf War



# Tim Bartlow Recreation Center Update



I am very happy to announce that on September 13th we met the goal of \$73,500 that will allow us to break ground on the Tim Bartlow Memorial Recreation Center. When we sent the last Echoes newsletter out in August, we were still \$25,300 short of our goal. Many of us were praying that the Lord would provide the funds, but I am not sure that any of us knew that the donations would come in the way they have in the last 10 months. What once looked like an impossible mission is now starting to become a reality. We have met with our Project Manager Kurt Goodall, and he has informed us that we will be breaking ground the week after Thanksgiving. Once the 80'x120' slab is poured, and the plumbing is roughed in, we will be able to say that the vision that Tim shared with the board in 2012 is now something we can see and feel and will become even more real to each one of us. The reality is that this can be done. Not by our strength or by our will or by anything that we can do. This project is going to be completed because God is in it. The only thing we can do is make you aware of the need and pray that God's people respond.

This is what stage one will look like in the coming months.

## Foundation:

- Ground preparation and dirt work.
- Footing, reinforcement placement, under slab plumbing.
- Slab forming, grading, pouring concrete and finishing slab.

Stage two will be the building purchase and erection; the cost for this stage is \$135,360. With the money secured to have stage one completed, we need to start raising awareness and support for stage two right now.

I shared in the last edition of the Echoes newsletter that I have three ways that I can share about this wonderful project. The Echoes newsletter, face-to-face meetings, and phone calls. The newsletter is a great way to get updates but if you need updates in between the Echoes newsletter going out, I am available to meet with churches or other organizations and answer questions

regarding this project or any other ministry of Rock Haven. I take numerous calls regarding the project and will make the time to visit over the phone if that is what is best for you. I always look forward to an opportunity to share the story of how the recreation center came about.

We need a few more churches to catch the vision of seeing this project complete. I do not have one single doubt that God is going to provide for this project. The only question is who will partner with Him to see it completed. David Day told us during a staff meeting that while he was sharing the ministry of Rock Haven to a church on the other side of Newton County a woman gave him five dollars, and she asked that it be put toward the Tim Bartlow Recreation Center. One person cannot do it all but many of us can do something. I spoke with a man in Harrison the other day who is asking his senior adult Sunday school class to start taking up an offering specifically for Rock Haven. I believe that we are going to see a mighty movement of God happen at Rock Haven Ministries because God's people are responding to the needs of a ministry that has a goal of reaching boys and girls with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I don't know about you, but I want to be a part of that. Will you pray and seek how God wants you to be a part of this wonderful project.

Andrew Campbell

*Andrew Campbell*



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 All Contributions to