

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,

Do it well! That has been a mantra that I have been striving to do life by for all of 2023. I have repeated it many times in meetings and to myself as a reminder that whatever it is we do for God, we should do it well. How we do life with one another, how we do ministry, how we give, everything we do, we should do well. As I look back on 2023 and do an inventory of projects, ministry, camp weeks, retreats, and building relationships, I am thankful that I can say that the staff spent 2023 serving God well.

We have accomplished small projects, like installing the new signage that Cindy Lundy designed. Then there are the big projects, like installing the new floor in the camp chapel. I have shared before about the problems we have had with our water leaks, and I am thankful that Bob has been able to stay on top of those and take care of each of them as we are able to find them. Bob has also done a wonderful job with adding much needed and better lighting around the camp facility.

I may be guilty of being biased but I believe that this last summer was one of the best summers of camp ministry we have seen at Rock Haven in many years. It took all the staff to come together and work hard but they did it and they did it well. Because of all the prayer and preparation during the winter and spring of 2023, the youth that attended the summer Bible Camps were challenged to go deeper into God's Word by some incredible Bible teachers, missionaries, and cabin leaders. Bonnie and her volunteers in the kitchen prepared quality meals for the youth and staff each week of camp. Donna and Kimberly had some wonderful students that helped by being in SWAT and serving in the background, taking care of many things that allowed other staff to do ministry with the campers. Lamar and Valerie were a big part of programming, cleaning between camp weeks, and helping with the SWAT program. David did such a wonderful job of programming games for the camp weeks and helping wherever he was needed. A craft time was added to the camp week program and Rachel did a great job of leading out and preparing for the daily craft project. Rock Haven is blessed with some wonderful staff that love God and

want to see his Kingdom grow by making themselves available for ministry. I am glad to say that they are doing it well.

Throughout the year there have been so many weekend retreats that Kermit and Lamar programmed for the youth and that Betty and her volunteers programmed for the ladies. Each of the retreats gave the youth and the ladies an opportunity to hear the Gospel of Jesus shared in a way that was clearly understood and to grow in their relationship with God.

Building relationships with the youth and adults that attend the camp weeks and retreats is also something our staff is doing well. The staff has been intentional throughout the year to encourage campers to go deeper in God's Word and to get involved in a local church.

So many wonderful things have been accomplished in 2023, all for the glory of God. We can accomplish the many things we do because of the wonderful folks that support the ministry that is Rock Haven. Without God's direction and His people being faithful to prayer and giving to reach the lost and hurting in our communities we would not be able to do the ministry we get to do year after year. I am often asked what our greatest need is. The greatest need will always be ensuring that boys and girls can come to camp, so the answer to the question is always the Scholarship Program. This program will always ensure that the kids who may not be able to come otherwise can come to a week of camp or to the weekend retreats. If you want to give to a program that will ensure that youth are exposed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, then please consider giving to the Scholarship Program, and your gift can be a conduit to make sure that it happens. We are always grateful for what God provides as He provides and when He provides. All I can ask is that you pray about giving to the Scholarship program and let God lead you in your giving. 2023 has been a great year of ministry and we give God all the glory.

Andrew Campbell

Mission Director



Dear Friends and Family,
Moving ahead.

When I was first married, my wife and I worked at a camp in Nebraska. The one thing that always stood out to me was the fact that even though the camp had debt, mainly a mortgage, it never stopped them from going forward. They were always seeking to add to their program and make improvements.

The fact that we are adding a new recreation center to Rock Haven is tremendous. It will be a wonderful asset to this ministry. At the same time, we must keep a focus on our present facilities to first keep them usable and second meet the needs of our programs and those who use Rock Haven for their camp programs.

There are areas that will always be an ongoing concern. Roofing, for example. When I arrived in 2010 several of the cabins had just been re-shingled and within a few years all the cabins and bath houses had new roofs. Now it is time to start the process again, this time with metal roofing that should last at least twice as long as shingles. At present the estimated cost of materials is approximately \$1500 per cabin.

Other needed improvements include replacement of windows, adding additional insulation, and flooring. Last year we were able to put vinyl plank flooring in the chapel area. We have been blessed to be able to do the same in two of the motel rooms downstairs. We have found that this type of flooring is much easier to maintain. The flooring installed in the motel rooms cost \$600 per room. It would be great to be able to put new flooring in the remaining four rooms soon.

In retrospect, I stand in awe of how well our facilities have stood the test of time. The Lord has allowed us to use these buildings for his glory for 39 years. Yes, next year we will be celebrating 40 years of Rock Haven at this present location. Almost twice the time that the camp was on the Buffalo

River. I think of the lives that have been affected by this ministry and those who will be affected in the future.

Volunteers are the gold that keeps us going. Every year we are so blessed by those who volunteer their time at Rock Haven. Whether it is working in the kitchen, staying in a cabin during a retreat, replacing the siding or a roof on a building, you will never truly know the blessing that you are to us. We have been blessed to have two couples with us for a few weeks this fall, and so far, they have been able to do repairs to the tabernacle and install the two floors mentioned above. Please think about putting a group together from your church or group of friends to help with a project such as replacing the roof on one of the cabins, painting, or even raking leaves.

Seven years ago, we held our first Nerf War/Gun retreat. It was something new and different. Would it be a hit or a bomb? The turnout for this event has been phenomenal. The first year there were over 60 campers in attendance, and we have had attendance over 80 since. This is our last youth retreat for the year, and we always want to do it well.

Something new and different for Christmas this year is Nativity Lane. I almost wrote Nativity Land on something and almost didn't change it. Nativity Lane will be a lighted pathway, with each side of the path lined with either Nativity scenes or part of the story of Christ's birth. The path will end at the Tabernacle where smaller and more fragile pieces and scenes can be protected from the elements. If you have one of your own that you would like to share, we would love for you to share it here.

Continue to keep this ministry in prayer as we forge ahead in planning and preparing for next year.

Sincerely,
Kermit Lowery





Rock Haven on the Go

We praise the Lord that the van for the ministry is completely road worthy after having some mechanical issues taken care of.

We were excited to be able to purchase a bounce house for Rock Haven on the Go. The new pirate ship bounce house is huge and is a great asset. It is commercial grade and measures 15 feet tall and 22 feet long, with a small ladder and slide on the inside.

We found it at a great price and were blessed by donors who have already helped to cover half the cost.

We would like to get more outdoor games for kids to play at our events. These are posted on our wish list at Walmart.com. You can also follow the link www.rockhavenministries.org/donate where you will be able to connect to our Spark Good Page and look at the items needed for this ministry.

You can schedule Rock Haven on the Go to be part of your church event by calling 870-429-5845.

Thank you all for your prayers and giving.

God bless.

David Day

Evangelism/Outreach Director



SWAT Missions Trip to Texas

Please continue to pray for the upcoming SWAT Mission trip to Texas in March 2024. The SWAT members that we want to take on this trip are young people aged 15 to 18 years old. To make this trip possible, 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. This money will also

need to pay for the gas for the van as well as other expenses. Each teen and leader that goes will also 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



RV-ers' Welcome

Come visit the beautiful Ozarks.

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

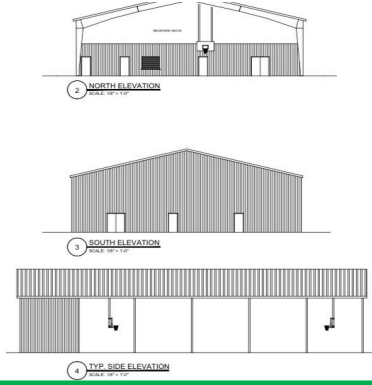
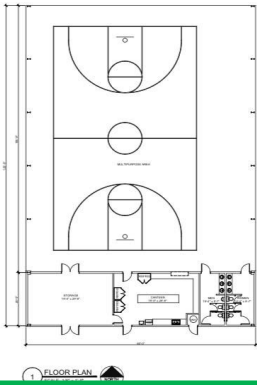
Rock Haven has 4 RV Sites nestled in the woods on our Camp facility. A convenience center with laundry facilities, baths and showers are available. For information please call

Office 870-429-5845

We shared the need for a new commercial lawn mower. \$5,265 has been raised specifically to go towards the John Deere Lawn Mower at a cost of \$8,500. We have \$3,235 to finish



Tim Bartlow Recreation Center Update



This past month we have spent a lot of time working on the logistics of starting stage one of the Tim Bartlow Recreation Center. There are several details that must be considered and worked out before we can start moving dirt and getting the foundation completed. I am glad to say that we are constantly checking them off, one item at a time. We met with the heavy equipment operator on November 11th, and he wants to start moving dirt no later than the first week of January. We will have all our items completed and wait for him to finish his current job so he can begin work on stage one of the recreation center. I am constantly encouraged by the wisdom that our project manager Kurt Goodall continues to share with us during this process. He has been very patient with every detail of this process. We are grateful that he wants to share his knowledge to make sure that the recreation center is completed correctly to God's Glory.

I would be remiss to not encourage you to consider giving toward this project. We are currently spending the money already donated to stage one so we can continue to check off the boxes to see this stage completed. It will take six weeks for stage one to be completed. If the weather cooperates, we will see the following completed by the end of February 2024.

- 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. Just as we did with stage one, we will not move forward with starting stage two until all the money is available to complete it.

I continue to meet and share this need with church leaders, and I will be glad to share the recreation center project with your church. The origin story of how Tim's vision for the recreation

center is best told in person. The Echoes newsletter is a great way to get updates of where we are in the process, but I always look forward to an opportunity to meet and share the story of how the recreation center came about. I do not want to end this without saying thank you for giving toward such a worthy project. Your faithfulness in praying and giving toward this project is why we have come as far as we have in the amount of time that we have. Thank you for seeing the value in Tim's vision for adding the recreation center to the already wonderful facility at Rock Haven Bible Camp.

Andrew Campbell

Mission Director



On November 11th we held a groundbreaking ceremony for the Tim Bartlow Recreation Center.

Pictured above left to right: Kermit Lowery – Camp Director, Kurt Goodall – Recreation Center Project Manager, Andrew Campbell – Rock Haven Ministries Mission Director, Kimberly Bartlow, Donna Bartlow, Rock Haven Ministries Board Members – Jon Racic, Hunter Guynn, Josh Rodman, and Dennis Sisco. Not pictured are board members Rodney Stromlund and Scott Teague.



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