

In Touch

June 2008

from Hidden Acres' Executive Director

A place set apart

www.hiddenacrescamp.blogspot.com

by Earl Taylor, Executive Director

I heard a good story over the weekend: A young man approached me : "I accepted Christ 25 years ago at the first basketball camp ever held at Hidden Acres. The coach was Bob Berggren (Bob is still the basketball coach), the speaker was Mike Shea."

The particular week has been spoken of over the years as a tough, tough week... all kinds of mud around the not so completed first lodge, add the septic system backing up, the toilet shocking you every time it was flushed, the tents were being used for boys cabin area, and generally speaking the camp was not ready to hold a camp; but we did, and this young man was one who accepted Christ.

Lesson to be learned: *Things don't have to be perfect in order for the Lord's work to be done... from the outside, it would have appeared that Hidden Acres was getting ahead of itself... holding camp before things were ready... just don't tell Brent Howland-staff member with International Messengers of Clear Lake... he experienced his encounter with the Almighty. Brent was ready, and the Lord met him at camp, mud and all!!*

Tent/Motel/Tent/Motel?...

Many have asked... "What is the connection Earl. You are staying in a tent for 30 days praying that someone would come along and build you something better? You really think that will work? Why would people think you need something better to sleep in? Maybe you deserve a tent?"

I have heard it all. Many wonder why I would stay that many nights in a 10' x 14' tent for a month. I will spend my 30th wedding anniversary in the tent...alone (DeDe wouldn't enjoy the smell of army canvas). I have to tell you... it is just a gimmick... a way for me to promote the motel lodge.

Most of you know by now, I am the designer and visionary person for the camp; I have been called to Hidden Acres to build the camp into something that our churches will use and enjoy. It has been my job for the past 20+ years to think forward and to anticipate the needs of our church people. For the most part, we have done well in developing buildings that fit right with our groups and summer camps. Cabins, lodges, recreational areas have been built by the generosity of many different people.

We have the Sigmund Bible Chapel, the Good Rooms in the main lodge and family life center, the covered wagons were paid for by families in our district, a climbing wall was built in memory of Bert Lundell, Wester's Missionary and Christian Service Cabin, Joe Hove Grove, Lechler Lake,

AmountOfGift

Johnson Lodge, and even Jenny's chapel. All were built because a family has taken it upon themselves to help out with the financing of a building, a room, or a program area; hence comes the family name attached to the building.

And now we are building a motel; and again, a family has come forward to give a big hand in the construction of this lodge. Jesse and Lois Schlichting have told me that they want to see their gift go toward something they can see while they are still alive. Their generous gift will cover over half of the cost of this building. We are so thankful that the Lord impresses upon the hearts of His people at just the right time. Schlichting Lodge will be built!! Thank you Jesse and Lois for your gift. May the Lord use this lodge so that the gospel will be heard by even more people.

We have a wonderful start to this building; the Lord does supply our needs, but we are still lacking over \$100,000 in order to be able to complete the building. Building costs keep rising; we are hoping that our cost estimates will be close.

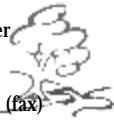
We are looking for additional gifts of any size; and that is the reason for the tent-30 nights in it... to finish raising the rest of the funds necessary to complete this project. See enclosed flyer for you to return to the camp with your pledge. And thank you to those who have already given towards this building; you are the ones that keep me sleeping in the rain!!

A favorite letter...

"Finally, I want to mention my final year of working at camp. It was the hardest summer I had to go through and probably my least enjoyable. But it's not about me. That is what most counselors just can't understand. They are not on vacation, they are here to be used as God's tool. I can say, out in complete isolation of wilderness camp, I had the most change in campers. Almost every week, every camper hated it at the beginning and loved it at the end. My 2nd week I had 21 4th and 5th graders. The first two nights I had all 21 cry themselves to sleep. These poor suburban kids. It was weird one night we sang, "It is well with my soul." After that they stopped crying, and by the end of the week, the campers refused to pack, because they didn't want to leave."

A letter from Cole Goodenow, a six year counselor at camp, and a recent graduate from Trinity College in Chicago. He finishes his letter by writing, "I hope you are still yelling at lots of the counselors, because they need tough love. Thanks again for making an impact on my life... and I hope you still have Wilderness Camp!"

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Father and Sons Jamboree– August 15-17

A new weekend of action for the dads and teenage sons who want to spend one last weekend together before school starts. Terry Baxter from Messenger's of Hope will be the speaker; Terry will challenge men; everyone will be touched by his messages. There will be plenty of fun and action also. Clay pigeon shoots, paintball games, basketball and dodge ball, fishing, golfing, biking and lots more. Bring your equipment for a 50 mile bike ride early Saturday morning.



Bring the entire men's group from your church; set up your tents, rent our cabins or lodge rooms and enjoy close fellowship with your own church family. Pastors, use this weekend to get to know your guys better; and for them to find out who you are.

It is our goal to fill up the camp with over 400 men. Go to our website: www.hacamps.org for more details and to download a brochure and registration information. Call and visit with me if you have a questions.

Plenty of room for more campers in July

It isn't too late to get your camper signed up for camp; though we have a couple very large camps in June which are filled, there is room for more campers in July. Go to our website and download camp information and registration.



Randy Larson and Helmer

Labor Day Family Camp- Stay close to home and attend family camp at Hidden Acres. Join Pastor Randy Larson and family from Sparta, WI., for a weekend of ministry together. Randy has been a long time favorite speaker for our sportsmen's retreat each spring. Randy is involved in personal evangelism and church renewal.

Join us for a weekend that will be sure to have something for everyone; paintball, trail rides, fishing and canoeing, swimming and activities in the Family life center, great food, and plenty of relaxation around the evening camp fire . Bring your extended family or neighbors and help them begin a family tradition. Rent a cabin, a lodge room, bring your own RV or tent; eat all your meals with us or just a few. Go to: www.hacamps.org

New Staff: Hidden Acres welcomes new staff member Al Hofmann from the Adel EFC. Al has taken over the position of Operations Manager. Al and Susan have two children, Josh and Lauren, and live on an acreage outside of Adel.

In addition to Al, we have hired a new food service director, Ashley Ferrari. Ashley is no newcomer to Hidden Acres, having worked part time and during the summer for the past several years. Cori Garrels, our former food service director is now working in the office as marketing director and office assistant. We wish Elly Hanson the best as she recently moved on from the camp. God has been so good in supplying just the right staff over the years.

Ten Most Wanted:

1. Wildlife art prints
2. Walk in freezer
3. Convection oven (commercial)
4. Chain saws
5. Electric Golf carts or JD gator
6. Picnic tables
7. Fire circle rings
8. Good used pickups
9. Water slide for lake
10. Ping pong tables