



From the desk of Steve Pinkley

It has been just over four months since I was given the privilege of taking the baton from Earl and became the new Executive Director at Hidden Acres. It has been a busy time as I reconnect with staff and re-engage in retreats and the function of camp ministry.

We recently held one of our core events, the Men's Retreat. Over 300 men came from all over Iowa to disconnect from the world, connect with each other, and learn more about God from our speaker, Jonathan Lotz. Jonathan is the grandson of Billy Graham and has his grandpa's gift of communication and evangelism. God graciously used Jonathan's words to draw many men to put their faith in Christ for the first time while challenging others to make Jesus a priority in their lives. We praise God for working in these hearts and ask that He would provide them with godly brothers at home to help them grow even closer to Christ.



There were many encouraging stories from the Men's Retreat. One pastor had a couple young men attend who, though having grown up in the church, weren't

walking with Christ. He said that being at Hidden Acres away from distractions, hearing the Word, and fellowship with other Christian men absolutely changed their lives. With excitement, they committed to become better husbands, fathers, and leaders in their church. Another pastor told me of a father who had brought his adult married son with him. Life is busy, and the father found it increasingly difficult to spend time with his son. "This weekend we had so much fun playing pool, worshiping, and hanging out," he said. "It meant so much to me to have that quality time again!"

We also just wrapped up three weekends of Winter Blast, a retreat that welcomed over 900 middle school students. These kids are full of energy and love being at camp! Though many adults find this age challenging to work with, these youth are at a pivotal stage in life. They're looking for acceptance and are still very moldable. With the right influence, they can start making their relationship with God their own. We are grateful for the many youth pastors and leaders who serve as godly examples to these students.

Before we know it, March will arrive and our annual Sportsmen's Retreat will be upon us. Over 600 men will flood Hidden Acres for a weekend of shooting, fellowship, and Biblical teaching. This retreat is one of our greatest opportunities to minister to nonbelievers. Pray that God draws the right men to this retreat!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and for all of your prayers, support, and friendship!

In His Grip,

Summer Camp Sideline

by Eric Smith

Summer camp is getting closer! Join us as we study the theme **Heartbeat** and look at what the Bible says about being alive in Christ. Our incredible summer staff and dynamic speakers will help your camper have an unforgettable week at camp. Many of our most popular camps will begin to fill up in February and March, so get signed up today!

For dates, prices, and registration, visit hacamps.org. High school students: be sure to check out our **new** high school-only sports camps from July 9-14.

Each camper who registers by March 31 will receive a \$20 Early Bird Discount. Any summer camp questions, including those regarding registration and availability, can be directed to Judy Swanson at judy.swanson@hacamps.org.

The official deadline for applying for summer staff has passed, but we have a few spots left to fill and are still accepting applications! Multiple positions have openings, including support staff, specialists, and male counselors. If you are interested in joining our summer staff, please submit your application and references as soon as possible. You can email any questions to me at eric.smith@hacamps.org.

Ministry Corner

by Ryan Graden

I remember years when this camp had down time in the winter and early spring months. This is no longer the case! As Steve mentioned, we've had a multitude of friendly faces come through our doors in the past month from events like the Men's Retreat and Winter Blast. We are going to stay busy like this the rest of the year!

March, April, and May are especially busy retreat months. Sportsmen's Retreat should attract between 600 and 700 men at the end of March. If you haven't registered for that event yet, please call us to see what space is still available.



April 21-22 is our third annual Just You & Me, Mom! Retreat, a special overnight for moms and their children. In May, we'll pack in the Spring Senior Saints Day, Just You & Me, Dad! Retreat, and Memorial Day Family Camp. More information for all these events can be found online at www.hacamps.org.

God is at work in people as they are brought to these events. Please continue to pray that He will use the camp and our staff to reach hearts for Him!

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Dining Hall Update with Steve

As the rest of camp prepares for a busy spring, the construction staff continues to diligently work toward completing the new dining hall. It often seems like finishing this building occupies my daily thoughts. I find myself asking many questions: Are we going to be far enough along to use the dining rooms to serve a meal during our Sportsmen's Retreat in March? What is a realistic timeline for such a big building? Can we finish it by summer camp? Can we still complete the building and remain debt free? With a big project, people often ask, "What can I do to help? What do you need?"

Sometimes it's uncomfortable to ask people for their help! However, I have been told, "People can't help if they don't know the need. Don't rob them of an opportunity to bless the camp." The reality is that we need your help! We are close to finishing the bathrooms, lobby, serving area, and dining rooms; there are some minor finishing touches left. However, we are in the midst of the most complex and expensive parts of the building: the serving and kitchen equipment, furnishings, and heating and cooling systems. Below is a list of some of the items we will need to complete the kitchen and finish out the rest of the building.

Item	Unit Cost	Total Cost
One Pass-thru Refrigerator	\$6,500	\$6,500
One Pass-thru Warmer	\$6,500	\$6,500
Fire Alarm system	\$10,000	\$10,000
Two cold salad bars	\$5,500	\$11,000
100 round folding tables	\$211	\$21,100
Four hot serving lines	\$6,500	\$26,000
Four double stack convection ovens	\$7,500	\$30,000
HVAC system	\$30,000	\$30,000
Miscellaneous Utilities	\$30,000	\$30,000
800 stackable chairs	\$40	\$32,000
Stove/Oven Exhaust Hood	\$40,000	\$40,000
Total:		\$243,100

Throughout this building project we've been blessed by the generosity of individuals giving their time and finances and by businesses giving us discounts and/or donating their labor. We've been able to stretch those generous donations a little further by purchasing many of the kitchen items at auctions and through searching the internet for bargains. Also, to keep costs down, we plan to move some of our current kitchen appliances and dishware over to the new dining hall. We are excited to see how God provides for the remainder of the building. If you would like to contribute financially towards the building or have connections with kitchen suppliers, please use the envelope provided, donate online at hacamps.org, or contact us at office@hacamps.org or 515-547-2751.



Earl and DeDe's Retirement

As we've been thinking of ways to recognize and thank Earl and DeDe for their many years of faithful service to Hidden Acres, we've decided to honor their request to "quietly walk away into the sunset." But we will not let them leave us without giving you the opportunity to share how they have impacted you through Hidden Acres and write them some encouraging words. We want to bless them by giving them your stories and memories, so that they can be reminded of the fruit of their faithful service. Earl says, "These will go in my happy file, so I can

pull them out when I need some encouragement."

Please send letters and cards to:

Earl and DeDe Taylor Retirement
3837 Union Ave.
Dayton, IA 50530

If you would like the opportunity to connect in person, Earl and DeDe are planning to be back for Memorial Day Family Camp. We are planning a Sunday afternoon open house in their honor. Stay tuned for further details.