



"That They May Know Him" Phil. 3:10

October 2007



## From the 1940's to Now—Bear Lake Camp

**60 YEARS OF CAMPING MINISTRY --- FROM 1948-2008 --- IT'S A DIFFERENT WORLD**

As BLC prepares to celebrate its 60<sup>th</sup> year of Camping Ministry. I'm amazed at the changes our world has seen since that 1<sup>st</sup> camper set foot on the BLC grounds 60 years ago. Consider a few of these changes: *Our Camp in 1948: Army Barracks, Out Houses, hardly any state codes or regulations, No Full-time Staff, Reg. Fee-\$10.00*

60 years ago Bear Lake Camp

was founded as a ministry that used the unique qualities of Christian Camping to point our youth to a deeper understanding and walk with Jesus Christ. Helping our youth hear and understand Christ's calling of Salvation and Service is a huge responsibility that our previous generation heard and responded to by founding Bear Lake Camp. Thousands of kids have attended and have encouraged and been changed through their summer experience at "The Bear". What a noble and worthwhile endeavor those camp

workers of the past have given. Today the challenge and mission from Christ is still before us as his followers. The need, I believe, is even greater as our world has so drastically changed in technology, population, morality, culture and our pace of life. I believe the concept of getting away, taking time out to slow down to hear God speaking to us is even greater today as our distractions, materialism and busyness have moved us further away from living in a daily communion with our Savior and Lord. Our

young people need a place set apart in God's creation to listen to Him speak through His creation, His Word and a God-focused, loving staff - to know beyond a shadow of a doubt that "Jesus is the Way, the Truth and The Life" in a world that is telling them believe whatever works for you at that moment.

The leaders at BLC are thankful for the heritage this camp has in pointing youth to Christ and are motivated more than ever to continue providing, "a Christian camping experience" to more kids than ever before - to allow them to hear Christ's still small voice that can make a huge difference in the choices they make and impact these young people will have on others in their lives. We thank you for your partnership through prayer and financial support as we celebrate and embrace the next 60 years - "That They May Know Him."

## The Harlan's Move On...

...to the other side of the camp. The Harlan Gang has purchased a house just east of the camp and moved the first week of October. This will also allow the camp house to be used for other purposes to benefit BLC ministry. The house Harlan's had been living

in is owned by the camp and will be converted into an apartment and camp office. Tina (BLM Youth Dir.) and Jennifer (Intern) will be moving into the Apartment. The present Camp Office will be converted back into a small house to be used for intern &



Service Crew housing. Jon Gordon will be moving out of the Barnhart (Hilton) and into the vacated office. Needless to say - lots of shuffling going on at camp this fall.

## New Attractions—From Floating to Towering



Above: Service Crew members construct group building wall

Right: Camp manager Tim Tomcik works with service crew members to finish construction of group building wall.

Top right: Campers enjoy the new floating pier and slide under the careful watch of the lifeguards

We continue to add to our Group Building Area with the addition of a 9ft and 12ft. wall that groups must work as a team to get over - No Easy Task. This wall was built by our '07 Service Crew with the help of the local electric company who donated and set the poles for us.



Thanks to several donations we were able to add a Water-slide on a floating Pier to our waterfront activities. Matt Tomcik, along with the service Crew, was heavily involved in assembling the pier system and slide. This was a great thrill to the campers as well as the staff.

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# Bear Tracks



## Fresh Faces Jennifer Aker & John Gordon, Interns

**Jennifer Aker:** Jennifer is from the Bear Lake Community and has strong roots with both the camp and the Community Ministry. Jennifer has served on our Summer Staff as a Craft Leader and then as a Counselor this past summer. Jennifer graduated this past June from Central Noble High School and is a full time student at IPFW majoring in Journalism. Jennifer loves people and loves to laugh. She also stays busy babysitting.



**Jon Gordon:** Jon has grown up coming to BLC each summer and has been a vital part of our Service Crew Program for the last several years.

This past summer Jon served as part of our Summer Staff as the Service Crew Team Leader. Jon graduated from Columbia City High School last June and is a member of the Oak Grove Church of God. John loves music and spends most of his free time playing any one of his assortment of guitars. Both of our interns work



10-20 hours a week doing various jobs around the camp from maintenance, housekeeping, office work to helping with retreats and with our Community Ministry. Both Jon & Jennifer are living here at the camp and will again serve on Summer Staff next summer. We are very thankful that God has opened this opportunity to Bear Lake Camp and Ministries.



“LET US PUT ASIDE THE DEEDS OF DARKNESS AND PUT ON THE ARMOR OF LIGHT”

ROMANS 13:12



## Summer Recap

Theme: **REVOLUTION** – ROMANS 13:11-12

Focus: Challenging each camper to live out their salvation on a daily basis. To realize that we are in a spiritual battle and that we must live counterculture to the world we find ourselves in. To understand that Christ calling on our lives is more

than a one time decision that is unrelated to our lives but that our allegiance must be to Christ each day of our lives.

### GENERAL:

Number of Campers: 426  
First Time Campers: 97  
Churches represented: 70  
First Time Commitments: 25  
\$5655 of BLC scholarship funds used for 34 campers.

### STAFF:

Summer Staff: 18  
Service Crew: 29  
Guest Staff: 26



Counselor, Josh Schuster and lifeguard, David German show off their guns at the lake.

## Current Projects

It has been a dream of the Board of Directors for the last several years to build a Gym / Community Center to enhance our ministry efforts for all three of our ministry areas: Summer Camp, Community Ministry and Retreat Ministry. Our planning got a boost from the sale of a Lake Front lot which had been do-

minated back to the Camp by Lloyd & Jean Harlan. This money plus some funds from a recent sale of stock which had also been donated to the camp has created enough funds for us to get moving more aggressively towards this project. The board is presently exploring different possibilities. One strong possi-

bility is to begin with building a Sports Pavilion which could be used rather quickly for several years and then add walls and finish the pole barn structure in a few years. If you'd be interested in contributing financial resources toward this project please write Gym Projects on the memo of your check.

## Bear Lake Camp Wish List

Thanks to the generosity of so many, our most-wanted or "wish list" seems to change each month. Our most pressing needs at the present time include:

Canoes—\$600-\$800 each	CD/DVD duplicator
Kayaks—\$300-\$500 each	Laptop Computer
Furniture for staff cabin and game room (\$2000)	20 Mattresses
Corded Electric Drills	Camper Scholarships
Drill Press	15"-19" LCD Monitor
Push Mowers	Microwaves
	Toboggans/Sleds

If you are interested in donating or finding one or more of the following items, please contact the camp (260)799.5988 or [info@bearlakecamp.com](mailto:info@bearlakecamp.com).

# October 2007

## Community Ministry Update

This fall Bear Lake Ministries hired Tina Fast as part-time Youth Director. Tina is no stranger to Bear Lake Camp as she has served as a camp counselor for the past three summers. Tina is from Wichita, Kansas and just graduated last May from Taylor University in Upland, with an English major and a Youth Ministry minor. Tina is living at the camp and is also Substitute Teaching in the area. She has a huge heart for young people and is a great addition to our ministry team. Other exciting news and events

around the community include:

- Embarking on a New Dynamic Prayer Bible Study & Encounter on a weekly basis for corporate prayer.
- Community Kid's Intramural Flag Football is underway
- There were 2 people baptized September 16
- Between 75-85 in Worship attendance the last 4 weeks
- 50 kids attended camp through Bear Lake Ministries.



Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. 1 Timothy 4:12

## Senior Day Away: September 28, 2006

On Sept. 27 – Bear Lake Camp again hosted the Sr. Day Away banquet for Senior Citizens. It was truly a great day as the weather was beautiful, the fellowship was encouraging, the food was exceptional and the program was challenging and entertaining. Lance Weirick, an incredible Juggler, not only

amazed the crowd but also challenged each person to be more loving and keep our eyes on Christ!



## Plan Your Next Retreat at BLC!!

~A Few Weekends Still Open This Winter~

BLC has grown in popularity as a retreat destination as a result of the many improvements over the past several years. If you would be interested in holding a retreat this winter, don't delay in getting on our calendar. You may call Monty to check availability and costs. We also are capable of providing Food Service for groups larger than 30.



## Consider Supporting the Camp in your Church Budget

In order to keep BLC operating we are dependent on both individual donors and churches that regularly contribute to this ministry. We would like to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to each of the churches that partner with Bear Lake's ministry efforts by contributing financially on a regular basis. We would also like to challenge you to prayerfully consider asking your church's leadership to add BLC to their mission's giving budget for 2008, if the camp's not presently part of your church's budget. Bear Lake Camp is definitely a vital mission opportunity using the uniqueness of Christian Camping to effectively impact lives for God's Kingdom. The best way to support BLC is still to send campers—set a goal and give scholarships. This is a great outreach and discipleship opportunity.



**Looking for a place to bring a work team** for building Community & Doing Ministry – Give Us A Call!! Two teams are coming this Fall. Oak Grove Church of God put a new roof on Cabin Five the last weekend in September and Mt. Tabor Church of God in Nappanee is coming in the middle of October to help us Side & Insulate the Staff Cabin, refinish a pontoon boat and other odd jobs. We are extremely thankful for groups that God has sent our way to help us improve and maintain these facilities in order to continue this ministry.

CALL US TO SCHEDULE A RETREAT THIS FALL OR WINTER AT BEAR LAKE CAMP!  
260.799.5988