

BEAR Tracks

That They May Know Him

December 2011

As we once again experience this season of Advent, expectant waiting, we are reminded that God sent his one and only perfect Son to be the once and for all sacrifice for our sinful exchanges of TRUTH for lies, just as he promised. We can find great hope and joy in the TRUTH that what he promises he will do! As we look forward to his promised second advent, there are many people who still do not know of Jesus' great exchange and live without hope and joy. He will return and his desire is that all would know the TRUTH of his saving love. There are still many who are trapped in the lies of this world. Jesus asks each of us to tell the TRUTH of who he is and what he has done. This summer at Bear Lake Camp we will be focusing on **"The Truth X-Change!"** But we will not be able to do this on our own.

The camping ministry at Bear Lake Camp is about teamwork. It is a place where parents, extended and blended families, churches, neighbors, ministry centers and camp staff join their efforts to nurture, teach, encourage and build young people. It's not easy to be a kid...or a parent... in this generation. Raising children is a demanding task and calling, especially in this 21 century that is full of opportunities that can also pose as distractions or even threats. With the explosion of the information world, what was once a remote story, is now easily experienced in any home via thousands of TV channels or internet which is as close as our ipods, ipads, and smart phones (you get the picture!) transferring information quicker than our minds can even process. It is truly amazing how much help we have at our literal fingertips but it is also sobering to face the reality of how harmful much of the information is that comes into our homes and minds at the blink of an eye. In the camp setting, we intentionally plan so that we can remove the distractions, however good they might be, and help the kids learn to redirect their focus on the One TRUE God, who is the author of TRUTH. It is in this camp setting where the God who created the heavens and the earth is able to be recognized in a fresh way and there are moments to hear His voice as we read His Word, see His love in His people, and practice His teachings in daily community living. God's Word speaks to each aspect of life very clearly and, although it is frequently missed in our busyness of living, the Christian camp experience provides unlimited avenues for discovering its relevance. Because of the quantity of time that a week of community living provides there are many opportunities to help kids learn how to "fix their eyes on Christ" so that they can discover and fight the risk of exchanging the TRUTH of Christ for the lies that this world makes so available to us. So as you read this, we ask you to wonder how you can be involved in this privilege and responsibility of building the life of a young person on the TRUTH of Jesus Christ. If you are a parent, are you willing to set time aside for your child to grow during a week at camp? If you are a grandparent, are you willing to help finance your grandchild's growth? (A GREAT gift idea!) If you are a neighbor, are you willing to invite a child to camp? If God has entrusted you with financial resources, are you willing to make camp a possibility for a child who could not otherwise afford to come? (We have a waiting list if you don't know of someone!) If you are a young adult and have a love for Christ and want to share that with young people, are you willing to invest spending a summer at camp as a role model? It is all about working together to build the Kingdom of God. As a staff, we ask you to pray for us as we do our part and prepare for the arrival of the children that God entrusts to our care this summer! There is much work to be done and many positions to be filled. Together, let's share the TRUTH of Christ using the tools that a week at camp provides!



**5 Months Until Camp Days
Begin!!**
**Be watching for Summer 2012 Camp
Registrations!**



FROM OUR KITCHEN TO YOURS

Baked Pineapple

20 Oz. can crushed pineapple
2 eggs
½ cup sugar
2 Tbsp flour
2 Tbsp water

Empty pineapple into buttered baking dish. Mix remaining ingredients in empty can. Stir into the pineapple. Dot with 2 Tbsp of butter sprinkle with cinnamon. Bake at 350 for 40 minutes or until set. Enjoy this camp favorite!



Summer Staff

If you are a college-age person who wants to invest your summer in sharing the love of Christ with young people, consider applying for a position on the BLC summer staff. Positions available include: guy/gal counselors, cooks, life guards, technical support, crafts.

The NEW 2012 Summer Staff applications will be available online in late December or by contacting the camp office.



Is Service Crew for you?

The NEW 2012 Service Crew applications will be available in January on our website. Any High School student who has completed 9th grade and has a desire to minister through serving is encouraged to apply. For a more detailed job description and qualifications, go to bearlakecamp.com.



"To me, Bear Lake Camp is like a home away from home, in a way. Every summer, I get the chance to make new friends and reunite with old ones, and to serve the Lord in the best way that I can think of. At Bear Lake Camp, I truly learned what 'Dancing to the Beat of a Different Tune' can mean." - from a 2011 Service Crew participant

"It was awesome to help with the construction of the gym! Also, I grew much closer to God through serving others." - from a 2011 Service Crew participant

MAC Update

The Ministry Activity Center (MAC) is framed, insulated garage doors have been installed, electrical service has been installed, and we have received a temporary occupancy permit. Several guest groups have already been able to make use of the space for volleyball and basketball. The next priorities are lighting inside the building, building a roof on the lakeside porch, and as funds arrive, the first floor walls and restrooms as well as heat will become a reality. Please continue to pray that God will direct this building project and future ministries as He provides the resources. (All gifts are tax-deductible.)



Together, Little Can Be Much!

Approximately 10 years ago, we began the 200/10 Factor. We were looking for 200 individuals to commit to giving \$10 per month or \$120 per year, to help meet the monthly camp expenses. If we were to fill all 200 slots, \$24,000 annually would be given. We are thankful for the 45 faithful participants who have generously given at least \$10 every month! However, with significant increases in utility bills – electricity, sewer, propane – and the fact that several are now in the presence of Christ, the need is great. Would you consider joining us with a monthly gift as we continue to be a "Lighthouse" pointing all who come here to Christ? You can respond by marking the appropriate box on the enclosed envelope.



There are still dates available for Winter and Spring retreats. Consider pulling away from the hectic pace of life for a time of spiritual refreshing, refocusing and fellowship with a Small Group, Sunday School class, or Leadership Team.





Bear Lake Camp Joins Shaklee... ...and so can you!

We invite you to take part in the exciting fundraising program. After careful consideration, we have chosen to partner with a company that has a long history of giving back to communities, Shaklee Corporation.

This is an opportunity for our supporters to help us raise funds. When you make a purchase from our online Shaklee store, Bear Lake Camp will benefit. The program is entirely free for us and we get a check each month based on purchases made through this website: bearlakecamp.myshaklee.com. There you will find everything you need to know about the program and Shaklee products.

If you desire to make this a part of your ongoing lifestyle, you may want to consider a one time lifetime membership of \$19.95 which saves you money with each order.

We are thankful for Kim and Eric Waggoner, friends of Bear Lake Camp and our local personal Shaklee Representatives. Feel free to contact them with any questions you may have at 574-858-2893 or email waaa418@comcast.net.



Wish List

- ❑ 60" Round Tables
 - ❑ 100 Folding Chairs
 - ❑ Log Splitter
 - ❑ Refrigerator
 - ❑ Small Tractor
 - ❑ Salamander Heater
 - ❑ Sleds/Tubes
 - ❑ Railroad Ties
 - ❑ Silverware
 - ❑ Volunteer workers for Phase 2 of MAC
 - ❑ 200/10 Partners
 - ❑ Seamstresses to make bags (call the office for more info.)
- Thank you for all your donations this past year!



Kids + Camp = Growth

The Search Institute has identified 40 Developmental Assets they considered building blocks of healthy development that help young people become healthy, caring and responsible people. Because of intentional programming, a week at camp can provide experiences in nearly all of those areas. Helping young people get the assets they need is where you come in. Whether you are a parent, grandparent, neighbor, teacher, or financial donor, your investment of time or finances can make it possible for a child to have a camping experience.



K2C...

Kids to Camp!

During the summer of 2011, more than 60 kids had the opportunity to come to camp from urban communities. We are thankful for the many generous donations from individuals, churches and organizations. The only way to make this camp experience possible for these kids is with your help. Specify "K2C" on the enclosed envelope with your donation.



"God never ceased to remind the staff of what an amazing opportunity it is to even be a part of the staff at Bear Lake Camp. I am still astonished to think that God chose me to further His Kingdom and to teach His word. It was just such an honor to serve another summer at BLC. It was amazing to watch God grow this ministry in so many different ways. God is good!"

— from a 2011 Counselor



Bear Lake Camp
1805 S. 16th St.
Albion, IN 46701

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*May the God who gives hope fill you with great joy.
May you have perfect peace as you trust in him.
May the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with hope.*
Romans 15:13

Or Current Resident



ANNOUNCING SUMMER CAMP 2012!

PRIMARY OVERNIGHT - JUNE 8-9
JUNIOR 1 - JUNE 11-16
JR. HIGH 1 - JUNE 18-23
JUNIOR 2 - JUNE 25-30
DAY CAMP - JULY 2-6
SR. HIGH - JULY 9-14
JR. HIGH 2 - JULY 16-21
JUNIOR 3 - JULY 23-27

**CAMP REGISTRATION FORMS
WILL BE MAILED IN JANUARY!**



More than just Dinner...

Bear Lake Ministries is hosting a dinner
December 18 at 5:00pm. You are invited to
join the community at this "Coffee House"
Dinner celebrating Jesus' birth.

