

In Touch

from Hidden Acres' Executive Director

April 2010

A place set apart

by Earl Taylor, Executive Director

Great Expectations

In case you haven't noticed, young people think differently about life than we who grew up through the 50s and 60s. When I was growing up, there was very little to attempt to grab onto except what our parents and grandparents told us to accept. "Go to church. Wear this type of clothes. Eat your broccoli. Don't listen to this kind of music. Listen when spoken to. Cut your hair. Don't go to movies or dance. By all means don't smoke or drink. Keep your nose clean." Today, young people are hearing many voices of authority over them, and often times, they are listening and responding to bad advice and non-biblical training.

For the most part, we were given direction by the authorities over us, and we responded. Not today. Today, there are few people in authority who are willing to tell young people how to behave. And if someone does try to be a bit "dictatorial," young people usually won't respond well.

I think that is why I like my position. There are 150 young people coming to camp this summer and they have to respond to an authority figure or they won't work at Hidden Acres. If we say, "Your hair is too shaggy... get a haircut," by Sunday afternoon they have cut their hair or they are not placed in a cabin. If we say, "The hardware needs to be removed from your lip, nose, ear, and eyebrow," it gets removed. When we say, "there is too much skin showing," it gets covered up.

The name of the game at camp is to conform to our standards and accept our way of behaving and thinking for the summer. Does that mean that everyone looks alike or acts alike? By no means. It means we expect modest, wholesome, friendly, tender-hearted, Spirit-led young people to buy into

our way of life and accept our philosophy of ministry with a whole heart.

We were able to do something different this spring: we brought in the entire summer staff for a pre-summer training weekend. It was wonderful to see the quality of counselor and support staff we had assimilated. During our closing Sunday morning service, I was able to challenge the young people to "renew their mind with God's Word in such a way that they see the world differently than our culture." I told them, "I want you to stand out like a Mormon missionary." I want our summer staff to be as Daniel. "In all things, they found Daniel to be wiser than others." I want our summer staff to have heavenly discernment... and not be given to worldly therapy.

What was I saying? I want our summer staff to have so much Scripture engrafted into their hearts and minds that they are repulsed by the sight of sin. I want them to look at an unsaved person and have a churning burden deep down in their spirit. I want them to flee from what is evil, and to run towards what is good and acceptable.

I am asking our young people to memorize, memorize, memorize God's Word. I have challenged these young people to purposely share the gospel with the most unlikely of unsaved people they know. I want these summer staff to experience the goodness and mercy and grace of God prior to their summer of ministry with us.

My challenge to you is that you would hold up these young people in your prayers over the next few months. We are expecting our staff to fall in line, to perform as a parent for five days, and to be discerning in their spirit to the needs of our campers. They need your prayers and encouragement.

Thanks in advance for your prayers.

Launch: Our first year is nearly completed with our leadership program. What a blessing the young men have been to the camp.

We are ready to start again next August. This year, we are enlarging the program to include both men and women. We are looking for 8 to 10 young people who have a desire to serve for a year at camp while getting both hands on training and practical daily classroom teaching that will prepare students for leadership positions in life.

Go online and download information and applications. If you have further questions, please contact myself or Ryan Graden, the Launch program director.

This is the perfect program for the student out of high school who might need another year to ponder the future; no need to ponder while mom and dad are footing the college bill! We have found students get direction very quickly on the back side of a hay baler!

The Next Project!

You had to know there was going to be another one!! We haven't completed the Inn, and I am off and drawing up the next TWO projects.

When the Inn is completed, we will have 850 beds, a dining room that seats about 350 people, and a kitchen that was designed to feed 200 people. We have a numbers problem!

A new kitchen and dining room needs to be built to handle our growing retreat business. During our summer youth camps, we will begin to host adult retreats in the new Inn. We need more space to feed our guests.

The second project: a meeting space for 150 people near Johnson Lodge. We would also add additional showers to handle the crowd.



Meet our new staff: Katie Northey started on January 1 as our Program Director. Katie is a recent graduate of Liberty University. She grew up in the Spirit Lake Free Church, attended camp and was a counselor during high school and college. She has also worked 2 summers at Kanakuk camps in Missouri. Katie brings with her the heart of a counselor but

the organizational skills needed to take our summer program to a greater level. She is involved in curriculum development, staff training, summer camp promotions, and computer technology. She will organize and direct our first summer staff missions trip to Mexico.

Steve Pinkley, from the Bondurant Federated Church, is our new adult ministries director. Steve oversees adult ministries, promotes and markets the camp to churches around Iowa, encourages full time staff, and gives direction to the kitchen. Steve worked 13 years for Adventureland Parks in Altoona, and before that he ran his family restaurant business in Ohio. Steve loves to visit and promote the camp at our churches. Steve and wife Dana have 4 children and live in Bondurant.



Watch for details on two new fall retreats: Mother/Daughter Retreat and a Father/Son Paintball Retreat.

Ladies: October 1-3—This retreat will include 4 different interest tracks: Crafts, Horses, Scrapbooking, and Athletic/Outdoors. Becky Linn from Follow Hard Ministries will be the speaker. A special buy/sell/trade market will be set up for purses, shoes and jewelry.

Men: October 22-24—This retreat will do paintball the entire weekend. Come as just a father/son team or bring an entire 10 member church paintball team. Compete against other churches and enjoy other classic camp activities. Mike Hartwig will be the featured speaker.

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Schlichting Inn Update:

The final push is on to complete the Inn; the first 14 rooms have been used throughout the winter. Guests have loved the extra nice queen-sized beds, their own bathroom, and the spacious rooms. The meeting room with its own kitchen has become a real draw for our family reunions. Carpet gets laid June 15 on the bottom 13 rooms; there is still some sheetrock, sanding, texturing and painting to be done by June 1. We are always looking for volunteers to give us a hand.

With the completion of the Inn by July 1st, we will plan on dedicating the building at our Labor Day Family Camp. We would love to have you join us in the work and with the festivities. Call and visit with Earl about getting involved with this project.

Eleven Most Wanted or NEEDED!

1. Wildlife art prints
2. Fence post-wood or steel
3. Gator type vehicle
4. Picnic tables
5. Water slide for lake
6. Back packs with frames
7. Heavy duty pickup for hauling
8. Dump truck
9. Large meat smoking unit
10. Electric clay pigeon throwers
11. Queen size beds