

# In Touch

from Hidden Acres' Executive Director

April 2013

## A place set apart

by Earl Taylor, Executive Director

### A note from the Launch Director

God has personally given me the burden of investing into young adults, particularly ones that are in the transition of making their faith their own. To that end, the Launch curriculum and activities are focused on accomplishing three main goals in each student:

1) Help them get more rooted in their own walk with God, 2) Help them to discover more about how God has made them and what He might be calling them to, and 3) Help them develop practical skills that will directly and indirectly help them in the future. We aim to accomplish these three main goals through:

1) Daily class time where we focus on spiritual topics, camp ministry, leadership, and many other things, 2) Daily service time where we focus on serving the needs of the camp, retreat guests, and other staff members, and 3) Outings to other camps, conferences, and service projects. If you know a student that may benefit from an experience like this, please have them contact me at:

[brett.wiuff@hacamps.org](mailto:brett.wiuff@hacamps.org).

Brett Wiuff

### Launch Program

“When you were a child, you played with childish things, and when you became an adult, you put away childish things and sought the Lord and worked hard.”

That is my version of what happens to young people who attend and stick with us for a year of our apprentice program called Launch. I like to think we turn boys into men and girls into women!

Four years ago we began a work/study-type program called Launch. We had seen other camps offer a version similar to ours; many camps have done this for 20+ years. Both Ryan and I wanted to create a program that would allow young people who lack direction in a career choice to spend nearly a year working alongside the full time staff at camp. Our first year's attempt was a challenge, but we endured and learned from our mistakes.

Four years later, we have refined the program into a well organized, highly functional “youth development” system that allows young people out of high school to get both hands-on training and classroom experiences. I personally love what I am seeing: transformation, a kid into an adult. I have many reservations about our school system. There are many facts taught and learned by kids, often times facts that are not transferred to being a productive citizen. Many young people are growing up

without opportunities to work with their hands, to solve problems, and to serve others in meaningful and concrete ways.

Tony, a current Launch student from the Britt EFC, says, “I have had a chance to develop some hands-on skills that will serve me the rest of my life. It is hard work, it is demanding work, but it is also very rewarding to see the results of retreaters accepting Christ. I also improved my work ethic; I believe I am much more employable for the future.

Serena, from the Brooklyn EFC, tells me, “I entered the Launch program with very few skills and with a lack of understanding about work and ministry. My first seven months here have given me the needed confidence and many new life skills that will allow me to be successful in whatever the Lord calls me to do. And... it is quite fun too!”

What parent would not want their child to grow up under the supervision and watchful eye of the camp staff and the teaching of Brett Wiuff? And all this without spending \$10,000+ on college tuition so that the child can “find himself.” Each student will be able to earn a weekend hourly rate that will provide gas and pizza money, and each student also receives free room and board.

Check out our website and click on the tab for Launch at: [www.hacamps.org](http://www.hacamps.org).

# The Next Project: *Lodge 139*

Lodge 139? Is this the 139th building? No. I take the name from one of my favorite Psalms– 139. “I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Before I was even a thought, you knew me completely Oh Lord.” What a statement. What a truth that can be taught to a camper. What a truth to build our faith.

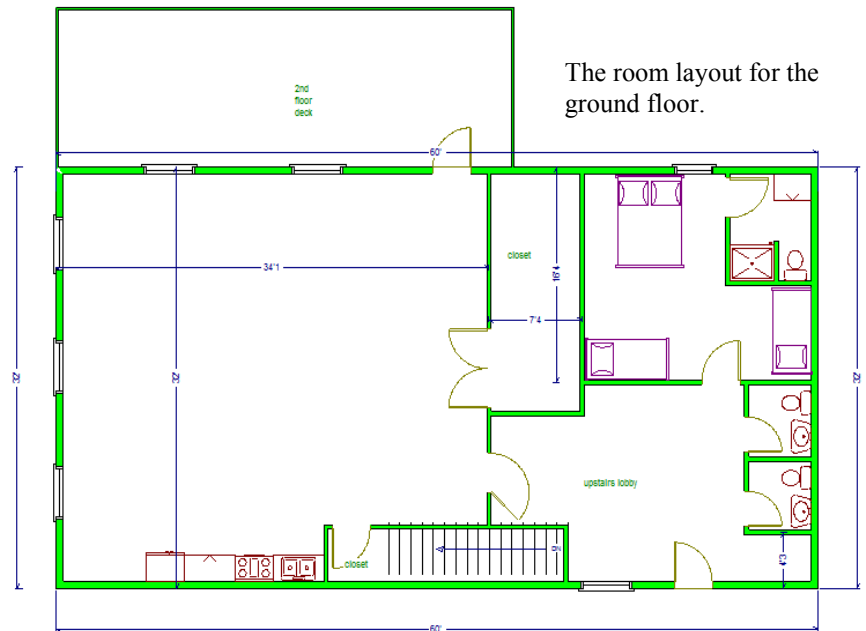
This new lodge will have two different functions. In the summer it will be a creation center– thus the Ps 139 theme. During the retreat season, the creation center equipment and supplies will be stored away in the main floor closet, and the large meeting room will be converted into a conference room to handle the groups that will stay in the bedrooms located in the basement. A bonus function: the basement will provide a summer storm shelter for the girls cabin area as well.

In 2012, we started our creation center in the foyer of the Dave Martin Bible Chapel. It was a hit with our campers. We had a variety of exhibits and used an hour with each cabin to demonstrate and teach campers that God is the Creator of perfect design in all of his creation. Whether it was the way the teeth of a beaver are formed or the design of the shell of a turtle, we taught that God has created perfect design in all things. This is not a lesson on environmental studies– campers hear this at school and on TV. However, it is a lesson on how God created everything perfectly and with order and purpose. Life lessons can be taught to the camper which will instill in them that God cares so much for them that He designed each of us perfectly.

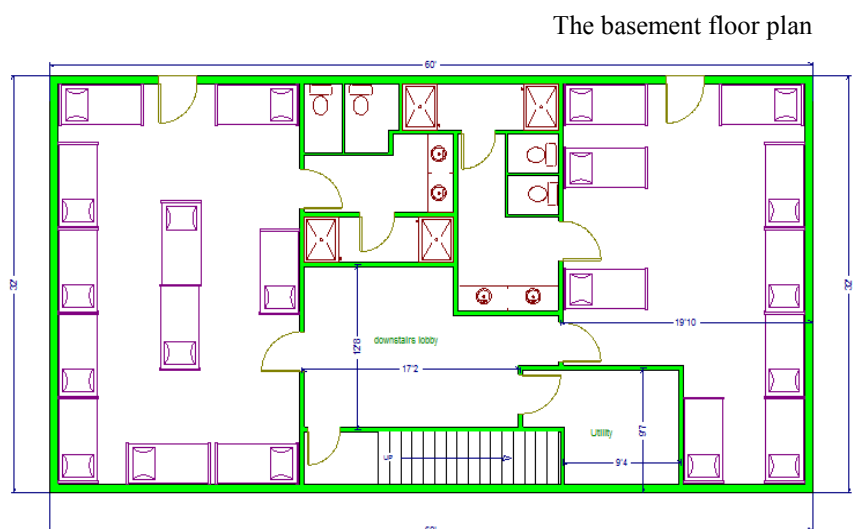
In the off-season, the building will be converted into sleeping and meeting space for groups of 40. The meeting room will be transformed using carpet squares and comfortable chairs. There will also be a full kitchen for groups that will cook their own meals. This lodge will provide an additional 40 beds for use in our growing retreat seasons.

We have a wonderful gift in hand of \$19,000 to start the project. This gift was given by a family whose parents loved the camp and also loved creation science. The family wanted to memorialize their parent’s memory with such a building.

Will you help me finish it? We will be using our own camp staff to build the entire building. We are estimating the cost of the building will be \$120,000. As with several of our buildings, we will also be install a geothermal system.



The room layout for the ground floor.



The basement floor plan

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Please use the enclosed envelope or call Earl for more details about giving to this project.