

In Touch

from Hidden Acres' Executive Director

August 2010

A place set apart

by Earl Taylor, Executive Director

Observations of camp life from a Mom! a note from Zelda Anderson-volunteer nurse and mother of two camp counselors

The list is endless of names of people who do things without you ever knowing that their small job makes things go well for a camp of 500 kids to show up and go home with a new and different attitude. I believe the main reason this happens is not because of some magic formula, but because of Jesus Christ. Frequently I heard conversations with staff about problems that needed to be solved and then I saw head's bowed asking for wisdom to solve it. I heard of cabins that went late into the night having devotions because it was too exciting to stop. I saw tears shed as teens were challenged in their beliefs. I saw hundreds of kids sing loudly and with passion to the Lord. At that moment, I wished that every parent could be there to see that one service. The heart of the camp is about drawing young hearts to God and growing in their walk with God. The atmosphere is electric.

What a Summer!

My heart is full as we end the summer ministry at camp; let me share all that the Lord has done, is doing, and will do in the weeks ahead! We are truly blessed!

We had anticipated a big crowd for summer camp; we had a record number of campers: 2,010! That number will be easy to remember! During our summer 150 staff ministered faithfully and with focus that brought about great results. 78 kids accepted Christ... and 200+ made recommitments. Week after week I heard from parents who were so pleased with the results of their child's week of camp. Let me share a couple notes from moms:

- "My children attended the cross country and paintball sessions of the Adventure camp from July 11 - 16. I wanted to let you know how much they thought of their four counselors for the session: All four were fun-loving, kind, patient, and most importantly, Christ-centered. I strongly urge you to hire any and all of these individuals next year if he or she applies again!
- I just want to thank you. My daughter came home a changed person, closer and more committed to God. I am so grateful to God for those who help make Hidden Acres a Godly place that is changing young lives, drawing them closer to God. I am grateful for and appreciate all you do there and will pray regularly that God would continue to Bless you all and Hidden Acres and that His light shines there always. You all do an amazing job of running the camp. I honestly can't even imagine how much work it must be to see that all goes smoothly not only in the summer but year round.

It is good to see that our efforts and your faithfulness in giving has produced much fruit in camper's lives.

The Schlichting Inn is coming to a completion. After 2 years of work by our staff and volunteers, the Inn will be completed by Labor Day. During the summer we were able to host our first week long adult ministries retreat as our own summer camp was in session. Also throughout the summer, several family reunions used the Inn for their annual events. Check out our website for additional family reunion possibilities. We love our church family utilizing us and showing off their camp to their own families.

Our first missions trip to Mexico was a huge success; it set the bar very high for future Hidden Acres sponsored trips. We are making plans now to send another group of counselors into Congo to help start and organize their first summer camp program. We love the concept of training staff here, then sending them out at the end of our summer sessions to another culture to promote and run camp in another country.

The Lord is so good to us. We are starting our second batch of Launch students. Both young men and ladies will get a chance to experience life at camp and to get an understanding of what it takes to make a ministry run smoothly and successfully. It is not too late to add a couple more to this year's program.

Though summer is nearly over, we are in the middle of the busiest month of the year: over 3000 guests will enjoy Hidden Acres in August alone. We love our annual family camp over Labor Day when 600+ campers spend their last summer weekend with us!



We held a Motorcycle Fund Run the first weekend of August; and now we are planning a Timber Trot: Let me tell you what is going on!

Most of you know I like to raise money for buildings; however, we need to keep up our program development also. These special fund raising events will help us create new program areas like the giant swing, water slide, tree houses for survival camp. Get the idea? Even if you can't run or ride... you can still contribute. Let us know.

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Missions Trip to Mexico— by Katie Northey

Buenos días! This year marked our first Hidden Acres mission trip and God certainly blessed it and our whole group. We left on Saturday, July 17th, and arrived back at camp on the evening of August 4th. The group consisted of nine counselors (Tony, Ben, Aaron, Sarah, Jenn, Sherry, Emily, Katie, Emilee) and myself. We drove down to Aguascalientes, Mexico to work with Sam Hanson, a former HA counselor, and his wife Jenny. We helped put on a kids camp (ages 6 to 12) and an English camp (ages 13 to 21).



Through five Kids Clubs we put on around the city, we were able to share the gospel with close to one hundred children. God certainly protected us and taught us all many things. Many of the counselors are interested in pursuing full-time mission work. Please continue to pray for the ministry of the Hanson's, for the kids we were able to share with, and for the hearts of each of the counselors that God would continue to use them for His glory. Thank you again for all your prayers and support. We look forward to partnering again with the work being done in Mexico!

Mother/Daughter Retreat and Father/Son Paintball Retreat.

Ladies: October 1-3—This retreat will include 4 different interest tracks: Crafts, Horses, Scrap booking, 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.

Schlichting Inn Dedication: Don't miss the fun and joy of completing another project at camp. Dedication will begin at 4 pm on Sunday, Sept. 5. A pork BBQ will follow the dedication. I will make you a deal... you come up to camp for just Sunday afternoon, I'll buy you supper. Call and reserve your BBQ ticket and let me know if you are coming to the dedication and to the meal... so I can throw on another pork chop! We are thrilled to have this project completed; and now we can start another one!! Plans are being drawn up now!

Ten Most Wanted or NEEDED!

1. Wildlife art prints
2. Fence posts-wood or steel
3. Gator type vehicle
4. Hay mower/conditioner
5. Water slide for lake
6. Video projector
7. Heavy duty pickup for hauling
8. Dump truck
9. Large meat smoking unit
10. Bull dozer

