

# In Touch



from Hidden Acres' Executive Director- Earl Taylor [www.hiddenacrescamp.blogspot.com](http://www.hiddenacrescamp.blogspot.com)

Fall 2008

## A place set apart



At our Labor Day family camp, over 700 campers attended 4 beautiful days of family camp. Randy Larson our weekend speaker challenged each of us on sharing our faith boldly. I know I was deeply challenged to be more ready to share at every opportunity.

I can't emphasize this weekend enough: families that come away from their routine and come to camp create wonderful memories and traditions for the entire family. What a joy for me to see so many 3rd generation campers come back to camp with Grandma and Grandpa.... And mom and dad. What a special time.

I get to go to many of our churches; sometimes I am invited to speak, and other times I just show up for an event or a funeral of a camp friend. Regardless the occasion, I am blessed to have so many friends in each of our churches; I am always uplifted by the encouraging words and the kindness my friends show me and the camp.

Recently I traveled to the Charles City Free Church; this was my first time to be there on a Sunday and to enjoy the service and fellowship with God's people in Charles City. I came away blessed in so many ways.

On Saturday night, the church held a pie auction to raise funds for the new motel lodge. Over \$1500 was raised from the 30 or so participants. What fun for me to see people glad to pay \$15 for a half dozen cookies or \$50 for a single pie. They understood what it was for and chipped in to make the motel lodge a reality.



Pastor Mike, Victoria, Earl, and Courtney

On Sunday afternoon, I was able to attend the baptism for 2 young ladies. Courtney Debner had accepted Christ while at camp, and Victoria Downey had rededicated her life to the Lord at camp; I felt privileged to be a witness for such an important step in these two young ladies' spiritual walk.

I tell you this weekend story to make a point: Hidden Acres is in business to help the local church. We are NOT the church, but a tool the local church can plug into and benefit from when families and young people return home changed in heart and mind.

We are in the people business; not the camping business. We are a facility that strives to provide a place where families can participate in a variety of programs; all with the same goal in mind; to create clean hearts and new spiritual direction for everyone.

Sure, it is a fun place; sure there are lots of nice buildings to enjoy and use; Sure there are lots of programs that can keep everyone occupied and entertained... but in the end, it is the spiritual decisions that make the work worthwhile. We see the camp continuing to play a key role in your lives. The world has become more and more intolerant of the evangelical Christian; camp can be a place to encourage, train, disciple, and provide fellowship. Thanks for helping us make Hidden Acres such a wonderful place to attend.

## Bits and Pieces:

Follow what is happening at the camp by reading my blog:  
[www.hiddenacrescamp.blogspot.com](http://www.hiddenacrescamp.blogspot.com)

Wester Missionary and Christian Service cabin is completely finished... send your pastor and family to camp to enjoy a time away from his hectic schedule. Call DeDe to set up the get-a-way.

Over 120 counselors and staff worked at camp this summer. Over 50 children accepted Christ.

Weekend RV camping is available at Hidden Acres for our church family. Call DeDe for information.

20,000 retreaters will come through the camp gate from August to Memorial Day. We rejoice at what the Lord is doing in people's lives.

"24 hours with the Guys" is scheduled for next March 27-29.

Winter Men's Retreat is January 23-25. Watch for info in church or check out our website.

Our third pond will be built between the new motel and the bunkhouse. This will provide the geo thermal heating and cooling for the new building.

There are still a few spots available for winter retreats. Call DeDe and discuss a family reunion in December in one of our lodges, or a church retreat in the spring. Now is the time to book

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## Take Note: Schlichting Motel Lodge Update

The footings are in, sewer and water pipes are being installed; soon and very soon we will pour the cement floor.... And then the fun begins.... Building the walls, sheeting the outside, installing windows, and closing in the building for winter.

Throughout the fall we will be needing work crews to help us enclose the building before the snow flies. Consider bringing down a crew to give us a hand. Throughout the winter, there will be plenty of sheetrock opportunities for different groups to help out.

We are still in need of more money to finish the project. My stay in the tent for 30 days was successful, but we currently have raised just over \$50,000 on this project. We do have a major gift coming in this fall, but we are still short over \$100,000 to finish off the project.

If you are looking for a memorial project to remember a loved one, we are more than glad to put up a plaque on a room that would be in memory of your family member. Talk to Earl or DeDe to dis-

cuss what is available. Churches, Sunday school classes and individuals are able to purchase a room in the new motel lodge and have a plaque of the organization or family on each room.



Adopt a camping site: Over Labor Day weekend, every camp site was taken; we are adding on to our RV camping sites. Adopt a site to help us provide 30 amp service, sewer and water and a graveled pad to park on. For \$1000, the donor has dibs on this site for our Labor Day and Memorial Day family camps. Donors will be allowed to add extras to the site by planting trees, bushes, etc to beautify each site. Currently 3 have been spoken for, but there are still 10 more sites available. Stop by the camp and pick out the one that best suits your family or email Earl with questions.  
[earldtaylor@yahoo.com](mailto:earldtaylor@yahoo.com).

### Ten Most Wanted List

1. Hay Rack-double wind row
2. Gator
3. Pickups
4. Picnic tables
5. Fire circle rings
6. 150 chairs for motel meeting room
7. 27 matching bedroom sets—motel
8. Video projector
9. Zero turning mower-industrial
10. hay