

In Touch

from Hidden Acres' Executive Director www.hiddenacrescamp.blogspot.com

March 2009



A place set apart

by Earl Taylor, Executive Director



300+ men will invade Hidden Acres at the end of March for the 19th annual "24 hours with the Guys" retreat. Over the years, the retreat has grown to be the premier sportsmen's retreat in the Midwest. During the weekend, other camps will be here looking on at what we do and hoping to copy this successful retreat back at their own camp. We love the ministry that happens during this weekend. It is our one weekend each year that we see older men accept Christ and other men to rededicate their lives to a life set apart. Pray with us March 27-29 that each man will return home a new creation.

I feel like I could explode! In a good way! I am not discouraged, or angry, or tired as I look at the world around me... but I am excited about what is ahead for Hidden Acres; make that "thrilled"! I can't wait to see what the Lord has in store for the camp as an active minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Let me share why I see the days ahead to be even more full of ministry opportunities. I truly believe that the camp can become an oasis to families and children as the world around us changes so quickly and becomes even less Christian-friendly. As I see our culture crumble around us and the church being attacked by government and the social fabric, I want the camp to be even more relevant to our church family. I want the camp to be a place of comfort, security, and spiritual revitalization in each of our guest's hearts.

I believe the days of Hidden Acres JUST being a summer camp or a retreat center are numbered: WE WILL ALWAYS HAVE SUMMER CAMPS AND RETREATS, BUT THERE IS SO MUCH MORE HIDDEN ACRES CAN DO!

We have launched a new volunteer program at camp to involve the local community into camp life. A ladies and men's auxiliary will be modeled after

our local hospital auxiliary, seniors volunteering to help around the front desk of the Inn, the Family Life Center and the snack bar. They will be greeters, pick-it-uppers, and guest service representatives. We see these same volunteers helping us distribute summer kitchen left-overs to the needy; with perhaps a local food pantry developing in the future.

We see the new Inn as creating even more opportunities to reach out to families in need of a place to come and receive counseling or training. We see this Inn providing opportunities to develop a family counseling center for our church families and for the local community.

We are studying the missional church for the next 50 days at our local church. I am convinced that Hidden Acres must become more missional minded in its focus in order to impact the culture around us that is eating away at the foundations of our families.

Join us as we look outward from the camp: whether it is in Africa, or Boone, Ft. Dodge or Pilot Mound. Our light can shine even brighter during the dark days of despair and disruption.

Register on line for summer camp, or download the info from our website: www.hacamps.org



From the Heart

This is the time of year we hear from parents who are trying to decide if their child can come to camp; it is our desire that everyone should attend a week at camp with us. DeDe took such a call the other day from a mother whose husband is overseas serving our country in Afghanistan.

The mother asked, "Is there any discount for families whose husband is deployed overseas?" "Discount!" DeDe exclaimed. "I can do better than that. They can come for free! Send in their registrations and I will take care of it for you." DeDe went on to tell the mother of 4 children that there is a man in the Arthur Free Church who wanted to help families of deployed soldiers!!! This scholarship fund was established in memory of his mom and dad, Keith and Louise Bell.

DeDe looked at me after she got off the phone with the lady, "I have the best job in the world! I just love being able to say, 'It won't cost you a thing.' What a blessing to have such a scholarship program."

..... And I still have at least six more scholarships available to other children of deployed parents in our great military. Contact DeDe if you need more information.

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Launch: A Leadership Development Program for Young Men!!

We are looking for a few, good, young men who want to be a part of our class of 2010. This new leadership program is geared towards young men, ages 18-22, who want to take a year off from school to figure out what they want to do, or just refocus priorities, or gain a better understanding of what working in a ministry could be like.

Ten young men will make up our first class of recruits. Young men can go to our website: www.hacamps.org and download all information and an application for the program. The first group will arrive at camp around August 1 and will be here until the end of May. During their stay at Hidden Acres, they will have daily class room training, hands on work experience every afternoon, and weekend retreat responsibilities to engage in.

Our goal is to help train young men to be great workers and young men who become active church leaders or who may even respond to the call of full time ministry.

Give Ryan a call or email him at rlgraden@gmail.com for more information.

Schlichting Inn Progress

"Wow! It's Big!" is the usual response people give me when they first see the building as they drive into camp. And I agree. Big and beautiful! What a blessing this new facility will become to the future ministries of the camp. We will have an open house/dedication on Labor Day weekend.

Over the next couple of weeks, the sheet rocking should be completed on the upstairs rooms. Taping and mudding will follow. Exterior siding will be installed over the next month. Tubs, tile and other plumbing will be installed, too, in the next month. By April, we hope to be texturing the ceilings of the upstairs rooms.

August 1 is our deadline to have the building operable: not finished, but inhabitable! DeDe is now taking reservations for the fall retreat schedule. We are allowing family reunions to book this new facility during the month of December. Contact DeDe if you think you would like to use this building in the upcoming year. 515-547-2751 or email: office@hacamps.org. There will be individual use available throughout the year: again... call DeDe to reserve a room or block of rooms.

Work crews are needed over the next 4 months! Call Earl @ 515-230-1083. Landscapers, painters, trim carpenters, electricians, and go-fers welcome!!



Schlichting Inn

Congo Camp Project

We are helping build another camp!! It's not in Iowa, but right in the middle of the Congo. Hidden Acres will be teaming up with the Free Church organization, Reach Global, in raising money for the Free church to start a camp in the Congo as a pastor's retreat and kids camp. This venture will be partially funded through our summer camp, family camp and retreat offerings. Hidden Acres will not own anything in Africa, but will help create mission opportunities for our own summer counselors; every summer, some of our staff could participate in this mission trip. Any donations earmarked by you for this project will be added to our offerings and sent to Reach Global. Pray with us as we venture boldly out from our own borders and partner with another great organization.

Ten Most Wanted

1. J.D. Gator
2. Picnic tables
3. Zero turning mower-industrial
4. Video projector
5. Pick ups trucks
6. Perennials plants
7. Play ground equipment
8. Over head projector
9. Hay bale rings
10. Ping Pong Tables