



Camp Christian Annual Report

2007 has been an exciting year for the ministry at Camp Christian. There have been challenges to overcome and faith to be tested. The first four months of the year were nothing short of dismal. It was discovered that there was a very substantial amount of current and past due bills that had to be dealt with and at the end of April and there was no solution on the horizon. It culminated in a situation where there was a critical need for \$3,000 in a 24 hour period on a Thursday. In that time, God interceded in ways that could almost not be imagined and the finances turned 180 degrees.

One local Christian businessman was contacted who said, "I like camp. I've always believed that most people come to Christ either through camp or crisis." With that, he offered to give \$1,000 if two others would give \$1,000 each. Another man who had no prior contact with the camp or of knowledge of it, was contacted and stated that no matter what he tried, he found that he could not out give God, and he wanted to help the camp and matched the gift. Time was running out, and the camp was given an extension to Monday to come up with the needed funds. On Monday a man who had expressed no interest in the camp previously said to come out as he could help. In a personal meeting with him, a check was brought in which he signed and gave to the camp. When an expression of thanks was made, he said, "Did you look at that?" Upon closer examination, the check was not for \$1,000 but instead for \$3,000. The man was told that the appreciation and significance of his gift was more than could be adequately expressed in human words, and his response was, "I know it must mean something. The Holy Spirit told me to do it."

This was the beginning of a series of miracles that have continued unceasingly since that time. At the end of June we had less than a week until a group of 120 were coming for a camp and we had been unable to secure a cook or kitchen staff as everyone we contacted was already committed to some other group or job for those times. In a matter of hours we had our kitchen staff and instead of a cook, God provided us with a chef. Wayne Southworth is now the Director of Food Services at Camp Christian and the response has been incredible. Wayne has over six years of culinary schooling along with other advanced training and is the former food services manager for the Wild Plum Restaurants and former owner of Wild Plum Pies. One of Wayne's early statements was, "Whatever people want we can give them, hot dogs to prime rib and everything in between." At a Fall men's fellowship weekend the camp sponsored, the main course on Saturday night was baked salmon with raspberry sauce. Among other things, breakfast included his famous 5" cinnamon rolls. Wayne has a real heart for God and His leading and his joining the camp has been a true blessing.

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Since the end of April there has not been a week that people have not called or e-mailed either for the purpose of volunteering to help in any way that they can or to book the camp for an event.

Near the time of the turn around, we learned the story of the founder of Child Evangelism Fellowship and the things that God had put on his heart and how he dealt with them. In each case there was a challenge to start or expand the ministry but no money to do it with. In each case it was a matter of acting on faith and seeing how God would provide. One of the things that he did was to never pray for money, but instead to pray that God would provide the right people to be involved with the ministry to move it forward. As we began to do that, the miracles began and continue to happen at a rate we have been having trouble keeping up with and are seeing a tremendous group of people that are excited about the ministry, where it is going and have a desire to be a part of it.

As a result, we have new camp caretakers, George and Cathy Olson and George is also a cook for Eugene Bible College which further enhances our food service. A series of electrical, construction, and up-grade projects have been done with more to happen in the near future. There have been people volunteering for various positions with exceptional background and experience in their specific areas. People have even come forward to provide new and needed equipment and professional expertise in areas such as marketing and publicity, program development, EMT/medical, heating, gas, construction and business.

One of the people involved now is Jeff Wisdom, our newest board member, who has as part of his background, a bachelor's degree in parks and recreation management and experience operating camps in Oregon and California. He is currently building the new low ropes/challenge course and is certified to take people through it. The location he chose is a natural grotto on the upper camp area set in large fir and cedar trees so it is not only an excellent challenge course, it is in a beautiful setting. After that project is completed, among the others set for construction are a new climbing wall and a disc golf course. These will be done as soon as the funding is raised for them or materials donated.

For those who have spent time at Camp Christian in the winter months, you know that the lodge has always been cold and uncomfortable. We are happy to announce that that is about to change. Over a period of years we have been given quotes of \$15-25,000 for installing forced air central heat in the lodge. This summer we had a Christian independent contractor look at the lodge and tell us that with volunteer help from the camp, he believed that it could be done for about \$6,000. A key piece of the project would be a 100,000 Btu gas furnace. The very next day, the board Secretary/Treasurer, Tom Morgan, found a listing in the new issue of The Money Saver that had just come out, and an independent dealer in Dexter had a 3-4 year old Coleman 100,000 Btu gas furnace still wrapped in plastic from the manufacturer for \$200. Another contractor has looked at the project and agreed to set things up to allow the camp to buy ready made duct work off the shelf from their supplier which means instead of custom duct work for \$30 per foot, we will be able to do it for approximately \$3 per foot. At this time we are in the process of raising \$4,000 for the materials for the heating system, fans for dispersal and new vinyl insulated windows for the lodge.

Up-grades in the cabin lighting are partially done and will be completed soon along with the new horse shoe pits and backstops. A number of improvements have been made at the pool with additional up-grades planned as funds allow. In the very near future, you will see a new carved sign at the camp entrance. Much of what has been done is not noticeable as it has been repairing or replacing electrical, plumbing, gas and structural components that were either in need of repair or complete replacement due to old age or improper installation originally.

The women's restroom is in the process of being remodeled and expanded and it is important for completion the ADA (handicapped) portion very soon as that is needed for the Muscular Dystrophy Camp that we host. Ours is the only site outside of Portland where the MDA hold a camp for handicapped children. They have been with us for two years, but it is very important to have the new restrooms for them this year. Most of the materials are already purchased, but there is still a need for sheathing, metal roofing and bath grade sheetrock. There are a number of people who have volunteered to help, but there is a need for additional helpers, including a licensed plumber. The past summer the MDA painted our cabins, women's restroom and nurse's cabin. The lodge will be painted this spring along with the gazebos and men's restroom.

There has been more work done in up-grading and improving the kitchen with still a few additional things to be accomplished. Having a professional chef involved makes the decision making process much easier when it comes to kitchen matters.

After the women's restroom is done, the next major project to be done must be the new entry and restrooms for the lodge. The old restrooms had to be removed for a series of reasons including severe dry rot, the location was in violation of the health code and the space was needed for the kitchen. The new restrooms will be next to the entry and be ADA compliant. Preliminary drawings may be seen on our web site.

In late October we hosted a men's fellowship weekend with Dr. Geoffrey Simmons as our guest speaker. Among other books, Dr. Simmons is the author of "Things Darwin Didn't Know" and "Billions of Missing Links". Dr. Simmons has an excellent message and totally destroys the myth of evolution and we will be having him back to the camp.

The scheduling is being worked out with Berg's Ski Shop and Hoodoo and with that we will be hosting a middle school/high school ski/snowboard/tubing trip which will be an overnight on Friday at camp with the snow trip on Saturday. There will be a guest speaker and food prepared by Chef Wayne. The tentative date will be in early March.

There are plans for both a men's and women's fellowship weekends in the spring along with a youth weekend. In late June we will be putting on two 3-day football camps with Christian coaches and athletes which will be led by Coach Dave Daubenmire from Ohio. We have taken a position that the camp must be strongly involved in outreach ministry and we believe that this will be an excellent opportunity for that. There are many young people in the southern Willamette Valley who have never heard the Word of God or seen the inside of a church, but will enthusiastically attend a camp of this type and hear God's Word and testimonies from people that they admire and respect and lives will be changed.

Plans are under way for our regular camps as well as a bike camp and possibly a wilderness camp this season.

In 2001 a plan was put in place to take the camp forward to enable it to be the outreach ministry that it should be and to have a greater impact on this area. That plan came about from meetings with local pastors and meetings with the national leadership of Christian Camping International and Don Goehnor of the Goehnor Group, considered the top consultant in Christian camping in the nation. The plan was further approved by Church Development Fund as a sound plan for both expanding the facets of the ministry and the basis for putting it on a firm financial footing, something that had never been accomplished. The plan got off to a rocky start, but we are now seeing it come to fruition and are confident of God's provision for carrying out the rest of it.

Everyone who has been involved with the camp this year, especially since April, is excited about the way God has repeatedly blessed the ministry and is continuing to expand it. People have been catching the vision for the camp and are enthusiastically working to move it ahead. While we all have fond memories of camp as it used to be, it is important to move the camp ahead or it will die. A ministry, as anything else must either move forward or it will die as there is no growth in remaining stagnant or failing to change with the times. It is vital to never lose the basis which is God's Truth, but the manner in which it is provided must change or the people will go elsewhere. Just as we make changes in our homes or churches, so must we make changes in the camp and the changes are being met with enthusiasm from those using the camp.

Earlier this year, the board was repeatedly encouraged to sell the camp and comments were even made that the camp was here for a season, but that season had passed and it was time to move on to something else. Many people were asked to help but chose not to or said that they wanted to wait and see if the camp was going to make it or not. The Board has worked hard to be open to God's leading, even if it was not in the direction we particularly wanted to go. We listened closely to what God was telling us and that was to be faithful and to continue forward. As that was done, doors opened and continue to open and His Blessings have been poured out on the camp in one miracle after another. As we have said repeatedly, we could not have orchestrated this on our own if our lives depended on it. God is doing the work and we are running hard trying to keep up. To that end, God continues to provide people that are excited about the ministry and want to help move it forward and touch more lives.

One of the areas that has had some of the greatest impact is the camp web site at www.campchristian.net. It has generated a great deal of interest in the camp and many inquiries. This is a tool that God has used to generate a much wider exposure of the camp and it has resulted in groups coming from Corvallis, Salem and Portland.

By November, almost all available days for next summer were booked and there are bookings all the way into next November. As God continues to bless the ministry, we strive to keep seeking His Wisdom and Guidance and maintain our focus on Him.

In service to Christ,
The Camp Christian Board