

BETHEL CAMP TIMES

An update from the hills of southeastern Kentucky...



Come, set Your rule and reign
 In our hearts again
 Increase in us we pray
 Unveil why we're made
 Come, set our hearts ablaze with hope
 Like wildfire in our very souls
 Holy Spirit, come invade us now
 We are Your church
 We need Your power in us



This was a portion of the lyrics to one of the songs we sang a lot at camp this year. It is an awesome prayer that we hoped would be instilled in the hearts of each of the 481 young people who attended a week of camp this past summer. We wanted them to hunger and thirst after God, "to pant after Him like the deer pants for the water brooks." Only God knows the possibilities available to His church when we open our hearts to the Holy Spirit, letting him bring about a turning from those things that hold us back, a turning toward the ways of wisdom, and doing it through God's power alive in us.

We experienced many glimpses of God's power awake and alert in our lives this summer. God used friendships, counselors, summer camp pastors, worship/song leaders, recreation leaders, maintenance people, photo/video people, and cooks to provide a supportive environment in which these campers could know more about Jesus, grow in relationship with him, and learn to tell His story to those around them. Our goal was to send them home to their churches, families, and friends with a vision of how God's church can impact our culture as Jesus is lifted up as the king of truth. And sometimes that takes work.

Paul's claim in I Corinthians 9:22 says, "I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some." After reg-



istration for one of the camps. Mary Rose (who was doing registration) had me call some of the preregistered campers who were "no-shows." One of the boys picked up the phone and it was obvious that unless we went to get them, they would miss their week of camp. We typically don't provide transportation, but someone had already told me, "these boys really need a week of camp" so we had made a scholarship available to pay their way to camp. I hesitated for a moment thinking, "We've already got camp almost full, ... and these boys will probably add some discipline problems for the counselor, ... and not only does it mean a trip to town, but I will have to try to find out where they live..." However, God's spirit seemed to be saying that we needed to get those boys to camp. So... we obeyed, and they had a great week of camp. One of them told me, "Roger, you need to make camp 2 weeks long instead of one." Until heaven, we won't know all of what our efforts produce, but God gives us some powerful glimpses of the redeeming power of his love.

So, I'm asking myself today, "Where and how does God want me to use His power that has been made available to me today?"

2016 DATES

Winter Banquet
 January 30
 6:00pm

Young Adult Retreat
 February 26-28

High School Retreat
 April 1-3

Jr. High Retreat
 April 8-10

Jr. 1 A
 June 6-10

Jr. 2 A
 June 13-18

High School A
 June 27 - July 2

Day Camp
 July 4-8

Jr. 1 B
 July 11-15

Jr. 2 B
 July 18-23

High School B
 July 25-30

Special Needs
 August 1-5

Writer's Retreat
 Sept. 30—Oct. 2

- Some Thoughts from Campers and Staff -

This year at camp, God revealed to me the profound beauty of worship and all of its dimensions. Whether it's through singing songs at the top of our lungs with motions, dancing joyfully with whoever happens to be next to you, closing your eyes and lifting your hands up to God, or in complete silence, true worship can happen. I learned how powerful silence can be. God can say in the silence what we can't with words. But the silence must be broken too. It doesn't matter if it's through singing praises or sharing God's love with others, we are called to go and proclaim to the world what we learned in the silence.

—Victoria Colett



Through camp, God really helped me to see how much he cares for his children. And no matter how down we are, he always wants what is best for us. It was a really amazing time, and writing about it doesn't really do it justice! *Erin Yoder*



This year at camp I realized how much God works when we put away distractions and focus our attention only on Him. There are times when God doesn't always move like that at our home because we have too many distractions, and if we want God to move everywhere like at camp we need to make God the center focus of our lives and he will begin to do amazing things.

—Daniel Krotz



Wish List — Wish List — Wish List — Wish List — Wish List — Wish List — Wish List

- 8 foot fiberglass step ladder
- Items for the 2016 Bethel Camp Auction
- Grass seed for seeding area around chapel
- Perennials & bushes for Chapel landscaping
- Fun "dress-up" clothes for camp skits
- 4" thick mattresses to replace some aging bunk mattresses
- Nurses to help for a week at summer camp
- Summer camp counselors, cooks, and maintenance personnel
- Furniture for camp guest rooms and to sell at the Bethel Camp Thrift Shop
- Commercial Oreck vacuum cleaner
- Laundry detergent, TP, paper towels
- Work groups to help complete the dining hall and kitchen

Camp Pastor's Corner—Mark Driskill

I think it's time for a riot. I don't know if you can sense it but the world around us seems to be so filled with tension and anger you can feel it in the air, on the internet, everywhere. I think it's high time to stop wringing our hands and holding our tongues and start a good old fashioned riot. Who's with me?

Ok hold on, before you start that bonfire, wait a second. That's not the kind of riot I'm talking about. I'm talking about the kind of riot we talked about at the Fall Youth Retreat this year. It's time for God's people to pursue a **Revival In Our Time**.

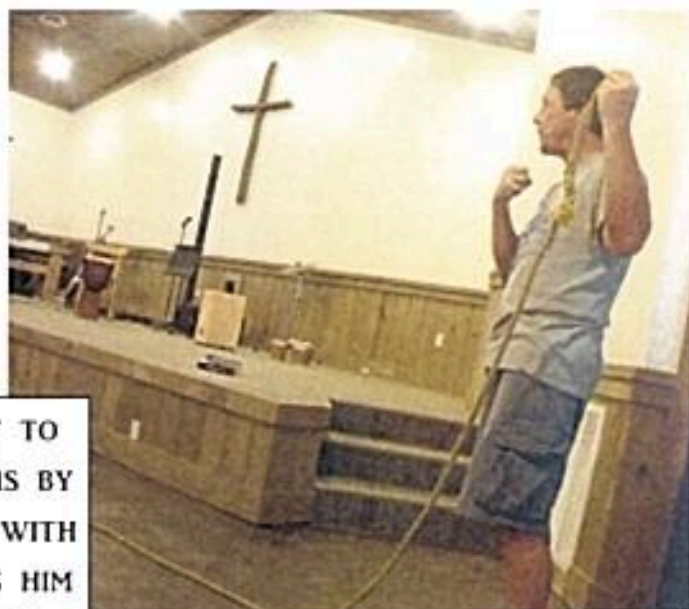
In the Bible and our History books we can read about how in times filled with chaos, confusion, and spiritual powerlessness, God moved among his people in ways that literally transformed churches, communities, even nations. These times came by the sovereign will of God as people sought his face wholeheartedly and cried out for revival. I love reading those stories, but I think it's time to stop remembering revivals of the past, and seek God for a Holy R.I.O.T.

I'll share with you what I shared with the Fall retreat and challenge you to start a riot in your church and beyond. So, from 1 Timothy 4:12-16 I want to share with you simply, "How to start a R.I.O.T."

1. Be Purposeful—v. 12 *"Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers' an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity."*

Seek your own personal revival. The best way to find renewal is by getting alone with God and asking him to search your heart and life for areas where you need more of him. Look at the five areas in verse 12 that Paul mentioned. They are Speech, Conduct, Love, Faith, and Purity. Ask God to

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show you how to walk closer to him in these five "power points" of your life. Wherever he places his finger repent and make changes

2. Be missional—v. 13 *"Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."*

Paul told Timothy to go public with the word of God. How long have we hidden the word of God in our sanctuaries and Bible study groups, while the lost perish in darkness! Pray for boldness, then take the word of God out into public places where the lost will be exposed to its power. Consider street ministry, public reading of scripture, witnessing to strangers, and even street preaching in some cases. Yes it's risky, even dangerous. Are we called to be safe? Go in power and love and wisdom. Don't be foolish. Don't go alone. Don't run over people. Just be bold. Watch what God does.

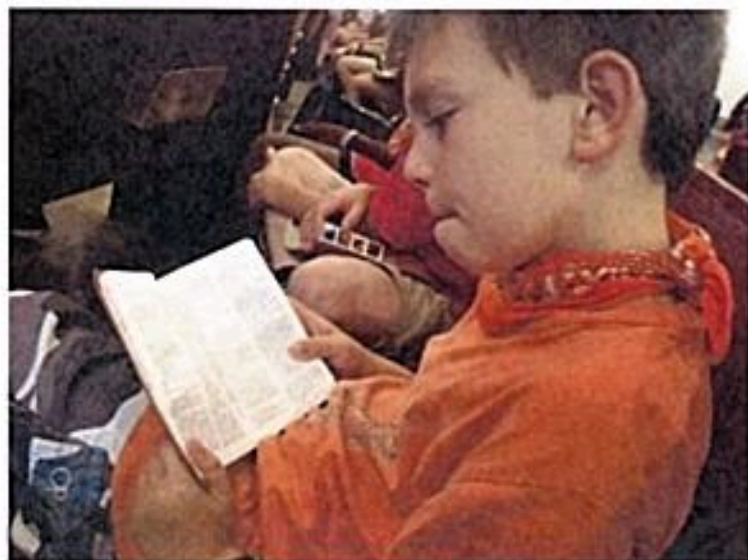
3. Be faithful—v. 14-15 *"Do not neglect the gift you have practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress."*

Paul told Timothy to develop his gifts. I would say this: Stop focusing on all your weaknesses. Just develop your spiritual gifts and grow in them. Find your way of ministry and do it. Get over your weaknesses. Go in the power of what God has given you. He will take care of your weaknesses...and even use them (2 Cor. 12:7-10). Be who you are, not who you wish you were.

4. Be prayerful *"Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers."*

Pay attention to your life and your teaching. This requires a lifestyle of prayer. Prayer keeps you humble and dependent on God. So stay in prayer for yourself, and for those in your care.

So, let's start a R.I.O.T. out there, by starting one in our hearts. Set yourself on fire, as they say, and the world will come watch you burn.





FRIENDS OF CAMP EMAIL LIST

We're trying hard to keep all lines of communication open from the camp office to you. Our latest attempt to be better at this is a Friends of Camp email list. The plan is to send out a brief update, about once a month. We'll use this to keep you updated in between issues of the Bethel Camp Times.

Interested? Do one of three things:

1. Check our facebook page and open the Email Signup link just under our cover photo.
2. Email grow@bethelecamp.org and say, "Add me to your email list."
3. Type this link into your browser and enter your name and email address into the form that comes up.
<http://ecpurl.com/bCb8Yb>

THE EXTRA MILE

On November 7th, more than 50 people gathered at camp to spend the day hiking together to raise some of the funds needed to finish off our new dining hall. God treated us to beautiful weather for being active outdoors. There was a brief light rain in the morning as the early crew was heading out, but the rest of the day was cool, sunny and beautiful. My memories of the day are sweet ones—conversations with friends over the sound of leaves crunching under our feet... snacking on trail mix at the base of the fire tower and listening to Emmanuel Wilson count every one of the 132 wooden steps... Looking down the road ahead of us and trying to estimate a half mile so we could be sure to get our final mile in. My favorite part of the hike-a-thon is the combination of people who show up and spend the day together. They're all different ages, they come from different places and they don't all know each other, but the one thing we all have in common is our love of Bethel Camp.

As a fundraiser the day was a success. More than a success. Before the hike, each of us asked people to sponsor us for the miles that we hiked. The money is still coming in, so we don't have an exact number to share with you, but we do know that the funds raised that day were over \$20,000. That number makes The Extra Mile our single biggest fundraiser of the year. Thank you to everyone who came to camp to hike or walk or cook, or sponsored a hiker or hiked somewhere else on your own. We'll be doing this again next year. Hope to see you here!—Ruthie Voth



Winter Banquet
Saturday 6:00 pm
January 30, 2016

For we live by faith,
not by sight.
2 Corinthians 5:7

Bethel Camp
Benefit Auction
August 20, 2016

Listening For the Song of the Dove Bethel Camp Writers' Retreat

Many *Times* readers know and love Bethel Camp in a different way than I do. My only contact with the place itself is through the Bethel Camp Writers' Network, a motley crew of people who love to write and want to get better at it.

The brainchild of Ruthie Voth, Jason Ropp and Andrew Sharp, the Network just sponsored its second annual retreat October 2- 4, 2015.

I love this group of people and am now a big fan of the camp itself. I'm not sure how this place manages to be so welcoming. It is, after all, a group of mostly older buildings, perched on a wooded hillside in Kentucky and overlooking an unpredictable river. You look up for the sky, but what you see are trees and steep slopes looming all around.

It's not threatening, exactly. I would call it protective, which makes it a perfect place for writers to gather and be vulnerable, neurotic and productive.

Here's what that productivity looked like at this year's retreat: we ate together (wonderful food, nothing like what you picture at a camp!), we attended workshops (sounds formal, but we just gathered in a room with lots of couches and learned from a guest speaker), we critiqued each other's work (gently, constructively, honestly); we stayed up late talking; and we wrote.

Michael Kelly Blanchard, a writer and musician, led the workshops, helping us see our task as writers in new ways. On Friday night, he talked about listening to the doves in his yard in the morning. One dove calls out and sings half a song, then, after a pause, another responds from some unseen tree. If he waits long enough, he will see those two doves come together, meeting each other on the railing of the fence.

They are like lovers, he said, listening for each other until they find each other. "No one knew my song . . . you finished my song." That's what we do with our writing, he explained. We listen for a song; we return a song. We sing a true song to our readers, and we wait, hoping someone responds.

Michael also used the illustration of John the Baptist leaping in Elizabeth's womb when Mary arrives. Something in us leaps in the presence of "truth in the room," he said. Apprehending that truth and being able to write about it in a way that draws readers to our song and helps "complete their song" – that's what writers do.

We were fortunate to see Michael in action at a concert for the community in Bethel Camp's new chapel on Saturday night. Many thanks, to you, Michael, and many thanks to Bethel Camp for hosting our little group.

—Vicki Sairs



Auction 2016

If you have auction items to donate, you can bring them to camp any time between now and August 20th, the day of the auction (Think— deliver them to camp with your campers next summer!) We'll be taking pictures of items and sharing them on facebook as soon as they come in. If you can't physically get the items to us before the beginning of July, we would appreciate if you would email us a photo and description of the item that we can post online so bidders have an idea of what to expect. Thanks!

Bethel

Camp Times

is published 3-4 times a year. Submissions are welcome.

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Bethel Mennonite Camp is owned by God and entrusted to the Bethel Camp Board. Bethel Camp is a Christ centered ministry with an emphasis on Bible study and personal commitment to Christ. We seek to be good stewards of God's 300+ beautiful acres of mountains, trees, streams, and springs — using the natural setting to call people into a deeper relationship with God. Bethel Camp is a non-profit organization which operates on donations from churches and caring individuals. All donations and fees go toward the operation and improvement of the camp ministry.

Member



Christian Camp and
Conference Association



Meet our staff

Both of these individuals are not "new" to camp. They've both been serving at camp for a couple of years now, but we've never introduced them to you in one of our newsletters, so.... here goes!

Mary Rose Ryan

Our camp Office Administrator has been Mary Rose. She takes care of registering campers, keeping track of donations to camp, paying bills, sending out thank-you letters, reconciling bank accounts, entering staff info into the computer, mailing out camper and staff acceptance letters, and hundreds of other little details in the office. She works 2-3 days a week at camp, but will be leaving us at Christmas time. She will be moving back to Indiana and studying to be a PTA. She was a camper here at Bethel Camp in 2001, 2006, 2007, and we are going to miss her help in the office.

Samuel Short

Samuel came down to help for 6 months on the new building in October 2013, but we are very glad that he decided to stay longer. He is currently taking care of maintenance projects at camp as well as heading up the completion of the dining hall and kitchen in the new building. He just recently got engaged to Melody Eash, a former camper and staff member. Samuel really enjoyed counseling for a number of weeks this summer.

From the Camp Kitchen...

Mexican Crock Pot Chicken

2½ - 3 lb. frozen chicken breasts
8 oz. cream cheese
1 can corn, drained

1 can black or pinto beans,
drained & rinsed
1 can rotel

Put frozen chicken in the crock pot. Put cream cheese on top of the chicken. Dump in the corn, black beans and Rotel. Cover & cook in crock pot on low for 6-8 hours. Every 2 hours, stir the ingredients. When chicken is tender, remove from mixture, shred and return to crock pot. (You can do this more easily by putting it in your mixer and beating it with the paddle blade.) Turn the crock pot off & let it sit for about 30-45 minutes to thicken a bit before serving. Serve over rice or with tortillas.

Serves 6-8