



Fall 2015

BETHEL CAMP TIMES

An update from the hills of southeastern Kentucky...

There is a crazy amount of action that happens on the first day of camp. As a camper, you ride (sometimes short and sometimes long distances) to get to camp and pile out of the vans and cars with arms full of sleeping bags, suitcases, bags, and even a stuffed animal or two. You are often greeted by old friends or see a friend from school who “you didn’t know was coming.” Then comes waiting in line and getting registered, turning in snack money and electronic gadgets, finding out which cabin you are in, and checking in with the camp nurse if you’ve got any medicine to take during the week. Usu-



ally you get to meet your camp counselors and struggle up the hill to unpack your stuff and claim a bunk in your assigned cabin. Often you get to meet some people who you don’t know; and so begins the challenge of learning new names and building new friendships. Next comes a time of games, supper, taking a camp picture, learning the camp rules, and worship in the chapel with some Bible teaching, then snack shop (where you judiciously spend your money on the snacks of your choice.) Even on the first day of camp there is enough activity to make your head spin.

Mixed in with all the activity is a “method to our madness.” Relationships are built off of shared experiences. Trust builds as we find those around us to be trustworthy. This temporary community that we build each week of camp provides a fresh start and an atmosphere of expectancy. We look with heightened sensitivity to see what God wants to do in and around us.



In the midst of all that is going on at camp, one of our biggest prayers is that every camper would be heard. Truth is... when you have someone listen to you and understand the questions of your heart, that friendship can strengthen you to face life’s challenges with courage. Or... when you truly know that God hears, that He knows the ache of your heart, and that He has good imbedded in your future story, then you’ll be able to trust him to lead you.

Sometimes it takes a couple of days worth of shared activity to get to the place where a camper is willing to share a section of his story. Other times it takes a couple of years of relationship building to get permission to enter that walled-off section of a camper’s story.



The games, times of singing together, listening to and reading God’s word, eating meals together, craft activities, shooting an arrow into the target, and wading a creek are all opportunities for talking and listening and building community.

This summer camp provided the opportunity for many campers to experience that sense of being heard both by a fellow human being and heard by Jesus.

FALL RETREATS

WRITER’S RETREAT

OCTOBER 2-4

HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT

OCTOBER 9-11

JUNIOR HIGH RETREAT

OCT. 30- NOV. 1



This was my first year of overnight camp at Bethel Camp. I really liked it a lot. There are so many things to do and so many activities, but my favorite activity was the waterslide. One day at overnight camp you had a choice to do what was called the "Polar Slide." It was when you

wake up really early around 6 AM, dress in your swimsuit, and ride it a few times. Since it was really early, the water was freezing. Another reason why I loved camp was because my favorite counselor, Cat. She was a lot of fun and you could tell she really loved Jesus. Bethel Camp isn't that kind of camp where you get the same food over and over again. They serve amazing food... even pizza! Sometimes we get pancakes for breakfast! It is amazing at camp, and I love it. I know that is my opinion, but I know it is soon to be yours. You will love Bethel Camp, I can guarantee it!

- ELY MILLAR



I absolutely love Bethel Camp! It's just so cool to go to a place where you can watch yourself grow and be challenged in your faith year by year. This summer was especially

cool for me because I was given the opportunity to be a counselor. It was so amazing to see one of my campers get saved, and I was beyond blessed to see him grow and be able to watch as the spirit worked in him that week. Bethel Camp is probably the biggest reason I am where I am in my walk with Christ today, and I would recommend it to anyone looking to grow in their faith, or for anyone who wanted to see what this whole "Jesus" thing was about. Trust me, you will not be disappointed.

-- GRANT BEACHY



Being a counselor taught me some things about myself. It showed me some of my strong suits and some things about myself that I need to work on, like patience. At camp I got to help campers grow in their faith while I grew in my own. It was absolutely fantastic. I knew that for some kids they lack Christian support back home. So I was more than

happy to be their friend. It was an experience like none other and I absolutely loved the time I spent at camp.

-- TOBY NOBLE

BENEFIT AUCTION 2015

In 2002, the first Bethel Camp Benefit Auction was held at Bethel Camp. For 11 years it was hosted at True Value in Jackson, and last year Rose Brothers in Jackson allowed us to use their parking lot. This year, the 14th annual auction was moved back to Bethel Camp. One reason for that move was that we had space to host it here since the construction of the new building. Another is that August has traditionally been hot and the pull of air-conditioning was not to be discounted. We also wanted many of the people coming to the auction to see the place that was benefiting from all the activities of the auction. However the question remained in our minds whether we would be able to get enough people out to this little holler at the border of Breathitt and Perry Counties. The turn-out was encouraging.

Over 300 items were auctioned off that day. We give a big thanks to all the ones who donated such quality items for our auction... and also to those who purchased them. The food booth did a great job of getting everyone fed and we thank Wendell Kurtz for smoking all the chicken. James Schrock brought an old fashioned engine connected to an ice cream freezer and froze enough ice cream for everyone (and auctioned off a ticket for "unlimited ice cream" for one lucky individual.) Breakfast was served in the camp dining hall for those who came early enough, and during the auction an invitation was given to buy camp scholarships (or half scholarships) to send needy campers to camp.

