

HIGHLAND LAKES BAPTIST CAMP TEAM REPORT

Jim Shields, Team Leader

In reviewing what God has done this summer and looking to the vision for our future: **it is overwhelming, but amazing.** Being overwhelmed brings vulnerability... allowing pliability for the Father's transforming work in us.

Camp Season

Once again, we were blessed to see how the Father works in the lives of those who listen to His voice and respond to His call. While we don't yet have a total for the number of salvations, I am confident that there were at least as many as we had last year. Each week we were able to **see God change lives** – the lives of the campers and the lives of adult leaders and missionaries who served. Our housekeeping, maintenance and food staff again performed above and beyond the call of duty, rising to the challenge on every occasion. They do it with a heart for missions and ministry. Highland Lakes is about mission-minded ministries.

Speaking of **missionaries**, this year we were able to employ 12 young people; eight served all summer and five served part-time. On behalf of Director of Operations Rick Porter, Office Manager Debbie Hymer and myself, let me commend these individuals to you. They not only selflessly served in various aspects of manual labor, they made themselves available to counsel the campers as needed. Along the way they grew in their walk with Christ. It is a joy to know these young people, seeing them listen and respond to the Father and to each other. Again this year, our missionaries were home grown Indiana Baptists. Our churches should be proud of the way they conducted themselves. Thank you for sending these folks our way.

Physically we replaced a couple of camp vehicles with newer 4x4 trucks. We were able to trade some other equipment in on a Ford tractor that has power take-off and front bucket capabilities. We added decorative lighting to the Wildside cabins, lighting to the Brock Lake walkway and flooring and paint to the Wildside cabins. The Field Kitchen and Dining Hall can now effectively be used as an additional conference facility to accommodate 40 individuals seated comfortably, as a new HVAC system, new ceiling, lighting and paint were added. The addition of the relocatable classrooms will be used as two distinct conference rooms. Each can accommodate 40 to 50. We converted the small chapel back into Dorm 5, yielding additional bed space for 30 campers. We added "Pit Ball" and other components to the challenge course and replaced several archery bows with newer compound bows. The parking lot in front of the Welcome Center and the Chapel was resealed. Two new sets of bleachers were built, one for use at the Archery Tag range and the other for use at the Dorm Cabin fire pit. We added gravel as well to the Dorm Cabin fire pit area. Two of our septic lines were replaced, helping everything to flow properly. Many thanks to Rick Porter, Craig Kratzer and the many Campers on Mission. They really made all these physical upgrades possible.

Thank you, SCBI family of churches, for your continued support of Highland Lakes through your Cooperative Program and HLBC Mission Offering giving.

Now—and Future

What an **exciting time** to be involved with the ministries of Highland Lakes! We are poised to see even greater things accomplished and undertaken for the Kingdom of Christ! Highland Lakes continues to become better known among our SBC churches (across the state and the nation). We are seeing an increase in those who want to use the resources for retreats, conferences and mini camps. Highland Lakes is also becoming better known in the surrounding community and we are seeing an increased interest in opportunities to partner with local ministries. Our purpose continues to remain the same—to help others Discover, Develop, and Deploy a Transformed Life in Christ. In order to be more capable of meeting the necessities of this purpose, we continue to need additional facilities and improvements.

Where do we go from here? We continue to **move forward** on the addition of the new chapel/worship center. We will be obtaining permits, drawings and will break ground this fall. This new facility will enable us to accommodate 400 to 500 in a conference area and free up the existing chapel to become indoor rec/additional dining/multi-purpose conference space, all of which is needed. We have been blessed by donors to have in hand the necessary funding to get this project started, but, of course, additional funding is required. At the same time, we will be working on updating and improving the Old Lodge, making it even more inviting and conference-friendly. The new relocatable conferencing are in place and will be painted to match all the other buildings. Their interiors will be renovated with paint and new vinyl flooring in order to make them self-contained conference/meeting rooms.

A **new outdoor amphitheater** area by the lake is in the planning stage. There are plans for Disaster Relief to have a presence here, as well. And, while we are doing these things, the State office under the guidance and leadership of Dr. Cecil Seagle will move into the Roadhouse Building. A lot of time, planning, careful and prayerful visioning has gone into this move. This is a much anticipated and exciting endeavor, which will bring all our resources into one central area. Highland Lakes will become the Missional Resource Center for the state of Indiana.

“The vision is yet for the appointed time... Though it delays, wait for it, since it will certainly come and not be late.” (Habakkuk 2:3) We are living in exciting, challenging times. We are here for such a time as this. The vision, the challenge, the opportunity and the adventure are great. We cannot do it on our own. It is bigger than us. It is a great vision that requires a great God and a people willing to be obedient to His direction.

It’s overwhelming... but it’s amazing.