

## **HIGHLAND LAKES BAPTIST CAMP REPORT**

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### **Jim Shields, Team Leader**

Once again, I am privileged and honored to report to the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana...(yes, that means you, SBC church member!)...that the past year at Highland Lakes has been one of Kingdom advancement and growth; of lives changed and souls added to the Lamb's Book of life; of fellowship, equipping, encouraging and empowering believers from across the state. In other words, another successful year of serving as a resource for others to Discover, Develop and Deploy a Transformed Life in Christ!

While the focus and purpose of Highland Lakes remains the same, the landscape has somewhat changed. Since this time last year, we have been blessed to have completed, paid for and utilized the new Worship Center! This facility can and will serve up to 450 attendees for any event, with comfortable room to spare. The many God-centered stories that can be told already regarding this building are a testimony to a Convention that not only caught the vision but joined together to see that vision made into reality! The building process was never put to a halt because of lack of funding; so many individuals, churches, associations, and trusts made certain of that. Each time it appeared we would be coming to a stopping point, the saints of God would amaze us all with their generosity and joyful spirit of giving. While many thanks are due to the construction manager and crew, as well as to the Highland Lakes team for their hard work, none of this would have come true without the many saints, (you folks), and the pure example of Cooperative Giving and steadfast prayer support.

Throughout this year, the Worship Center has served as a focal point not only for the many summer camps we host, but also for the diverse conferences and retreats of all ethnicities. Brothers and sisters in Christ of Hispanic, African American, Burmese, and Asian descent; red, yellow, black and white came into this building to praise and worship the King of Kings. And while I couldn't always understand the words that were being spoken or sung, I understood to Whom they were being said.....and I felt His presence as I worshipped alongside them.

I must once again commend to you the staff, the team, at Highland Lakes. Director of Operations, Rick Porter, and

Maintenance Tech, Craig Kratzer, work tirelessly and efficiently to make certain the physical aspects of the camp are at their best. Guest Services Coordinator, Sarah Wickersham, makes certain that our guest's needs are met and continually looks for ways to make our system more effective. Food Service manager, Linda Collier, oversees our food service operations and is directly responsible for the Highland Lakes Cookie! Our cleaning staff and kitchen staff move industriously throughout their assigned responsibilities and go above and beyond to assure a most conducive atmosphere of courtesy, cleanliness and culinary delight.

And, thank you for sending us a team of Summer Missionaries this year that epitomized what it means to be a Summer Missionary at Highland Lakes! The eight individuals that we had were from your churches; they were all experienced HLBC campers, and they owned the camp this summer! Thank you to Abbey, Annie, Brian, Joel, Laura, Luke, Lindsey and Shiloh for being what a team is supposed to be. I am looking forward to seeing you come back next year...

No doubt, many of you who are reading this are experiencing Highland Lakes (maybe for the first time) while attending the annual Convention. Welcome! And to my knowledge, this is the first time the convention has been held at Highland Lakes! From a squirrel-hunting trip by some SCBI pastors that turned into a revelation of possibility to what it is today, the progressive development of Highland Lakes has been quite an adventure. Please make sure you take the time to look around at all Highland Lakes has to offer you and your church. Look around at the beauty the Father has created, and appreciate with us the labor, vision and efforts of all those who have come before us to make this Camp all that it is. Take time to explore the trails, look into the Log Cabin or relax on the HexaSwing. Step into the Old Lodge, Dorm Cabins, Retreat Cabins and Conference rooms; spend a little time fellowshiping in the Welcome Center. Stroll down to Brock Lake; take a walk on the Wild Side and peruse the Field Kitchen, Wild Cabins and RV sites; inspect the Rec Center, Hotels, and Dining Hall. Feel the presence of the Father in every square inch of this wonderful venue we call Highland Lakes.

And dream with us as we look for ways to increase the utilization of this magnificent 426 acre parcel of land. Our vision continues

to be one that helps us to magnify our stated purpose, so that more and more individuals can experience what transpires at Highland Lakes. We are not done; we have much to do. We have to find ways to affect more and more people for the cause of Christ. Continue to pray for this ministry; to volunteer your time and talents in working alongside us; to give through the Cooperative program, the State Missions Offering and the Highland Lakes Offering in order to provide funding for the enhancement of your camp.

Continue to help us be a resource that enables others to Discover, Develop and Deploy a Transformed Life in Christ.