

# FAITHPRINTS

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

Christmas 2010 Issue

## Good Tidings Fellowship

### Ministry Expressions and Effectiveness

**C**hristian camping is not the same as it was in 1958, or 1965, or 1975. The Gospel of Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever... but Christian camping has changed. Ministry to, as well as parenting today's youth, has changed.

It is often a difficult task to understand and to be able to communicate with our campers. In years past, one week was spent in our summer Bible Camp counselor training. Last summer our training was a week and a half. And this coming summer, in 2011, we will spend two full weeks in our counselor training for the summer Bible camp. We will be covering topics relevant to today's youth. We will be creating and developing life changing messages. We practice sharing scripture, presenting the Gospel, and counselors practice together the sharing of their own individual testimonies. During orientation and training, our summer camp staff continuously work toward the development of a "culture of innovation," even as the Gospel message is always the same.

What are some of the issues that today's counselors are confronted with? To be quite frank they are many: alienation to authority, anti-social behavior, poor peer interactions, verbal aggression, physical aggression, and an inability to delay gratification, to name a few. Indeed to be a summer camp counselor for Christ in 2011 will be a unique and challenging task.

Our gifted camp counselors increasingly work towards innovative and creative camp settings that set a friendly and loving environment wherein our counselors can clearly present the Gospel of Christ. Praise God! You are invited to join us.

#### Some of our "FAITHPRINTS" for this year...

**Summer Camp 2010 had:**

**25 1st time decisions to accept Christ -and-**

**25 rededications to receive and to walk with Jesus Christ**

**out of a total of 97 campers**

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SUMMER  
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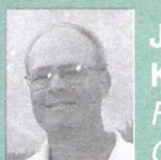
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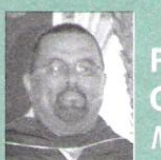
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## **Backpacking Trips For Counselor Training???**

**W**hat does backpacking the Long Path that runs along the top of the Good Tidings property have to do with summer Bible camp counselor training? Plenty! Group team building, camp ministry, and wilderness backpacking help us in our training agenda in many outstanding and credible ways.

Understanding our campers is an important aspect of camp ministry. Team cohesion and the sharing of ministry experiences while backpacking is one approach for better counselor effectiveness. Understanding our campers is paramount in successful Biblical ministry.

Speaking on topics which are relevant to today's youth are camp fire discussions worthy of study and focus. We intend to "grow our counselors" as we work with them throughout the backpacking trip experience.

Creating, developing, and enhancing life changing messages are key elements to fruitful cabin devotions. Counselors will pray and prepare their Biblical messages to their campers as they interact with each other during their backpacking training.

Developing a culture of innovation will be a key component to successful interaction with the youth of today. New and caring experiences bring a trust and a confidence level to young campers... and this trust and confidence enhances the counselor's message of caring love while they share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with their cabin.

Our new counselor training agenda as it is carried out on our backpacking training trips will make our counselors even better at sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our summer Bible camp program.

Group cohesion, team dynamics, and facilitating a safe environment where campers and staff alike are able to trust one another regarding these social difficulties... these are components of the Christian camp that allow great fellowship and an openness to the Gospel of Christ. At Good Tidings we are dedicated to never stopping our calling to improve and enhance our Christ centered camp. Thank you for standing with us.

### **Summer Camp 2011 Dates**

**Teen Camp 1 • 7/10 - 7/16**

**Teen Camp 2 • 7/17 - 7/23**

**Junior Camp 1 • 7/24 - 7/30**

**Junior Camp 2 • 7/31 - 8/6**

### **Vision Statement**

**Good Tidings exists to provide a safe, beautiful camping/retreat environment where God is honored and attendees/campers have the opportunity to learn of Him and develop an abiding relationship with Christ.**

# Partnering With Parents

**A**s a Christian camp that believes in partnering with parents and all those who send children to our camp, we wish to share some important information with you. The safety of your children, as you know, has always been and continues to be our number one priority. It is in this spirit that we wish to share with you some of the precautions that we will be taking in 2011 in order to assure the well being of your child.

We take pride in our ability to carefully select the counselors and staff who work at Good Tidings Bible Conference. In 2011 the selection process will include: 3 personal reference checks; one professional recommendation; criminal; vehicle; and background checks; the applicant's personal written Christian testimony; one pastoral recommendation; and our own "theological evaluation" based upon the applicant's written testimony and their personal interview with the camp director. We think that these are key components in evaluating whether or not we wish to invite individuals to join our team. Building a very high return rate of staff each summer is important to us and to our future growth. We think that this helps to insure our "culture of safety" here at Good Tidings. We also believe that our compulsory training program, which is presented to staff during orientation and is continued throughout the entire summer camp season, is "state of the art."

What are some of the positions that we will be filling for our Summer Camp 2011? There are several: Assistant Camp Director, Boys Unit Leader, Girls Unit Leader, Boys Counselors, Girls Counselors, Arts & Crafts specialist, and more. If you or anyone you know are interested, now is the time to contact Good Tidings regarding the application process.

We look forward to greeting you at our off-season events as your summer camp "partners in ministry" to youth.

## Praising God For:

New "Adirondack Lean-to" under construction on the mountain / New padded chairs for our chapel  
New winter tubing covers from Windham Mountain / New N.R.A. Grant for our rifle program / New lawn mower / New dormitory completion / New shop furnace / New staff housing upgrades / New City of Hudson ministry outreach / New roof on dining hall / New summer camp office / New Field Director's Office / New archery targets / New rifles for our rifle program / New Summer Counselor Backpacking Training / New ministry web site: [www.GoodTidingsFellowship.com](http://www.GoodTidingsFellowship.com)

## SAVE THE DATE

**This month 12/29 • Teen Christmas Party**  
**4/29 - 5/1 • Women's Conference**  
**9/9 - 9/11 • Father & Son Camping Conference**  
**10/1 • Good Tidings Annual Appreciation Dinner**  
**11/18 - 11/21 • Hunter's Conference 2011**

## Meet your Good Tidings Board Member

### Ann O'Reilly



We are pleased to introduce you to Board of Directors member, Mrs. Ann O'Reilly. Ann has been a Good Tidings Board Member since 2003. She presently serves on our Finance Committee. She is the mother of 6 boys, all in college, with 3 serving in the military, Her son James is currently in Afghanistan as an executive officer of an engineering company of soldiers. John is a physician's assistant in Boston and in the army reserves as a combat medic having the rank of sergeant. Peter is graduated from UC Berkley and served 4 years in the United States Marine Corp. Matt is working on his PhD in Chemistry at the University of Florida. Thomas is doing grad work at Albany Law School. Luke is studying skiing at Lake Tahoe community college. Ann has been married for 30 years. She accepted Christ as a freshman in college 35 years ago. She is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University with an art major. She taught in a Christian school for 7 years at Grapeville Christian school teaching art, English, math, and history. She has trained many blue ribbon artists winning awards regularly. She has used her art skills in refurbishing some of the artwork and signs on the Good Tidings property. She taught 8 years at Hosanna Christian Academy. She is currently the preschool director @ Bethlehem Community Church. She is also the current youth activities director there too. Ann regularly hosts young adults at a weekly college and career class at her home (including feeding them) for the last 10 years. She leads educational trips to Europe and mission trips to Central America. Recently she and her husband joined Mr. B. from Good Tidings to India. She is a weekly Sunday school teacher for junior high aged youngsters at her church. She is an avid swimmer, cyclist, a solid intermediate skier, a solid first base position player in softball, and a stingy hockey goalie. She also loves cross county skiing, volleyball and hiking. Finally, Ann has spent many hours volunteering at Good Tidings and was a key player in our recent dormitory construction.

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## Merry Christmas From Good Tidings