

The Views



Mountain View Bible Camp newsletter for all ages

Fall 2013

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Thoughts from the Administrator's Desk

This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope. Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:21-23 NKJV

Dear friends of Mountain View,

It's hard to believe that Mountain View Bible Camp has turned forty five. As I look out my office window, I can still picture in my mind much of what camp looked like in the beginning. I remember the countless work days when many individuals would gather and work toward the vision of reaching the lost and discipling all who would pass through this facility. Many of those faithful servants have passed on now, but the vision has continued and grown.

Over the years, there have been some unique trials and growing pains. At times, discouragements seemed to hinder the work. But the Lord, in His faithfulness to this ministry and to those who desired to serve Him, has prevailed.

As I review the 2013 camp season and I consider the many campers and

staff that have attended, I find myself rejoicing. I have found that it is very enjoyable when fruit is seen along the way. This year has been special in that it is camp's forty fifth year of ministry. During the very busy summer season, the Lord encouraged us to press on by allowing us to see a good number of professions of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. We were also blessed to have good camper attendance and dedicated volunteers for so many camp ses-

the camp, I can see the need for some vinyl siding installation, trim work, painting, flower bed clean up, furniture repairs, sports equipment needs, etc... All of these are signs of a well-used facility. In the early days when many came to help build, a lot was done and it was a joy to work together. The fact still remains true today; many hands make light work. If you have some time and would like to help, please give us a call. We are now in the process of building a

new picnic pavilion with bath house near the pool with plans to have it ready for use by summer 2014.

Looking back, I can see the hand of God and how He has blessed, protected and encouraged many in and through this ministry. Our prayer continues to be, "Lord, help us to be faithful to share who You are

with all who pass through these doors"

May the Lord bless you for your part in this ministry.

Jonathan Stassel
CAMP ADMINISTRATOR

Looking back, I can see the hand of God and how He has blessed, protected and encouraged many in and through this ministry.



sions. What a great God we serve.

With the busy summer over and the fall camps wrapping up, our focus turns to the many maintenance needs of this aging facility. On a quick walk through

"Offering Mountain-top Experiences Every Day!"



Showers of Blessings

Prayer & Praise

PRAYER

- For a Food Service Manager / Assistant to come alongside Jim Schulte
- For increased attendance at each camp session
- For willing workers and directors for each camp session
- For health and safety for the Full Time workers
- For the necessary funds (Estimated \$50,000) needed to build the Bathhouse/Picnic Pavilion near the pool (Started October 2013)

PRaise

- For contributions sent to cover Camper Assistance / Scholarship fund
- For all who willingly come to serve at camp
- For God's blessing on each camp session
- For some wish list items that were donated
- For thankful hearts for all that the Lord has done
- For health and safety of each camper and worker

INTERMEDIATE CAMP 2013

A total of 52 campers (26 boys & 26 girls) attended Intermediate Camp 2013. The subject for this week was "Jesus: The Lamb of God". Two campers made a profession of salvation while 6 were counseled regarding the assurance of their salvation. Even though it was a particularly hot week, the Lord truly blessed our activities and preserved campers and staff from major injury or incident. We thank the Lord for the availability of excellent facilities at Mountain View. Please continue to pray for those who labor there faithfully throughout the year.

Sam Headley, Director

JUNIOR INTERMEDIATE FALL WEEKEND 2013

"I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill" (Psalms 3:4).

The Lord is always gracious and full of mercy but it was wonderful to experience His grace at Mountain View Bible Camp for the Junior/Intermediate Fall 2013 weekend. A few months ago, I received an email from Jon Stassel asking me to direct camp alongside of him. I was nervous in my response to him but I knew the Lord was able to do exceedingly more than I could ever conceive. Many days and weeks went by and I was constantly on my knees asking The Lord to send me the right theme to not only encourage the campers, but the staff as well. As expected, the Lord answered and laid upon my heart to examine the lives of Noah, Shadrach Meshach and Abed-nego and Paul and Silas. The objective was to see how they all remained faithful in their difficult situations.

The Lord had His way when it came to the lectures. Richard Martin spoke on Shadrach Meshach and Abed-nego, I spoke on Paul and Silas and JT Wilson spoke on Noah. The camp size, around 50 kids, was great for a weekend camp. After every lecture we had the counselors put on a "Broadway Production" where they acted out the same difficult situation from the lecture. Every camper has a different method when it comes to understanding the Bible; the goal was to reach each one by lecturing and by also using visuals. The Lord granted us with warm weather and we were able to enjoy the outdoors throughout the weekend. On Saturday night, we had a wonderful campfire where the campers were able to look at the stars and make a joyful noise unto their creator. All in all, we had a fantastic weekend and I am forever grateful for what the Lord continues to do for his people.

Joval Wilson, Director



A History of



It began with concerned people with a vision...

In the summer of 1967, after much concern and prayer regarding a suitable place for a Bible camp, a group of Plymouth brethren from the eastern United States met together to consider this matter. The burden of these brethren was that the camp facility should be near an established Plymouth brethren assembly and accessible to all the northeastern region assemblies. After much prayer and consultation, Mr. Dan Atwood from the assembly in Sunbury, PA, (now meeting near Snyderstown, PA) saw an ad in the local newspaper for a piece of ground in the Snyderstown area. Immediately he contacted Mr. H.B. Shoop, and both of them went to "spy out the land". What they saw was a parcel of land containing some ninety acres, with little flat area suitable for camp use. But what caused greater interest was an adjoining piece of land that, together with the first piece, seemed suitable for the need. The two parcels contained two hundred twenty five acres and both parcels were available for purchase. Encouraged by what they saw, they reported their findings



to others who were interested in camp work. After several visits and talking together to consider the land, location, and the price, they decided to purchase the two properties at a cost of just under six thousand dollars. Brother and Sister Arthur Jones graciously provided the funds as an interest

free loan to pay for the land.

During the early years, meetings were held and Trustees were selected to oversee the work. We believe the Lord gave special help and wisdom during these meetings. The desire of the Board of Trustees was to only proceed as funds were available. God was faithful in supplying the necessary funds and willing workers.

It was built by concerned people with a vision...

Mountain View Bible Camp officially began in 1968. The fall and winter of 1968 were spent building a road to the hub area or center of camp, and clearing land in preparation for buildings. These were happy times together, enjoying good



Christian fellowship, with often as many as twenty to thirty working together. The local sisters provided good, warm refreshing meals for the workers. It was truly a work of love with the Lord's protection.

In August of 1969, construction

began on the main building, which consists of a kitchen and dining room (Galley) area downstairs and a chapel (Upper Room) with bathrooms upstairs. Work on this building continued through the year into 1970, with the first camp session, "Summer Arama" being held over the July 4th weekend. Since the building was far from complete, campers slept on the floor and used a temporary kitchen. This camp proved to be a real blessing with many souls saved and believers encouraged. It was an answer to prayer and a confirmation that this was the Lord's work. In 1972, the dormitory (Hardwood Lodge) containing 9 rooms was built just behind the main building. Next, six small cabins, an A-Frame and a central bathhouse (The Pines) were built in the area west of the main building. Various camps continued during these times of construction. Many improvements continued to be made, more areas were cleared, grass planted, roads widened, waterlines installed, etc...



In October of 1972, Frank and June Fisher were commended to the Lord's work at Mountain View. They were the first "full time" workers and were instrumental in helping camp move forward, especially in the areas of construction and early site development. Of course, being the only "full time" workers here at that time, they were involved in almost every area of camp ministry.



The Fishers lived in Selinsgrove, PA until the first camp house was built. In the summer of 1974, construction began on the house (Hilltop) where the Fishers lived, and where the Stassels reside now. The home

was ready for occupancy by May 1975. The Fishers served the Lord faithfully at camp until retiring in May of 1995.

Swimming pool construction began in the summer of 1975. What a tremendous improvement this was to the camp program. For years, children were bused to various swimming pools in the area, but with great difficulty and inconvenience. What a mercy to have the pool ready for use the summer of 1976.



In the fall of 1979, construction of the staff house (Stephen's Inn / Fix-it Shop) began, which included a garage and workshop and five bedrooms with private bathrooms. This was much needed and appreciated. Maxim and Hekenesh Stevens from the Roselle and Colonia, New Jersey area, upon their home going, left their estate to MVBC for this building project to house camp work-



ers (for directors and kitchen workers) and as a place where full time Christian workers could find rest and relaxation.

With the growing needs of camp, the second "full time" workers joined the team in August of 1981.

Fritz and Lottie Geiger

moved to Snyderstown, PA from Shelton, CT. They have helped in the areas of construction, maintenance, food service, bookkeeping, etc... Though the Geigers have reached retirement age, they continue to serve the Lord at camp to this day; Fritz (now age 80) in construction, maintenance and craft development and Lottie with helping in food service and keeping the financial books.

During 1982-1983, two duplex cabins (Red and Yellow Pine / Black and White Pine) were built to house 40 campers and the ball field was graded and grass planted.

Construction of the Activity Building (game room, craft area and 2nd meeting area) began in the spring of 1985. This structure took several years to complete.

Once again, with the needs for help at camp growing, Earl and Sue Minnier officially joined the team in May of 1987. Looking forward to this addition to the team, in April of that same year, construction began on the house where the Minniers lived (Overlook). It was ready for occupancy by October. The Minniers served the Lord faithfully at camp until September of 2002. Earl and Sue were instrumental in implementing many food service standards, and labored diligently in food service, general maintenance, registration, and many other areas of camp ministry.

Since flat land is hard to find on the mountain, in the spring of 1994, a new playing field was constructed just west of the Maintenance building. The area has been used for soccer camps and archery.

With the Fishers retiring from the work at camp in May of 1995, the Lord was at work calling others to fill the gap. In January of 1997, Jonathan and Annemieke Stassel joined the team. Jon accepted the position as Administrator working with the Board of Trustees to develop, implement and maintain policies and operating standards. Annemieke joined the team as a support to her husband and has been involved in program and policy manual development as well as candy store operations. Jon and Annemieke and their family continue to serve in administration, registration, scheduling, facilitating of camp programs and rental groups, and facility development.

Over the years, the needs of camp have changed. With the Lord's help and leading, many other staff have served both "full time" and as volunteers. For a three year period, Dave and Marie Bernardon joined the team and served from September 1998 until September 2001. Andrea Geiger saw a need and joined the team in October of 2002 and served until her wedding date in 2005.

In September of 2003, The Schulte family and the Scanzillo family joined the team. Jim and Agnes Schulte came to help in the area of foodservice. Jim, a caterer / chef by

trade, had reached retirement age. Leaving a position of running a school cafeteria in Connecticut, Jim and Agnes brought many years of experience to the camp kitchen. Even though Agnes passed in June of 2011, it continues to be Jim's desire during

these retirement years (Jim now age 78), to serve the Lord at camp for as long as He gives strength. Paul and Linda Scanzillo moved from KY to help with the growing needs of facility. They served at camp until May 2010, helping in the areas of maintenance operations and nursing.

In January 1997, MVBC began addressing an area of concern, that of wastewater. For years, camp used conventional septic tanks with drainage fields. These systems had been satisfactory but hindered camp from further expansion. Considerations for expansion include a gymnasium/auditorium building, a picnic shelter/bathhouse near the pool and replacement of the old cabins with more modern duplex cabins. With Pennsylvania and local regulations growing more stringent, camp knew the wastewater concern must be addressed before any other construction could take place. In June of 1997, the Board of Trustees decided to contract an engineering firm to do a feasibility study to determine our options. After a number of hurdles and countless design changes, a final plan was completed that would allow for numerous expansion opportunities. In August of 2003, actual construction of the sewer main began. The system was ready for use in time for summer camps in June 2004. Though it was necessary to borrow \$187,000.00 to complete the \$435,000.00 project, the Lord, in His faithfulness, encouraged many to give and totally satisfied the debt in February 2007.

Knowing that young people are always looking for new things at camp, Mountain View's Trustees and Staff prayerfully consider program and facility enhancements. One long standing dream had been a pond. This dream became a reality in the spring of 2007 when camp had contact with Partners for Fish and Wildlife. This Federal Agency helped to obtain some of the necessary permits to construct the pond. In October 2007, MVBC worked along side an excavator to dig the pond and grade the site. Stonington Fire Department donated pipe for a dry hydrant to aid

local Emergency Services Personnel with this new water source should there ever be a fire. In May 2008, grass and trees were planted in the area around the pond. June 2011, fish

stocking was completed. The vision for the pond is to provide fishing and nature viewing. Though these programs will still take some time to develop, camp is excited about these new program options.

In October of 2011, Mountain View welcomed

Mark and Andrea Fuhr to the full time team. The Fuhrs were not strangers to MVBC since both Mark and Andrea served for a few years as summer staff with Andrea serving as full time staff in 2002 - 2005. Mark left an engineering position to serve in the area of operations and maintenance and Andrea left a position in the same company to assist her husband in the camp work where needed. Also in October, construction on a new Duplex Cabin (Mountain and





Norway Pine). It was built where old cabins 3 and 4 used to stand. Built back in the early 70's, they were in great need of replacement. Zoning permits are in hand to also replace cabins 1, 2, 5 and 6 as soon as funds are available.

Even with new construction in progress, maintenance is a must. This past spring, the Hardwood Lodge received a new heating and air conditioning system. Additionally, a used 400 amp generator was installed to help support food service and camper housing in the event of a power failure or natural disaster. This generator was already put to use during power outages at some summer camp sessions.

In September of this year, camp began the newest construction project, the Bath House Pavilion. This 40 x 84 structure will be open on three sides and house two handicap restrooms, two dry change rooms, a storage room and a 40 x 60 picnic area. The cost for this project is estimated to be just under \$50,000.00. At the time of writing this newsletter, MVBC has received \$13,500.00 toward this project. Good progress has been made, but the necessary funds to proceed are lacking. The goal is to have this building ready for use before summer camps in 2014.



It is utilized by concerned people with a vision...

Throughout the 45 years of ministry, MVBC has held many camp sessions for youth, teens, young adults, adults and families. Each program, directed and lead by volunteers, is prayerfully designed to reach each age group with the gospel and disciple individual growth.

MVBC has also enjoyed serving alongside numerous Christian ministries. Child Evangelism Fellowship of Eastern PA (CEF) has been holding their two week long Summer Missionary Training School at camp for more than 30 years. This ministry focuses on training individuals to present a clear gospel message and prepares them to go out and hold weekly 5 day Bible Clubs throughout the summer weeks. Additionally, MVBC hosts the local Northumberland County CEF office, which holds 2 separate weeks of overnight children's camp. Mountain View is thankful to the Lord for these ministries, and many others, who choose this facility as their location to share the gospel and train individuals to serve the Lord.

MVBC also has the privilege to welcome groups for summer picnics, weddings, family reunions, team building retreats, etc... Through many of these rental opportunities, the Lord has opened doors to serve the Family of God, show His love to many and remind ourselves that we are to do good to all, especially those of the household of faith.

We still need concerned people with a vision...

Since ninety to ninety-five percent of camp programs and operations are supported by volunteer staff, MVBC is thankful to all who give of their time to help in various ways. From Board members to camp directors, from kitchen workers to nurses, from lifeguards to counselors, from crafts to activities and maintenance; all areas of camp need concerned and committed individuals. Is the Lord calling you to get involved, stay involved or get re-involved? Please let us know of your availability. Maybe you are just the one He wants to fill a gap

at camp. If you are waiting for a personal invitation to come and help, please consider this a request for your assistance.

Over the years, rising operating expenses are covered by donations from those who believe in this ministry. For the past several years, there has been a 20 to 25 percent gap between the fees collected and the yearly budget. New construction is generally done only when donations are in hand. We continue to be thankful to the Lord and His people for their faithfulness and generosity. Without your help, general maintenance, remodeling, new construction and camper scholarships would be nearly impossible.

With the Lord's help, we still press forward with a vision...

Mountain View continues to pursue sharing Jesus Christ with all who pass through this facility. Whether it is campers that attend MVBC sponsored programs or various rental groups, each ministry opportunity is viewed as a chance to encourage and disciple.

Mountain View also understands that it is far less costly to maintain the facility than to replace it. With this in mind, MVBC continues to schedule maintenance projects and seeks to use low maintenance or maintenance free materials wherever possible.

What is the financial need?

By the grace of God, Mountain View is debt free. This does not mean that there are no needs at camp. The bath house pavilion project is under way with a current need of \$36,500. A number of buildings are in need of a face lift with maintenance free siding or a fresh coat of paint. Road maintenance is a yearly expense along with the need to maintain sports equipment. Operational costs continue to climb. This past spring, the Snyderstown Borough raised sewage rates from \$8000 per year to just over \$9000 per year. Further more, we are receiving a growing number of requests for financial assistance from campers wishing to attend but not able to afford a portion or the entire fee.

How can I help or contribute?

Most of all, please PRAY with us for the Lord's direction and provision as we move forward. If you have time to physically help, please let us know of your availability. If you can give financially, donations for maintenance, camper scholarships, staff living expenses, and operational needs can be sent directly to Mountain View Bible Camp, 2671 Snyderstown Road, Danville, PA 17821. Master Card, Visa and Discover Card donations can be phoned into the camp office at 570-672-2296. PayPal online giving can be done via our website at MVBCamp.org. Whatever the Lord leads you to do to assist this ministry, we thank you!

45 Years of ministry...

We are so thankful to the Lord for bringing us this far. I am again reminded of the words of a song sung by the Imperials years ago:

*There are some promises written in His letter,
Written a long, long time ago,
They're not getting older,
They're getting better,
This is something I want you to know.*

*He didn't bring us this far, to leave us.
He didn't teach us to swim, to let us drown.
He didn't build His home in us, to move away.
He didn't lift us up to let us down.*

Mountain View Bible Camp is the Lord's work. He has brought us this far, and we trust Him for what is to come!

Faces from the Past



MOUNTAIN VIEW BIBLE CAMP 2014

January 18	Board Meeting @ Clark
March 1	Men's Retreat
April 4-6	Jr/Int Weekend
May 10	Board Meeting @ MVBC
June 6-8	Young Adult Weekend
June 29-July 5	Family Week
July 6-12	Senior Week
July 13-19	Intermediate Week
July 20-26	Junior Week
September 6	Board Meeting @ MVBC
September 19-21	Fall Senior Weekend
September 26-28	Ladies Retreat
October 3-5	Jr/Int Weekend
December 26-30	Winter Escape

YOUR FULL TIME STAFF



Mountain View's Mission

This ministry will strive to provide well maintained residence facilities and grounds in order to:

- Disseminate the truths of the Bible and glorify God in all areas of camp ministry.
- Stress the necessity of salvation, sound Biblical doctrine and a deeper consistent walk with the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Provide innovative, challenging, nature-based educational camping for people of all ages.

7

CREDIT CARD DIRECT GIVING

Offering Mountain-Top Experiences Every Day since 1968!

Please divide my gift in this way

- A. I would like to contribute to the General Fund. \$ _____
- B. I would like to help needy Campers (Scholarships). \$ _____
- C. I would like to help meet the 20% to 25% gap between fees and expenses. \$ _____
- D. I would like to contribute to the New Construction Fund. \$ _____
- E. I would like to help support the Full Time Staff living expenses. \$ _____
- Total Amount of Charge** \$ _____

- ☐ Please charge my card one time.
- ☐ Please charge my card each month.

Type of card: ____ Visa ____ Master Card ____ Discover

Credit Card Direct Giving Plan gifts provided to Mountain View Bible Camp are tax deductible.

Thank you for supporting the Lord's work at Mountain View Bible Camp!

Return to: **MOUNTAIN VIEW BIBLE CAMP, ATTN: DIRECT GIVING PLAN**
2671 SNYDERTOWN RD. DANVILLE, PA 17821 • 570-672-2296 • WWW.MVBCAMP.ORG

CARD NUMBER _____

EXP. DATE _____
(required) *3 Digit code on Back*

NAME ON CARD _____

BILLING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

DAYTIME TELEPHONE (_____) _____

E-MAIL _____

Please begin monthly charges on or after this date: _____

CARD HOLDER'S SIGNATURE _____

I would like the monthly card transfer done on the following date:
____ 1st ____ 15th ____ Doesn't matter

Please charge my monthly gifts to my credit card account.

If at any time I wish to increase, decrease or suspend my giving, I can contact Mountain View Bible Camp at 570-672-2296.

When you sign up for the Direct Giving Plan, your gift will be charged to your credit card as noted.

• **Why join this plan:** Administrative time/costs will be reduced, enabling your gift to work faster to spread the gospel. Works automatically, so you don't have to remember to mail your check. Saves on postage cost.

• **How to sign up:** Fill out this form (be sure to sign and date it). Send this form to Mountain View Bible Camp. MVBC will do the rest.

Mountain View now also accepts PayPal. A link is provided at MVBCamp.org.



2671 Snyderstown Road, Danville, PA 17821
Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
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Permit #30

MVBC *WishList*

- Laser level with stand and stick
- 3 heavy duty pool umbrellas
- Portable video projector
- 2 air hockey tables
- Taxidermy animals
- 8 double or queen beds with frames
- Basketballs, volleyballs, volleyball nets, tetherballs
- Basketball set-up for the pool
- Skid-Steer

ITEMS RECEIVED

- Some sports items
- Good, used back-up generator
- Taxidermy mounts
- 1 new lifeguard rescue tube
- Food service items



This newsletter is published for those interested in Mountain View Bible Camp. Letters, comments and questions are welcome. Please send them to:

MOUNTAIN VIEW BIBLE CAMP

2671 Snyderstown Road
Danville, PA 17821
Phone: 570-672-2296
Fax: 570-672-2510
E-mail: campinfo@mvbcamp.org
www.mvbcamp.org

Full-Time Workers

Jonathan and Annemieke Stassel
Administrator

Mark and Andrea Fuhr
Operations Manager

Fritz and Lottie Geiger
Operations / Bookkeeping

Jim Schulte
Food Service Manager

MVBC is looking for a
Foodservice Manager / Assistant!

Board Members

Anthony Giammarino, *President*

Anthony Taitt, *Vice President*

Ron Lahr, *Treasurer*

Michael Starr, *Secretary*

Stephen Campbell, *Trustee*

Bill Kulkens, *Trustee*

Carlos Velez, *Trustee*