

# The Camp Victory

# Overlook

Fall / Winter 2008

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Summer Camp 1
- Wrap-up & 2009 Theme
- Summer 2
- Appreciation
- Number Reports
- Fall Retreats 3
- Donors Impact
- Thank You 4
- Golf Tournament
- Canoe Race
- Camp Needs 5
- Building the
- Wish List 6

## Summer Camp Wrap-up

By Steve Dawson

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The air is cool, the trees are brimming with color and the atmosphere around camp is still buzzing even though summer is long gone. Many projects are under construction as I write this letter to you; lawn swings, picnic tables, wood sheds, maintenance building, mini-golf course, trail development and much more. Besides projects we are now heavy into our retreat season. Church groups, youth groups, scrap booking groups and more are enjoying the facilities and blessings that Camp Victory offers them.

It's hard to believe that summer camp ended almost 3 months ago already. But not only is God continuing to show himself mighty this fall, He did some marvelous things in the lives of campers this summer. We saw registration increases in all three of Camp Victory's summer programs; i.e. Overnight Camp, Day Camp and Camp Conquest! Kids came needing the love of Jesus in their lives and loving staff delivered with great commitment and enthusiasm. God used a wonderful summer to bring **over 130 campers to a new relationship with Christ**, as well as more than 100 other decisions for Christ. That's what Camp Victory is all about! All in all, we had the privilege of sharing God's love with over **1160 campers** this past summer season!

We added some exciting new activities that were a success in 2008 as well. You can't miss our new Gopher Ball arena as you drive into camp. What is Gopher Ball you ask? Well come on out to camp and let's play a game! Mountain Boarding was a great new addition as well. Think of it as snow boarding without the snow... and with big tires on your board... Mountain Boarding!

Our added feature of Skills Tracks for Overnight camps went very well. A variety of instruction based activities are now offered during a campers session. From Horses and Golf to Camp Sports and Nature, there was something for everyone. We offered 9 all together, with some being fee based and others being free to offer something for every budget.

Summer camp may be over for 2008, but the impact will remain for years to come and, even more exciting and significant - for eternity.

## 2009 Theme Introduction

Our mission will always be to reach boys and girls for Christ in summer camps at Camp Victory. But each year we are trying to package that in a fun theme. Our new theme for 2009 is drawn from our mission and desire to see kids soak up all that God has to offer for them. Introducing the 2009 theme:

## SOAK IT UP!



"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"  
I Corinthians 2:9



# Summer Appreciation

Tracie Morrison

Our second annual Bash was Aug. 15 and did we have a lot of fun! About 150 staff, volunteers, family and friends attended our program, awards ceremony, BBQ picnic and fabulous fireworks! It was a night of amazing celebration of what the Lord has done throughout the year through Camp Victory and its servants. Year to date we have had 13,000 hours given graciously to us through volunteers. These hours were weeding and planting gardens and trees, building miniature golf ponds and course, mowing, cooking, baking, counseling, nursing, driving, bookkeeping, data entry and the list goes on. Awards received are as listed...

- Chauffeur Award - Lowell Erickson
- Green Thumb Award- Earl and Barb Bosshardts
- Flower Child Award- Jennifer Furst
- CUP - Gary Hayden
- Golden Spatula Award- Jan Rouillard
- Band-Aid Award - Char Reise
- Peddler's Award -Lisa / Laura Ernster
- Sawdust Award - Dickie Swanson
- Love - Tails (Myles Hanson)
- Joy - Kiwi (Karissa Miller)
- Peace - Delta (Matt Long)
- Patience - Tex (Tyler Sage)
- Kindness - Ragazza (Kristina Notaro)
- Goodness - Scuba (Steve Reynolds)
- Faithfulness - Doc (Tony Knutson)
- Gentleness - Lynx (Beth Oesterlin)
- Self Control - Parks (Margo Meisch)
- Dorcas - Spunky (Evie Swanson)
- Servants Award - Hawk (Eric Hawkins)

And lastly... our

- Leader's Leadership Award- Stripes (Brianna Groeneweg)
- Staff of the Year Award - Sarge (Wendy Taylor)

Thanks to all of you who give in many different forms to Camp Victory Ministries. We could NOT do it without you!

# Summer Numbers Report

Evie Swanson

We had a spectacular summer season this year, and I want to share with you our 2008 summer numbers. We had 1,164 total registrants this year. That's a 46.2% increase from 2007 (or 368 more campers)! Some specific program growths to highlight: **Day Camp** increased from 81 campers in '07 to 183 campers in '08. **Camp Conquest** increased from 77 campers in '07 to 301 campers in '08. And we were able to take the Camp Conquest program to 7 different churches this summer as opposed to 2 churches in 2007!

I was able to witness firsthand the growth, and it definitely did not come the way I expected. In the spring, we were actually down in our numbers compared to last year, and for awhile, we were concerned about the outlook. God definitely had HIS perfect timing, so all glory goes to Him, because we would not have been able to do what He did! Praise the Lord!

One thing I want to convey above all else is NOT the measurable numbers. What truly counts is the *immeasurable* that God has done through Camp Victory this summer.

Some examples of these immeasurable numbers:

- How many youth heard the message of Christ's love and salvation for the first time?
- How many youth have been empowered to take a stronger stand for Christ at school?
- How many youth have been encouraged to respect their parents more?
- How many youth have been challenged to share Christ with their peers?
- How many youth are making better choices each day because of what they learned at Camp Victory?

We will never know the full impact of God's work here this summer, but we can definitely see glimpses!

## Fall Retreats at Camp Victory

Susan Nelson

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We are in the midst of a busy retreat season here at Camp Victory. The weather has been beautiful and the fall colors are outstanding this year. Winter and spring weekends are filling up, so if you have a group that you would like to bring to CV, please contact us soon. Groups visiting CV this fall:

- Christ is Lord Free Lutheran Church~ Onalaska, WI
- Woodcrest Church~ Eagan, MN
- Northwestern College Women's Volleyball Team~ St. Paul, MN
- Camp Victory Family Camp
- The Harbor Church~ Hastings, MN
- Mt. Olive Lutheran Youth~ Rochester, MN
- Berean Community Church~ Rochester, MN
- Bella Voce Women's Choir~ Rochester, MN
- Christ Community Church~ Rochester, MN
- Wayzata Evangelical. Free Church~ Wayzata, MN
- First Evangelical Lutheran Church~ Red Wing, MN
- Rochester Off Campus Charter High School~ Rochester, MN
- Plainview Evangelical Free Church~ Wabasha, MN
- Wooddale Church~ Eden Prairie, MN
- Grover Scrap booking~ Newport, MN
- Golden Hill School~ Rochester, MN
- Mehrkens Scrap booking~ Mazeppa, MN
- Riverwood Community Church Leadership~ Cannon Falls, MN
- First Lutheran Church~ Lake City, MN
- TEAM Rochester~ Rochester, MN
- Mazeppa Quilters~ Mazeppa, MN
- Hope Summit Middle School~ Rochester, MN
- Litchfield Girls Basketball Team~ Litchfield, MN

## Donors Making an Impact

Jim Barnhart

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Through the generosity of our donors 336 campers received scholarships to attend Camp Victory this summer. Without our donors these campers would not have been able to experience Camp Victory. Overall, donors enabled us to provide over \$60,000 to needy children in scholarships this summer! These individuals, corporations and foundations have a direct impact on the lives of campers. Many of these campers have life changing experiences at Camp Victory. One mother recently wrote concerning her daughter who attended Camp Victory on a camper scholarship this summer:

*"You have no idea how much it means to her to have the counselors keep in touch and remember her. It has made such a difference in (her) life I can't thank you and everyone else enough. She has come so far this past 3 years and I owe a lot of that to Camp Victory. Keep up the great work with the kids as you have definitely saved my daughter and for that I am forever grateful."*

On behalf of parents and campers who received scholarships this year we would like to express deep gratitude to our donors. By supporting Camp Victory, you are not impacting a child for just a week; but for a lifetime.

If you are not currently a donor would you consider a gift for camper scholarships? Camp Victory is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

## Volunteers

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Volunteers are needed in the kitchen and general maintenance for this fall, winter and spring season. Your schedule can be very flexible. You may stay onsite or if you live close, you may go home if you'd like.

**For information or questions for volunteer positions please contact Tracie at : [tracie@campvictory.com](mailto:tracie@campvictory.com)**

## A Thank You Note

Bret Adler

As we watch the market reports we see many investments losing money. It seems there are only a few good investments out there. Donors to Camp Victory recognize the importance of investing in boys and girls. This summer 348 campers received over \$67,000 in scholarships! Well over 300 donors gave to camper scholarships this summer. Here is just one thank you we received from a camper who received a scholarship:

*Thank you so much for letting us go to Camp Victory. It was really fun. I got to learn a lot of things I didn't know about God. Like he has a reason for every living thing on earth to live. My favorite thing there was high ropes because I'm scared of heights. And when I had to do the zip line I got up at the top and I said I'm scared. She (my counselor) said God was with me. Thank you so much!!*

Your donation in boys and girls is a great investment. Thank you for making a difference in the life of a child, not for just a week, but for eternity!

## Report on Golf Event

Jim Barnhart

June 3, Camp Victory held our third annual golf fundraising event. Even a very windy day did not keep one hundred golfers from having a great time and raising sixteen thousand dollars in financial aid for camper scholarships. The day also boasted a 'hole in one' on a prize par three, a putting contest, a barbequed pork dinner and multiple prizes. Special thanks to the Golf Committee, FFP Investors and all our hole sponsors.

## Zumbro River Community Festival

Al Atkins

On June 28th, several dozen Canoe and Kayak paddlers left the Sandy Point launch site and paddled across Lake Zumbro to the RPU Power Dam, portaged, then made their way to Camp Victory down the Zumbro River. The Lake Zumbro Improvement Association manned pontoons at strategic points along the lake to "guide" all paddlers. Members of the Olmsted County Sheriff's Dive Team, along with medical professionals, were stationed on each pontoon to ensure safety of all participants. Members of a local Rugby team even helped people over the portage as needed.

The two-part outing included "challenge" racers who finished in less than forty minutes, and "casual" paddlers who tended to take a little more time. Participants included; a nine-year-old boy and his mother in separate kayaks and a family of four who had never canoed before, but considered the event "one of the best days of our lives."

Festival attendees at Camp Victory enjoyed several interactive inflatable, a carving exhibit, non-stop wagon rides around camp, and--of course--the food vendors. For the daring, a vertical "climbing wall" was attempted by many, over-topped by some. Talented groups provided music during the evening. An incredible "Silent Auction" ran from 5:00 to 7:00 PM, where some fortunate people walked away with amazing bargains.

The Festival was capped off by a fireworks display that simple words can't begin to describe. Hundreds of onlookers ooh'd and aah'd throughout. Many attendees said that this was the best fireworks display they had ever seen.

The purpose of the Festival was to raise funds to enable underprivileged children to have an opportunity to go to camp by providing scholarship funds for them. The event raised over \$9,000. We are so thankful and appreciative to all of the corporate and individual "sponsors" who helped make the event possible.

**Mark your calendars:** the 2009 Zumbro River Community Festival will occur on June 27th-- the Saturday before the Fourth of July--again as part of the **Rochesterfest-2009** celebration. Hope to see you there.

# Camp Needs Letter

Jim Barnhart

To be candid, a lot of people regret the investments that they made in 2008. The combination of a slumping housing market, bank failures, bail outs, and market collapses have people wondering—where is my investment safe? Makes sense, what Jesus says, “*Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven where moth and rust does not corrupt, and thieves break in and steal.*”

The investment that you made in camp is still bearing interest. Every project completed—cabins, Hilltop Fort, an amphitheater, the dining hall, an RV site, the maintenance building, the high ropes course—represent someone's treasure. They were given as memorials, gifts, stocks, volunteer hours, and prayers, prayers and more prayers. We are starting—only starting, to see returns—1,400 campers, 138 new conversions, 78 rededications last summer alone. They come to find new friends, enjoy a new experience, and all of them hear the personal invitation to receive Christ.

Camp Victory has challenges of course. Our Phase II Campaign which includes funds needed for cabins, the maintenance building, a mini golf course, program and operational funding—is making progress, but needs more people willing to invest. Some of the projects like the shower house, the second half of the dining hall, or the chapel, are continuing only if and when we have funds. In addition we are getting requests from churches and parent church organizations that are asking if we have enough room for their larger groups—we will have, God willing. Together we can make an investment in the lives of youth, families and communities. Thank you for partnering with us.

Jim Barnhart and the Development Committee, Dave Nelson, Bret Adler and Vic Scott.

# Building the Dream Update

Bret Adler

“Wow! What a great place!” This is just one of many expressions folks share on their first visit to Camp Victory. Thanks to those who participated in Phase I of the “Building the Dream” campaign, Camp Victory is indeed a great place. Donors who gave to Phase I built six cabins, the dining hall, meeting rooms, infrastructure (roads, septic system, plumbing, etc.), office/health center, and the recreational areas. Over \$3,000,000 was contributed in cash, assets, gifts-in-kind, or pledges.

We are currently in the middle of Phase II of the “Building the Dream” campaign. This three year phase which began in 2007 has a goal to accomplish the following:

1. **Build 2 cabins** Hilltop Fort is completed. Another cabin is needed to house more children and retreat groups.
2. **Pay off \$350,000 of debt** It is our desire to be a debt free facility.
3. **Cover \$450,000 of operational costs** Camp Victory wants to reach as many children as possible, regardless of family income.

With these three accomplished Camp Victory will be able to minister to more children more efficiently. You can help build boys and girls! Send a check to Camp Victory with Phase II in the memo. To confirm we have received your gift we will send you a receipt for your tax purposes.

## Announcements

### Staff News

- **Bliss Morken** (Marketing and Outreach) married **Daniel Nelson** in August.
- Bliss and Daniel are moving to Texas in December. We will miss them and what they meant to Camp Victory. Please pray for them in their move and new endeavors in Texas.

# 2008 Fall Wish List

If you are interested in donating any of the items listed below please contact the Camp Victory office at (507) 843-2329. Since Camp Victory is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization your gift is tax deductible.

## Program

Minivan *Thank you!*  
20 sleeping bags (for backpacking)  
Fishing equipment *Thank you to those who have donated!*  
5 Picnic tables  
Playground equipment: tetherball, bean bag toss, jousting log, horseshoes  
3D targets for archery  
Targets BB guns  
Moose head (for dining hall)

## Maintenance

Pickup truck  
72" lawn mower *Thank you!*  
2 ton floor jack  
Chainsaw *Thank you!*  
Weed trimmer  
Wood splitter  
Wire feed welder  
Commercial grinding wheel  
Commercial air compressor  
Snow plow for truck  
Gator/Mule type vehicle  
Golf cart (new or used)  
Car lift *Thank you!*

## Kitchen

4" full size restaurant pans (6 are needed)  
Large clear plastic storage bins for food  
9 x 13 cake pans  
Muffin pans 24+ muffins  
Steamer  
Kitchen cart  
Center pieces for tables  
Window washing equipment (for large windows in dining hall)  
Bathroom cleaning supplies  
Ketchup & Mustard dispensers *Thank you!*  
Commercial juicer  
Paper products (paper plates, napkins, plastic silverware)

Apron hook rack  
Catering grill *Thank you!*  
Commercial can opener (not electric)  
Dough hook (for Hobart mixer)  
Repair of Hobart mixer  
Yellow cups (for drinking water)

## Camp Store

Bar code scanner equipment  
Office  
Copier  
Graphics monitor  
Server  
Macintosh computer (for graphics)  
DVD duplicator

## Health Center

2 x 2's  
4 x 4's  
Abdominal dressings  
Ace wraps  
Alcohol wipes  
Antiseptic wash  
Baggies  
Band Aids – various sizes  
Butterfly Band Aids  
Cotton balls  
Cravat bandages  
Crutches  
Eye glass repair kit  
Eye patches  
Garbage bags  
Gloves: small, medium, large  
Hand sanitizer  
Ice packs  
Ice pack covers  
Injectables:  
Epi Pen  
Epi Pen Jr.  
Insulin pen needles  
Kleenex  
Kling wrap  
Large Band Aids  
Lighter  
Liquid bandage

Magnifying glass

Matches

## **Medications (must be current):**

Ibuprofen  
Tylenol  
Benadryl  
Chloraseptic Spray  
Cepacol  
Robitussin DM  
Pepto Bismol  
Tums  
Lifesavers or hard candies  
Supplies:  
Needles  
Pads  
Pill cutter  
Q-tips  
Safety pins  
Scissors  
Sharps container  
Small drinking cups for med.

## Administration

Tape – adhesive and paper  
Thermo-scan covers  
Tongue blades  
Topical (must be current):  
1% Hydrocortisone cream  
Neosporin or triple antibiotic ointment  
Caladryl or Calamine Lotion  
Insect repellent  
Sunscreen  
Vaseline  
Mexanna powder  
Tubular elastic net  
Tweezers  
Wipes and refills

***Thanks to Char Riess for taking inventory of the Health Center after summer camp!!!***