

A WORD ABOUT FINANCES

Please make sure to use the enclosed financial response form and send a gift to Peniel Holiness Association very soon. Our financial situation is very difficult right now, and we are counting on your support!

MATERIAL DONATIONS

We have appreciated receiving aluminum ladders that were a great help with our recent project of painting the tabernacle. Now we are looking for a 30- or 40-foot fiberglass ladder that would be suitable for electrical work, plus we need to find a booster heater for our commercial dishwasher. If you are aware of the availability of such equipment, or if you know industry contacts who might help us, please pass the information along to Dan.



Dining Hall

KEY CONTACTS FOR PENIEL

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Peniel Postings

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*So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared."
—GENESIS 32:30*



IMPORTANT DATES 2012

Please note these dates in your 2012 calendars. Your participation is essential for a successful camp meeting.

Spring Board Meeting: Saturday, May 5

Work Days:
Saturday, June 2
Friday & Saturday, June 22 & 23
Friday & Saturday, July 13 & 14

117th Annual Encampment:
Thursday, July 19, through Sunday, July 29

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

A Sign of Caring — A Signal to Pray!

by Dan Segool



Hello, friends of Peniel. Another camping season has come and gone. In a couple weeks, I'll shut down the grounds for winter. And I'll experience a time of mixed

emotions. While I'm sad to see another great year come to an end, I reflect on how God met with us this summer, and I'm thankful for His faithfulness and for lessons learned. I'm reminded to pray for people within the camp family, especially for continued spiritual growth of those who made decisions for Christ. I pray for safety during the winter months, for both our people and our campus. Winters in northwestern PA are harsh, but God always watches over our grounds. Yes, I also pray for our finances. The need for financial support does not "shut down" during the winter, or at any time of year!

This year, I felt that God was showing me that I have been missing an area of caring—and praying. In fact, God's prodding led me to put up a sign to show this care. Do you see the message on the camp sign? "God Bless Conneautville!"

During this past summer, I had a chance to connect with more people of Peniel's surrounding community, the Conneaut Valley. I realized that these folks have really gone through tough times economically. We all have. Many have lost jobs or have seen their incomes drop. Of course, expenses rarely go down! I felt that difficulties around the camp might be even more challenging than those in home communities of our camp family.

For years I've wanted to see Peniel build more relationships within our surrounding area. We have outstanding teachers and speakers at our camp every year, and I'm glad that we have many campers who come a considerable distance to participate. Yet, I wish that we would do better at ministering to those who are right in our backyard! I'd like to get out into the community and meet more people, but it is hard

for me: I live 70 miles away, work full time, and am raising a family; when I visit the campgrounds, so much needs to be done that getting away is difficult. But, I have felt God challenging me to pray. He has helped me see that I have often prayed for the camp and for needs within our camp family, but that very seldom do I pray for our surrounding community. Well, the light bulb came on. At that moment, I felt as though God was saying, "Hello, dummy. If you want to reach the community, how about praying for them?"

So I decided to pray. Of course, I never want to do something by myself. I'm always looking for people to help me! So I've asked the Board to join me. Would you join us as well? Let me know: Drop me an email message, or hop on our Facebook page and let other campers know you are praying.

That leads me to the sign. After camp, I asked our official sign letter guy, Tom Durfee, to put "God Bless Conneautville" on the sign. I want the Conneautville community to see that we care about them, and I need the signal to pray for them. (We also show the community we care by improving our drive-by appearance, which is part of our witness, too! Recent painting projects have helped tremendously.)

I've already heard from two people of the community. "We love your sign," one said. Another said, "Thank you for your sign. The encouragement makes us feel good." The sign is working. Praise God.

Towards the beginning of November, the letters will come down, because winter's winds will blow them away. What should our message be, come spring? Do you have any suggestions for me?

So, take a look at the picture of the sign in this newsletter and let it serve as a signal to pray. Pray for the camp. Pray for our finances. Pray for our camp families. And especially pray for our friends in the Conneaut Valley.

I hope that you and your families will have a joyous Thanksgiving and Christmas season. Lori, DJ, Courtney, Josh and I send our greetings and best wishes to you all. We'll be in touch with Spring *Postings* around March. And before we know it, camping season will be here again!

God Bless,
Dan

WHAT IS WORSHIP?

by 2011 Evangelist Andy Anderson



Have you ever heard the term *worship service*? You know, the time at church when you do the singing. Lately I have heard messages at various churches on the topic of worship. Worship is more than music. Worship is more than singing. Worship is more than

raising your hands during the song service. Worship is giving your entire being to God to let Him do what He wants with you. Do you know what happens when you do that? God interrupts your life for you to do an act of worship. Worship can start with music. Worship can start with a celebratory act of raising hands. Worship is a lifestyle that begins at the feet of Jesus and goes from there.

Remember Mary at the feet of Jesus? The account found at Mark 14:3-9 shows her taking the most expensive item she has and giving it to Christ. She humbles herself, kneels, pours out the expensive oil and washes Jesus feet with her hair. This type of act is what Jesus asks us to do, daily. Humble ourselves, give what we have, and use it to worship Him.

For those who attended Peniel Camp this year, do you remember Dan taking us outside to look at the tabernacle wall nearest the road? Do you remember seeing that wall? I do. I saw a wall that needed real attention. The paint was falling off, and quite frankly it was ugly. Since July that wall has been transformed. Through efforts of some people who worship God by painting, that wall has been scraped and re-painted. God is honored and glorified because His tabernacle reflects Him.

Worship is more than music; it's more than singing. Worship is a lifestyle that says, "I will use what I have to please and honor God." Romans 12:1 says to *present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

Remember the Good Samaritan? He used his time, his donkey, and his money to help a person in need.

True Christian worship is seeing the need and doing something about it in the name of Jesus. What need do you see, and what can you do about it? You may not be able to answer every need, but you can answer some. I invite you to look for needs today and then meet one as an act of worship to the One who died for you.

*Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.*

— JOHN WESLEY



Painted Tabernacle

WHITE-WASHED? OR WASHED WHITE?

by Renee Tuning, editor

Peniel's tabernacle sparkles with a fresh paint job applied this past summer, thanks to Chuck Giaimo and several others of the Peniel "network." Chuck is a professional painter and also a good friend of camper Ward McCue. Ward told him about the job, and Chuck donated two weekends of labor to help us. God Bless you, Chuck! George Small also put together a work team that helped. Of course, several campers labored to prepare the building in weeks immediately following the encampment and throughout the project. Thanks also to ladies who provided meals for our work crews!

When I first heard that the tabernacle would be painted, my mind drew back to my youthful days on a dairy farm, where the milking parlor and even the outside of the barn had to be white-washed regularly to keep the milk inspector happy. And then my mind drifted to the infamous Tom Sawyer, who very creatively rooked his friends into doing his chore of white-washing a fence. But my mind stopped at Jesus' words to the scribes and Pharisees, whom He called hypocrites when He said:

You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

(Matthew 23:27,28 NIV)

"White-wash" implies a quality of being disingenuous—wearing a mask or a cover-up, practicing hypocrisy—which Jesus hates. White-washing hides a multitude of sins, so to speak. Actually, Jesus' standard for our hearts is that they be "washed white" not only of sins but of the deeper principle of sin.

Praise the Lord, God's grace has provided everything necessary for us to be pure, transparent, genuine—washed inside-out, deep-down, through-and-through. Heart holiness, we call it. And the very fact that He commands us to be holy is proof that He believes holiness is possible for us mere earthlings.

Indeed, the cycle of sin can be broken. While we may be imperfect in many ways, the Psalmist says we can have a "perfect heart."

Is the deep cleaning of the heart a job for God alone? After all, the Word says, "He is faithful to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). Still, the Word also commands us to cleanse ourselves—which is only right, since cleansing of one's heart and life is so personal, such a deliberate act of the will. The bottom line is that heart cleansing is a cooperative effort between God's Holy Spirit and you. The agents of His cleansing are His Word and the Blood of the Lamb.

God's ultimate plan for us—His bride, the Church—is to glisten even more resplendently than Peniel's tabernacle on that day He gathers us to Himself. A nineteenth-century hymn writer, Ralph Hudson, painted that sight quite beautifully in his words to *'Tis a Glorious Church*. Could you get excited with me as you read these words?

*Do you hear them coming, brother,
(That's us!)
Thronging up the steeps of light,
(On-the-move through the heavenlies!)
Clad in glorious shining garments,
(We'll have a new everything!)
Blood washed, garments pure and white?
(Thank you, Jesus.)
'Tis a glorious church without spot or wrinkle,
(Amen!)
Washed in the blood of the Lamb;
(Thank you, Jesus.)
'Tis a glorious church without spot or wrinkle,
(Yes!)
Washed in the blood of the Lamb.
(We've arrived!)*

LIVING HOLY

The highest form of worship is the worship of unselfish Christian service. The greatest form of praise is the sound of consecrated feet seeking out the lost and helpless.

— BILLY GRAHAM