

CAMP IMPROVEMENTS

The grounds are now shut down for the year. Our water system was shut down and drained early in October. The camp is ready for winter.

A number of improvements were done around the grounds following camp. Some of the work was contracted. Much of the work we did ourselves. During camp, we got to know Clarence, who lives in nearby Albion and is a masonry worker. Clarence donated his time and made several repairs to the brick work on the kitchen.

Henry Johnson came up and cleaned out the gutters on all our buildings. Thanks Henry! We recently made repairs to close up some holes on the back of the main tabernacle; pictures of this work are on our Facebook page. Once we are done mowing for the year, we plan to get our tractor in for some needed repairs. The total cost of the repairs since camp is around \$4,000.

Your regular financial support of Peniel helps us to take care of the grounds year round.

PENIEL BOARD DISCUSSES SUCCESSION

During our recent board meeting, the trustees discussed the importance of succession planning for the camp. A couple years ago, we transitioned our Treasurer and Financial Secretary positions. It was a healthy transition, where the former office holders helped train the “rookies” and have remained available to assist as needed. We hope to use this as a model for future transitions.

We know that we have a need for apprentices in several key areas of the camp. First, our water system is maintained by two great guys, Len Whitehouse and Phil Haynali. Lee Greenfield serves as our Grounds Superintendent. God has blessed these men with abilities and health to do the job, and we hope that God will equip them to serve for years to come! The board will be working to identify some people to become apprentice workers to learn the ropes under the leadership of these men. We are also looking for additional tractor operators to help in mowing the grass. While certain skills are helpful for these positions, the most important qualification is a willing spirit and a desire to learn. Interested in learning more about this? Contact Dan.

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 2016

Please note these dates in your 2016 calendars. Your participation is essential for a successful camp meeting!

Work Days:

Saturday, June 4
Friday & Saturday, June 24 & 25
Friday & Saturday, July 15 & 16

121st Annual Encampment:

Thursday, July 21, through Sunday, July 31

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

SPEAKING FROM THE STARS

by Camp President Dan Segool



Hello friends and campers and welcome to the Fall Edition of *The Postings*. The year 2015 has been a great year for Peniel. We were very

blessed at our encampment this summer. We had a significant increase in our youth attendance and continued strong involvement with children and adults. Most important, many decisions were made to walk with or go deeper with Jesus. We serve an amazing God, and I am grateful that he chooses to use us to reach people with the Good News. I'm excited about this edition of *The Postings*. Several of our campers have taken some time to share how God worked to bless this year, but first I wanted to share a special experience of how God met me during a recent visit to Peniel.

A few Saturdays ago, we had our Fall board meeting at the camp. I came up on Friday afternoon to take care of a few things, then spent a quiet evening at the camp. I was up early Saturday morning, before daybreak, and I went for a run.

I ran down into town and then took a left at the library and headed up Washington Street. This road takes you up out of town onto a pretty high and lonely plateau. It was very dark when I got up there, but the skies were clear. As I ran along, I was enjoying a beautiful show of stars. It is not all that often that I get to spots with so little surrounding light, but when you eliminate all those overhead lights, the skies really stand out.

As I ran along, I felt as if God was speaking to me, asking me a question: “Can you count them?” God was speaking to me from His Word. Genesis 15:5 says “He took him (Abram) outside and said, ‘Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.’” I stopped running for a moment and

looked all around at this beauty. “No, I cannot count them!” God spoke once again, this time from Isaiah 40:26, “Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.”

What an amazing thought! We serve a God whose power goes well beyond our ability to comprehend. Yet, he has a personal relationship with his creation such that he calls out each star by name. Elsewhere in scripture, we are reminded that God cares and provides for little sparrows; how much more will he care and provide for you? Next time you feel discouraged, go outside at night at look up at the stars. He has a name for each one, and He knows your name too!

God wants us to know him. He wants to talk to you. While I believe that God can speak to us in a number of ways, the primary way that he speaks with us is through His Word. Read God's Word...every day. You never know when He might want to bring his Word back to mind. You might even find yourself in the middle of star show!

RESERVATIONS CONTACT CHANGES

After many years of faithful service, Marie Rhinehart has stepped down from handling reservations. Thank you Marie for doing such a great job! When Marie started taking reservations years ago, our Cookman dormitory was used sparingly, especially the second floor. The renovation of the building greatly spurred use of the building and has kept Marie hopping!

We are pleased to have Beth Charnovich stepping into this role. Beth serves on our board and has also been one of our key contacts for our Cookman dormitory. It is a natural fit.

Beth can be reached by phone at 330.221.9570 or via email at reservations@peniellholinesscamp.com. It is not too early to make reservations for next summer!

DO YOU REMEMBER?

by 2015 Evangelist Greg McDonald



Each of us occasionally sees someone that we haven't seen for a while. This usually leads to statements and questions like, "You look great! How have you been?" or "It's been forever. How are you doing?" These interactions can be uncomfortable, if you are standing

there trying to remember their name that has escaped you. If you remember them well, it can feel like you are just continuing a conversation right from where you left it.

Camps are unique settings that give people the opportunity to continue those conversations. Sometimes it's been a year since we've spoken or conversed, but we have so many things in common that we just take up where we left off. That is one of the best things about camp, that and making new relationships! Most people go to camp to enjoy relationships. I watched as young people bonded in games, snack bar time, Church time, and especially altar time. Adults shared their lives and laughter together doing those same events and activities. It is a very special time for all who attend.

As I reflect on camp and human nature, I wonder if our disconnect that happens with people from camp also can happen with God. We focus at camp on getting close to God. Now I know that we never see God at

MAILING UPDATES

Dorothy Wright, secretary at Venture Church, does a great job maintaining our mailing list. Over the past several months, Dorothy has worked hard to update our list, working directly with databases and technology provided by the USPS. It was quite a time commitment, but in the long run, it should save money and make updating our mailing list much easier. Of course, one of the best ways for us to keep our information accurate is for you to let us know of any changes. Simply email your mailing list updates to mailing@penielholinesscamp.com or call 330.726.2643 ext 7. We appreciate your assistance!

the store and say, "Hey, long time, no see! How have you been doing?" (He's always doing well!!) We do, however, neglect talking to Him and spending time with Him. Then, something goes wrong, and we run to Him. Our first words in prayer are to remind Him who we are and what's going on in our lives. Hmmm? I think he already knows!!

James 4:8 says, "Draw close to God, and He will draw close to you." Unlike human relationships, we are never out of God's thoughts and His presence. We can walk every day in the closeness of His Spirit's presence. Camp enables us to focus on spiritual things without some of the worldly distraction, and that is good! Just remember God left the camp with us, in us! Very quickly the year will roll by and you will be at camp again. You will be reacquainting yourself with people that you haven't seen in a year. Let's not have to spend the time "reacquainting ourselves with God!" Keep your relationship with the Lord fresh every day! Remember, He was so desperate for you to be with Him for all eternity, that He sent His Son to die for YOU! Now that's Love!!

P.S. Eat some bacon today; I know I will!!!

SAFETY UPDATES FOR LEASEHOLDERS

During our association meeting this year, it was decided that each cottage leaseholder should supply their cottage with a smoke detector and fire extinguisher. This equipment must be in place for our 2016 encampment. A household smoke detector and fire extinguisher will do the job.



Secret Agents in Star Fish Lab, 2015 Encampment

RULES OR RELATIONSHIP?

by Leon McClimans



I was thinking about this past summer at Peniel Camp, and I was reminded about my earlier days growing up in a Christian home. This past camp reminded me about my own days as a youth and the emphasis my parents placed on the rules. As a young man growing up in a Pastor's home, there seemed to be a great emphasis on the rules. There are things that you cannot do and places you cannot go. You can't go to movies, to dances, can't play cards, and so on. During my high school days I attended only one dance.

It seemed to me that with all the emphasis being placed on the rules, the relationship part of being a "Christian" was overlooked. So what I learned about following Christ was all the things I could not do if I committed my life to Him. It was much later that I learned that the relationship with Jesus is more important than the rules. When Israelites were crossing the Red Sea, it was the relationship that God was concerned about. He wanted them to worship Him and sacrifice to Him. It was later that God gave them the Ten Commandments, but as I understand it, the relationship he had with His people was His primary concern.

Being a person of holiness means that we first must be in relationship with Jesus. Without that, there can be no meaningful rules and no motivation to follow those rules. But, you cannot have a relationship without the rules. Rules and relationship seem to go together, much like love and marriage, horse and carriage. You can't have one without the other. But as I mentioned, when I was a young person growing up around the Church, there was a strong emphasis on rules and less so on relationship.

When we put more emphasis on one and exclude the other we are out of balance. Rules without relationship seem more like a tyrant. Relationship without rules would mean chaos and confusion. Holiness to the Lord means finding the balance between the two.

BRIANNA'S SONG

This fall, Peniel instituted a special scholarship program for Crawford County teens. Brianna's foster family found out about our program through the Bair Foundation, a ministry for foster families. God met Brianna in a wonderful way at Peniel. She shared a special reading in the talent show, which we are privileged to share with you. Brianna's foster mom also told me that it will be published in a national foster parent magazine. We all were blessed to have Brianna attend Peniel this year. Everywhere we saw her, she had a big smile on her face. In fact, she enjoyed the camping experience so much that she attended Portage Camp Meeting with some of her new friends from Peniel!

He went out of my life but came back in...

All of those things, that he said and he did...

So I prayed on my knees, begging him please, I don't want to forgive him and I know that I have to because I have to forgive myself.

I want to be in The Lord's House someday. I don't want to be mad and distressed.

I want to see my mother someday, I know she is in Heaven because I was four for her last beat of heart. I want to see her again and I want to see you Lord.

I prayed on my knees, begging him please, then I felt a hand on my shoulder push me to the altar. That was the best day of my life.

Now He's my Savior, I'll love him forever; you are my Father I never had.

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