

CAMP BOOKINGS STRONG FOR 2014

We are already heavily booked in the Cookman this year. If you have booked a room and have not yet paid your deposit, we recommend paying it as soon as possible. After June 17, 2014, we will release rooms that do not have deposits.

Don't forget that Peniel Camp is equipped to handle campers and RVs. We have water, septic and electric hookups.

ATTENTION PROSPECTIVE TEEN COUNSELORS & CHILDREN'S VOLUNTEERS

Do you have a desire to lead and mentor the next generation of God's Church? Do you like to have fun and do some crazy things too? Then being a counselor for our teen program might be a good fit for you!

If you would like to apply for a counselor position for the upcoming encampment, simply go to www.peniellholinesscamp.com and click on "Ministry Opportunities," then pull up the application and carefully follow the instructions to apply. We hope to announce our counseling team in May, so apply soon if you would like to be considered.



Fun times and good food at camp!

Peniel Postings

WINTER 2014

VOL. 26, NO. 2

Peniel Holiness Association Conneautville, PA

www.peniellholinesscamp.com

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 2014

Please note these dates in your 2014 calendars. Your participation is essential for a successful camp meeting!

Work Days:

Saturday, May 31
Friday & Saturday, June 20 & 21
Friday & Saturday, July 11 & 12

119th Annual Encampment:
Thursday, July 17, through Sunday, July 27

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

TODAY'S VICTORY...ROOTED IN OUR PAST

by Camp President Dan Segool



Greetings friends and campers! This winter has been one with a capital "W!" Yet, when I think of the camp, my heart is warmed as I ponder memories of summers gone by

and plan for one to come. If you haven't yet, please check out the Peniel Winter Promo video on our website or Facebook page. It will put a smile on your face!

I thought I would take this column to update you on the outcome of our real estate tax situation. As you are aware from previous communications, in the fall of 2012, the Crawford County Assessment Office changed our status from exempt to taxable on all our property, with the exception of the Tabernacle building. Prior to that time, ALL our property had been exempt.

This action meant very serious financial consequences for Peniel, as it meant a tax bill approaching \$15,000 per year. Most of you have already heard the news, but if you haven't, I am so pleased to report that just prior to Christmas we received notice that the decision had been reversed and our exempt status was reinstated. The process of making that happen was the subject of much prayer and effort. I can't possibly share all the details of how this came about in this limited space, but I will give you a quick overview.

First of all, the action to change our status to taxable was not anticipated by us, nor was it due to anything we had done. The county was actively seeking to tax properties (including other camps) that previously had not been taxed. Due to an oversight, we did not become aware of our change in status until the spring of 2013, and by then we were already past the time to appeal and things looked bleak.

The board met and we agreed that we had no choice but to seek legal counsel. It took time to

find someone willing to help, but in May, we were notified by the Alliance Defending Freedom that they had attorneys who would take on our case.

What followed were many emails and phone calls as the attorneys gathered information and researched our case. During our encampment, this was a matter of great prayer! We left camp knowing that so much hung in the balance. I felt so strongly that God's will was to continue our ministry in our present location. So, I felt He had a solution, but I did not know what it was. Our attorneys were working very hard, but also careful to not mislead us, we were facing an uphill battle! In August, I received word from our attorneys that they wanted to change our defense. While researching similar cases, they found reference to a case naming Peniel Camp. Further research found that Peniel Holiness Association appealed a decision to tax the camp in 1919. The county took action to tax the camp following the construction of the dining hall/dormitory. The county argued that the building was separate from the Tabernacle and not necessary for worship. The camp argued that because we are a camp meeting and people come from quite a distance, food and lodging IS necessary if people are going to come and worship. They argued that all aspects of the grounds are integral and necessary for worship at a camp meeting. Peniel won the appeal.

Our attorneys said that our use of the grounds has not changed, and that the county is making the same argument they made in 1919. In their opinion, the court had already ruled on the matter in our favor, and although much time had passed, the elements of the case had not changed and therefore, the assessment board could not over-rule a court decision. It is interesting to note that we had no prior knowledge of this case, it is not in any of the camps history records. One board member said, "The Lord led them to find this." We felt that this is what we had been praying for.

We went before the assessment board in September and presented our case. They listened attentively, and requested extra time to consider the matter. Our attorney advised them to take as much time as they would like. She felt it was a very unique case, and required a careful study of the facts. *(continued inside)*

TODAY'S VICTORY (CONTINUED)

Waiting was tough. We knew that we had already suffered one defeat. Our efforts to change the 2013 taxes were struck down. We were too late for that. Still, I felt if we only had to pay one year, we could do it. The future hung in the balance.

On December 16, I received a call from a breathless Beryl McClay. She had just received an assessment change notice from the county. She was so excited, I could feel her shaking through the phone as she read, "Judge Prather decision upheld, return to exempt status." We rejoiced and prayed together, and Beryl hurried off to fax me a copy. I wanted to see that notice! I called our attorneys and they were delighted.

So that's how it happened. There is so much more to share, as I believe this holds much meaning for our camp and what God wants to do through this ministry. I'm going to be preaching a special message during our camp meeting centering on this event, not just what happened, but where I believe God would have us go from here. I hope you will be at camp to hear this very important message. Details will be in the camp folder, which will be published in May.

I have always been glad for the faithfulness of campers down through the years. They have given us such a great heritage. I never realized they gave us the future too! You might be wondering, "Who is Judge Prather?" Judge Prather presided over the appeal that Peniel won in 1919. Rooted in the past, the case provided the victory for our future.

KEY CONTACTS FOR PENIEL

President: Dan Segool
330.270.1306 • president@penielholinesscamp.com
Vice President: Gary Lyons
814.774.5971 • VP@penielholinesscamp.com
Buildings & Grounds: Lee Greenfield
724.588.4919

Contributions:
Peniel Holiness Camp
C/O Jody McCue
422 Garrett Street
Kent, OH 44240

GROUNDS UPDATE

Each year, we are continually evaluating our facilities, equipment and supplies to see where we have needs and how we can make improvements. Currently, we are putting together our plans for this spring.

We do have some equipment and supply needs that we would like to make you aware of. In the dining hall, our salad bar has been very well received. We would like to install a permanent **salad bar fixture** with a "sneeze shield." If you are aware of a used restaurant unit, please contact Dan.

Also, we can always use **kitchen towels, rubber gloves and cleaning supplies**. Our Kitchen supervisor, Peggy, says that we need additional ice cream scoopers (one half cup). I don't know about you, but I think it is critical that we make sure we have ice cream scoops before camp starts! We appreciate the recent donation of dishes from Venture Church Streetsboro. This will really help us, especially during heavily attended meals. We are also seeking **school lunch compartment trays**, which would really speed up our operations by reducing the amount of dish washing we have to do.

Over in Cookman, we are looking for a new high capacity dehumidifier and ten 5000 BTU window AC units. This would allow us to offer AC in all second floor rooms.

If you would like to make a material donation to Peniel, please contact Dan Segool or Lee Greenfield PRIOR to bringing your donation, so we can be sure it will be put to good use! Thank you for your support.



Cookman

THE JESUS PUSHER

by 2014 Evangelist Stephen Manley



I am a Jesus pusher!!!! I am not the first one. I have joined the heart of God, the first Jesus pusher. The moment man sinned (Genesis 3) God started pushing Jesus. He gave the first Messianic promise, declaring Jesus to be the solution to the

curse on mankind. The focus of Noah and the ark was this one Man, Jesus. The significance of Abraham was Jesus. The only reason for Moses and the law was this one Man, Jesus. All the prophets spoke of nothing but this one Man, Jesus. Every sacrifice lamb offered in the temple was about this one Man, Jesus. The Old Testament pushed Jesus on us.

The New Testament is a Jesus pusher. Angels filling the sky with praise in the opening scene declares the focus. Shepherds captured by the news run everywhere pushing Jesus. A star pushes Jesus on the wise men. They go to Jerusalem to push Jesus on Herod the King. John the Baptist is a Jesus pusher. Everything is about Jesus. I am in line with a long heritage of Jesus pushers. I have not invented anything. I have only been captured by the same obsession. I am caught up in the stream of the rushing message of the histories, Jesus. There is nothing else about which to speak. I want to push Jesus on you. You must join me in this addiction. Let Him capture you. It is not a struggle, unnatural, or difficult. It is a flow; it fits my life. Let Him capture you anew. A group of Jesus pushers are coming together July 17-27, 2014 to push Jesus. No other agenda is proposed. We sure do want you to join us.

- The Jesus Pusher

Find up-to-date photos of fall work day and other information at the "Peniel Holiness Camp" facebook page. Visit us online at www.peniellholinesscamp.com

2014 EVANGELISTS

Preaching: Larry Leckrone & Stephen Manley

Song: Tab Beechler

Youth: Adam & Valerie Vanaman

Children: Jason Campbell

FAITH

by 2014 Evangelist Larry Leckrone



Faith is an amazing, yet simple and crucial element in our walk with God. However, please don't misunderstand the word simple to mean *easy*. Faith is not always easy because it requires trust even when we cannot see or

understand. A child may have "child-like faith" but it is much more difficult for an adult who understands the many possibilities for failure to have it. It's possible though—and expected by God if we, His children, are to grow in our faith and influence others in theirs. James gives us proof texts like, "Without faith it is impossible to please Him" and "Faith without works is dead." J. C. Ryle said, "Faith is to the soul what life is to the body. Prayer is to faith what breath is to the body. How a person can live and not breathe is past my comprehension, and how a person can believe and not pray is past my comprehension too." Let's claim the literal "breath of God" to fill our spiritual lungs and give our prayers for Peniel Holiness Camp 2014 a rising tide of buoyant faith to see souls saved, reclaimed, and sanctified. God is still in that business today and doing it when His people pray. A. W. Tozer said, "If faith is the gaze of the heart at God, and if this gaze is but the raising of the inward eyes to meet the all-seeing eyes of God, then it follows that it is one of the easiest things possible to do." Let's not complicate it. Let's do it! Let's trust Him to do what He promised. It won't be long and camp week will be here. The greater our investment, the greater our return!