

DLBC
PO Box 27
Blackduck MN 56630

The Deeper Life Times

A Bit of News, Information, and Miscellaneous Stuff from Deener Life Bible Camp

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Extra Special Super Ultra Bonus Photo Edition Plus

Greetings from the Editor:

Time is a funny thing. Three months worth of summer takes five minutes, yet getting through the line at Wal-Mart takes at least three months... The last time I sat down to write an opening to this newsletter, I was thinking about how summer might finally be upon us. Now, I'm finding myself wondering where exactly it went.

Personally, I often find it difficult to get my mind out of the sort of routine, day-to-day thinking that makes it so easy to drive past the roses instead of stopping to smell them once in a while. For that reason, I'm thankful to live in a place that has well-defined seasons, because the changes in the weather and the way the world looks and feels serve as reminders to me of my place in this world. Try as I might, I cannot control the life I lead any more than I can control the changing of the autumn leaves, the chill of the winter wind, or the warmth of the summer sun. I can adapt to life's changing circumstances just like I can adapt to the change of seasons by putting on an extra coat or three, but life itself is something that I am utterly powerless to control. I cannot control tomorrow any more than I can control tomorrow's weather. What I can control is my attitude toward these things. Call me crazy, but I was actually excited the first time a mosquito bit me this summer. I'm even looking forward to having to plug my car in at night so that it will start in the morning...

It's my hope that by choosing to experience and appreciate these obvious and routine things in life, that I will become better able to experience and appreciate the things that are easier to overlook and neglect—relationships with old friends, relationships with new friends, and my relationship with a Friend who already died for me once...

This summer at DLBC was a good one in many ways. A number of young people began a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and many more found Him to be a better friend than they realized. It's difficult to describe the ways that God works in people's lives when the distractions of routine life are lifted for a while, but it's an amazing thing to be a part of. The gritty reality of the burdens that people carry in secret is something that pierces through the mindless routine of modern life, but the joy that comes with sharing those burdens as Christ intended is more profound and fulfilling than most any other that I've known.

Thank you for being a part of a ministry where this joy is allowed to flow freely.

In Christ,

Rick Wenz



A mildly enthusiastic camper



The Chronicles of Flann

Flann: Caretaker, multi-week director, and Junior High week survivor. Barely. Fortunately, Flann is still with us despite the ordeal, and able to share his perspective as one who has worn many a hat at DLBC over the years...

Every year at DLBC you see people that were here the year before, whether staff or campers. At some point stories are told, some stories will be funny moments from their past year or from last summer (which you hope don't include embarrassment on your part.) Some of these stories will be about what the person has done in the last year, and a number of stories will be about the persons spiritual journey in one way or another. These are what are expected at a Bible camp. One thing used to bug me about some of these stories. People would come back to DLBC and said their year was horrible, they fell away from God, felt lost, abandoned, so on. How could this happen? They were on fire when they left, where has their flame gone?



Flann is so incredibly skillful at mowing the lawn that he can even do it no-headed...



Nobody's face got stuck that way. A small measure of WD-40 was required, however...

Stories that included these kinds of statements used to bug me. These stories don't bother me as much any more. I realize that when these stories are told, those that do the telling realize that they are not where they should be in their spiritual journey. They are struggling, looking for help, support, and prayer. But in all of this they are trying to move forward in their journey, they are not stopping, they are not getting comfortable where they are at. They are moving forward in their walk with Christ.

Now when I hear these stories I am challenged, maybe not with what the story teller is struggling with, but challenged not to be complacent. It's my firm belief that if one is not struggling with their faith, they may be losing it soon. Not to say that there aren't moments of rest, but for the most part movement is there, forward or backward, you choose. So share the stories, share the struggle, pray for one another, and always be challenged.
~Flann



Embracing the summer's theme, Maisy succeeded in finding something bigger



Beware of levitating ducklings



Discovering the super-hero within

The summer in review

Over the course of this past summer, a total of 243 campers spent a week at DLBC. Add in the 1st & 2nd grade camp, college & career week, and the couples' retreat (whose camp "weeks" are shorter for various reasons) and the grand total is a bit over 300. This is fewer than last year by about four dozen, but our Lord is not the type to cancel an appearance if ticket sales aren't up to par... But He does have a way of working that's hard to describe. His work is not always easily seen at a glance, and it's entirely futile to try to put a number to it. With that in mind, the staff and counselors of DLBC make note of the various expressions of spiritual growth and commitment expressed by campers throughout the week. Since there are few individuals who are present at DLBC for the entire camping season, it's one way that we can encourage each other and communicate the way the God continues to work in campers' lives when we're not able to be around to watch it first hand.

The photos here are an attempt to visually represent the number of campers making various commitments over the course of the



Representing those who received salvation...

summer.

No comment is being made about the specific individuals pictured, but the portion of the group that is highlighted shows the relative number of commitments or decisions expressed by campers who spent a week at DLBC.

Quite a few people stand out. Again, it's impossible to measure or fully understand the way that God works in the hearts of people, but all in all, it's an encouraging picture. The work of Christ in the hearts of men and women does not always express itself as a commitment to one thing or another. A spirit that arrives broken may well leave broken, but with a cast of friendship, love, and affirmation that provides the support and protection needed for healing. A darkened soul that has never known light might see it for the first time—and though it may return to darkness, it does so with the knowledge that light exists. And those who have grown weary of religion, with its man-made falsehoods, hypocrisies, and failures may leave reminded of the difference between religion and faith.

"Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: 'Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as unknown I am going to proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.'"
~Acts 17:22-25



...and those committing to service in our Lord's name...



Taking time to read a good book



...and expressing renewed dedication to Christ, or a spiritual decision/commitment of some other form.



Day began with an empty concrete slab



Building walls on the new basketball court



“Does that look plumb to you?”

Finishing this project will be something that will benefit DLBC’s ministry for decades to come, and it’s something that could be done with very little sacrifice on anybody’s part if we band together and work as one. The DLBC camp board has collectively committed to matching \$10,000 in contributions toward this project, and most of us were also around to help drive nails on a recent (somewhat rainy) September weekend. We’re committed to seeing this project through to a finish, and humbly ask for your help in this effort.

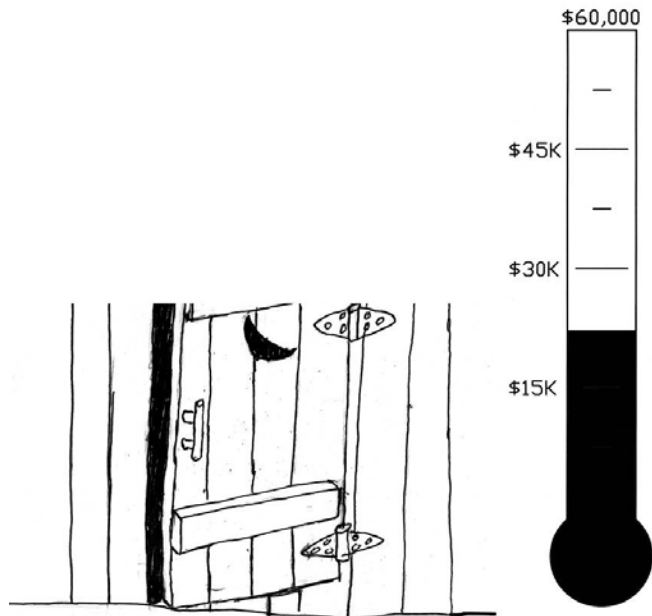
The image at right illustrates the funds raised for the shower house to date, while the thermometer represents expenditures. They’re about even at this point, so continued progress will require that funding be made available.

Shower Houses & Bathrooms:

It’s a bird! It’s a plane! It’s... A showerhouse? YES! Despite the often-slow progress leading up to this point, some very significant progress is being made on the ladies’ shower house & bathrooms, as should be apparent from the photos here. On September 8th, a number of skilled volunteers joined forces with the DLBC camp board to frame and sheath the ladies’ shower house. In a single day’s work, this project went from being an empty concrete slab to having the framing nearly finished. This is a very exciting development, because with the framing done and the structure mostly enclosed, work can now progress through the winter months—no more waiting for snow to go away. **The shower house could very easily be ready in time for camp next year, IF we can raise the necessary funds to complete it.** This doesn’t have to be a painful task, because the power of teamwork in the act of giving is no less significant than it is in the process of building. Putting the rec hall deck up took the better part of three months worth of weekends for a lone individual who had occasional help. In contrast, the cooperative efforts of a dozen or so workmen put up the structure of an entire building in a single day. Likewise, putting siding, shingles and windows on the showerhouse might require a year’s worth of one man’s savings. But if everybody who received this newsletter were to contribute one portrait of President Hamilton, it would happen without much inconvenience or burden to anyone.



With enough hands on the rope, even small people can move big things.



“Facilities” represent funds raised to date
Thermometer represents expenditures



Quick progress



Near the day's end



An illustration of Eph 3:12 and 1 Cor. 13



The ladies' showers had some plumbing issues one week... Some were more committed to personal care than others. (That particular faucet is never warm...)

A relatively new part of DLBC is a something referred to as "life is worship." For a portion of each day, campers have the opportunity to explore creative or artistic means of expressing their faith. The photo at left is one individual's representation of a few passages from the New Testament.

Another part of DLBC that has come about in recent years is the concept of a prayer cabin. During the high school weeks when the demand for craft space isn't as high, the craft cabin by the chapel becomes a prayer cabin. It's a quiet place set aside for prayer and reflection, where people can share their thoughts, inspirations, troubles and joys, whether in solitude before our Lord, or with each other through an anonymous journal, or the paper that covers the walls. The photo below is one of many simple yet profound expressions of praise adorning the walls of the prayer cabin this summer.





Fun occasionally requires getting one's hand dirty.



Roll of plastic: \$10
Electricity to run garden hose: \$0.10
Using tongue to steer down impromptu water slide: priceless



the lunch line



some very crafty young fellows...



Hanging around...



Caption



Stampede.



A word from the kitchen staff

Like everything else at DLBC, running the camp kitchen is a volunteer effort. Over the course of a typical summer, several dozen individuals take time out of their schedules to be a part of camp in this way. Below is a letter from one such volunteer that was originally sent to the seven Minnesota churches that are formally associated with DLBC. It's being re-printed here to pass the message along to those who may be part of other church bodies.



**This salad was not very popular.
Please, pass on your recipes for better ones.**

SHEILA BELLINGER
7775 Hemingway Ave S.
Cottage Grove MN 55016
Phone (651)330-7771
msbellinger07@comcast.net

August 20,2007

Dear Friends of Deeper Life Bible Camp:

Let me introduce myself. My name is Sheila and I am the daughter of Lonnie and Vonnie Wernberg from the Blackduck Evangelical Free Church.

The week of July 8,2007 through July 14, 2007, I worked in the kitchen cooking meals for the campers. Some of you may not realize how much time and work the kitchen personnel put into cooking for one week. Most days I spent 9 to 10 hours preparing meals, desserts, and snacks for the campers. I am very grateful for the volunteers that came from Bagley, Bemidji, Border and Blackduck. They helped prepare meals and bake cookies for nightly snacks. I really appreciate those that came to help.

During the week, we noticed that the camp kitchen needs a few updates. One of the updates is kitchen utensils. A list of items is identified on the next page. One major update needed is the kitchen itself. If you have not visited the camp kitchen in a while, you probably do not realize that the floor needs to be replaced. Anyone wanting to donate to the kitchen fund should indicate on their donation "kitchen fund" and mail it to:

Deeper Life Bible Camp
Attn: Dwight Warden, Financial secretary
PO Box 27
Blackduck, MN 56630

Another request made by the volunteers was a camp cookbook. The kitchen only has one cookbook and it does not have many recipes in it. I am requesting that each church compile their favorite recipes and forward them to the address or email address listed above. I and others have volunteered to type the recipes up and place them in page protectors in a three ring binder. We would greatly appreciate each church's input and would like to have all of the recipes gathered by October 31st, 2007.

Sincerely,

Sheila Bellinger

Needed Items:

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| -Kitchen floor | -Mini whisks |
| -Pastry cutter | -Flour sifter |
| -Air popcorn poppers | -Cooling racks |
| -Stainless steel strainers | -Glass microwave bowls |
| -Plastic cookie containers | -Heavy duty tongs |
| - Pampered Chef apple corer/slicer, heavy duty plastic spoons and spatulas | |



The cheesy bread passes inspection.

Useful Information: Camp Dates & Contact Info

If it concerns: Please Contact:

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Volunteering to counsel..... | Marlin Bjornrud |
| Volunteering for staff (Kitchen, First Aid, etc.)..... | Vonnie Wernberg |
| Volunteering to clean/ build/maintain..... | Daryl Wallin |
| Monetary gifts/donations..... | DLBC |
| Material / in-kind donations..... | Lonnie Wernberg |
| | Daryl Wallin |
| Receipts | Dwight Warden |



Contact Info:

Flann Christiansen
Caretaker
Deeper Life Bible Camp
PO Box 27
Blackduck, MN 56630-0027
(218)835-4902

Camp Board Meetings for 2006-07

Oct. 27th 9 AM...Grand Rapids E. Free Church
Dec. 1st 9 AM... Grand Rapids E. Free Church

Camp board meetings are open to the public; all are welcome to attend as non-voting members. If the nature of specific agenda items requires discretion, these items will be addressed in a closed session.

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Vonnie Wernberg-
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Daryl Wallin
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2008 Camp Schedule

| | |
|---|--|
| Camp Workday | May 17 th |
| Counselor prep..... | June 13-15 th |
| 11 th & 12 th grade.... | June 15 th -21 st rd |
| 9 th & 10 th | June 22 nd -28 th |
| 1 st & 2 nd | June 29 th - July 1 st |
| 3 rd & 4 th | July 6 th -12 th |
| 5 th & 6 th | July 13 th - 19 th |
| 7 th & 8 th | July 20 th -26 th |
| College & Career..... | July 31 st - August 3 rd th |

How to Help Out

Be involved. It's not really much more complex than that. Be part of the staff for the summer. Paint a cabin. Bring your kids. Help out financially. Support the campers and staff that you know, and encourage each other to grow throughout the year.

Deeper Life Bible Camp is a ministry that depends on people, on both the giving and receiving ends. Funny thing is, it's sometimes difficult to tell which one you're on at any given moment. Most folks who give of their time to be a part of DLBC find themselves eager to return, having found that their investment brought an abundant profit of spiritual refreshment and fellowship. On the other hand, those who come as campers expecting to receive more often than not end up giving in ways that are easily overlooked—the friendships formed in an atmosphere of Christ-like love have been a life raft for countless souls who have sailed the seas of hardship over the years... And it doesn't happen without people like the one reading these words.

Future Projects:

While completing the ladies shower house is the top priority in terms of major projects, there are a number of others that will need to be addressed in the coming years. Once the ladies' shower house is completed, the next project will be to address the issue of the kitchen floor needing replacement. Beyond that, other things that need to be done include in no particular order:

- Re-siding Indus & other cabins in need thereof
- Addressing the problem of "the sinking chapel"
- Acquiring a lawn mower that isn't on its last legs
- Replacing/fixing the well, well, well aged staff cabins
- Replacing/fixing the caretaker's trailer home.
- Installing a new mound system for the guys' side of the camp.
- Building a new guys' shower house.



Electronic version available!

To receive future newsletters via E-mail, send a note to **rick_wiens@mncable.net**, and include your name & mailing address. The electronic version will have full-color photos, and will be a lot easier on the stamp budget ☺

Check out the DLBC website! www.dlbconline.com

The website has photos, a chat window, info... Lots of little tidbits from this past summer and before. Take a look!