

Prayer Requests & Praises

Praise:

- ◆ Another off-season of visitations, Bible correspondence lessons, and Mini Camps is complete.
- ◆ Praise God for the campers in whom we have seen spiritual growth since last summer. Even though it is not every camper (not even close!), for a few it has been substantial.

Prayer:

- ◆ Guidance as plan and prepare for summer camp. Please pray that God's name will be glorified in everything we do.
- ◆ God's provision for normal year round ministry and for the remaining \$100,000 needed for the land.

Ray Bird Ministries, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization governed by a board of directors including: Rev. Craig Clapper, Bob Fogley (honorary), Michelle Helmkamp, Jeff Korhorn, Rev. Verneil Lewis, Chris Linker, Randy Meert, Tom Thompson, Billie Jo Wawrzynski, Myrtle Wilson, and Tom Yarger.

The mission of Ray Bird Ministries is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with Michiana children and teens, nurture those believers, and prepare them for participation in local churches. Ray Bird Ministries specializes in serving families who could not otherwise afford meaningful camping experiences.

Donations were made...

In memory of Kevin Howell
(from The Voices of Praise)

In memory of Earl M. Leonard
(from Ruth Leonard)

In memory of Thayne Garberick
(from Ray and Diane Ritchey)

In memory of Ross Billger
(from Albert and Judy Seale,
Robert and Kathryn Good,
Joan Waldron, Megan Lahe,
Nancy Farrell, and
First Source Bank)



Spring Work Day: Saturday May 14th

We will be opening up the camp for summer by doing everything from putting docks in the water to planting flowers.

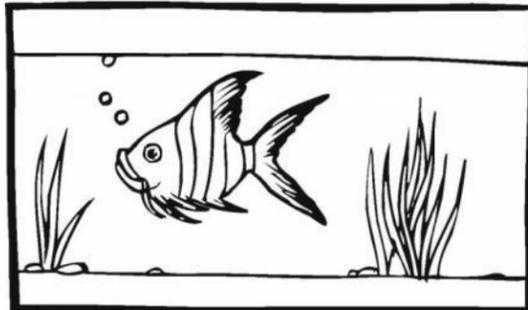
Work begins at 9:00 AM. Lunch will be served.

Please RSVP by emailing susan@raybird.org or calling 574-232-8523.



WANTED

Golf cart (electric or gasoline)—If you are not able to donate it, we would love to borrow it for this summer only (for a seasonal employee with a disability).



Aquarium/fish tanks (all sizes, empty ones ☺) Wanted for our new nature center. They will be used to house native aquatic and land animals for educational purposes.



The Potter's Wheel

A publication of Ray Bird Ministries "God's Hand Shaping Young Lives"



Some Lessons Are Better Caught Than Taught

In the Spring Snail Mail (Bible correspondence) lessons and at Spring Mini Camp, campers learn about prayer. But there comes a point in time when one has to learn by actually praying. At our Spring Mini Camp (April 15-17) campers participated in a city prayer tour which includes stops at a public school, an urban church, and a neighborhood park. Some of the campers amazed us again with both what they prayed for and with their sincerity.

Would you like to receive this publication electronically? Don't want this publication? Please call 574-232-8523 or email mike@raybird.org



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“Uncle George” and “Aunt Pat”

In February I received word that Yvonne “Pat” Phillips, the wife of Camp Ray Bird’s second director, passed away. And while I never had the chance to meet her personally, I am aware of some of the ways God used both Pat and her husband George at Camp Ray Bird. Over my last ten years I have talked to many former campers, (many parents and grandparents of current campers), several former camp counselors, and many supporters who have told me all that “Uncle George” and “Aunt Pat” meant to them. It is obvious even many years later that God used them in a mighty way to share the love of God and the good news about Jesus with thousands of campers. The twenty years they spent at Camp Ray Bird were memorable and important. But perhaps equally important, Camp Ray Bird continues today largely because of their commitment to God and to troubled kids from Michiana.

I was not alive in 1965 when Mr. Ray Bird retired at the age of seventy-five. According to my research, the City Rescue Mission, of which Ray Bird was the first director, closed around that time. The City Rescue Mission camp (later renamed Camp Ray Bird) remained open. It does not seem that Mr. Bird had any kind of plan to pass the baton, but thankfully a man by the name of George Phillips (a retired businessman and former Youth For Christ staff member) came along and wanted to run the camp. For a time the City Rescue Mission leased the property to Teen’s Inc. (the name of George Phillips’ organization) but eventually the two boards merged into one. Without George and Pat, Michiana might not have a place like Camp Ray Bird. *(To learn more about the Phillips’ years, please visit www.raybird.org/who and watch part 2 of Camp Ray Bird’s historical documentary.)*

Even if Mr. Bird did not have a plan to see the work continue, God did. Throughout the Scriptures we read that God’s heart is near the poor and needy. Certainly many of these kids are living in generationally poverty and may themselves continue that cycle. But right now they are just kids who through no fault of their own were born into tough families. God wanted there to be a camp for such kids so He started it through Ray and Ethel Bird and used George and Pat Phillips to continue it.

Many years later the camp still welcomes hundreds of kids each summer. Many have deep hurts and not many reasons to be optimistic about life. When they come they get to enjoy a fun and exciting week. They get three square meals a day. Most of the kids live in cabins in the woods and if they didn’t pay attention well on the drive here they think they are a long way from home. During their week they learn about a God who made them and loves them. They learn about Jesus who came, died, and rose to make right everything that went so wrong in the garden of Eden. They learn about and experience, by watching their counselors and the staff, a different way of living. I would love to tell you that camp forever changes every child who comes through our entrance, but it doesn’t. I do know that for many kids it is an unforgettable experience. I pray that in God’s time they will be able fully process that Camp Ray Bird and all its “Uncle Georges” and “Aunt Pats” were here to point them to Him.



Above: Uncle George and Aunt Pat
On right hand page: Glimpses of Winter and Spring Mini Camps

Sincerely,
Mike



Due to all the rain, this is one of the only outside photos from Spring Mini Camp!


a camp for all seasons

Sponsors needed for summer camp. Can you help?

Did you know that most campers pay only \$30 to come to Camp Ray Bird for a week?
That’s right. The vast majority (over 90%) of our campers pay \$30 to come to camp for a week based on their household income. The real cost to Ray Bird Ministries is about \$300. The difference is made up by donations by people like you.

- \$53 sponsors a camper for a day
- \$265 sponsor a camper for a week
- \$540 sponsors a camper for both a regular week and a special discipleship week of camp
- \$2,120 sponsors a cabin (8 campers) for a week

850 or so campers will visit Camp Ray Bird this summer. Will you be a sponsor for this summer?