

Praise

- 2013 was another good year of ministry at Camp Ray Bird!
- Several renovations are coming to a close...some more are on their way.
- This has been the busiest “off season” with retreat groups.
- The Board of Directors has commissioned Camp Ray Bird’s 8th director, David Mui.
- 18 of 38 summer staff members have been hired for the coming summer.

Prayer

- That campers at the upcoming Spring Mini Camp would grow more in their relationship with Jesus, specifically through prayer.
- This year we are distributing applications via local businesses and organizations. Pray people would see them and register their kids.
- The 2014 Summer is on its way! Please pray God would bring people to camp—staff, volunteers, and campers.
- That God would prompt the right people to apply for being summer counselors.

Donations were made

- In memory of “Uncle George” and “Aunt Pat” Phillips (from Mike and Barbara Kline).
- In honor of Mike Houghtaling (from Neal & Allison Brady).

Join Us for Upcoming Events

May 9 *Rotary Club Auction*

The Granger Sunrise & Roseland Rotary Clubs are sponsoring Camp Ray Bird at their 14th Annual Auction at the Waterford Hotel on US 931, South Bend, Indiana. For more info: david@raybird.org

May 20 *Spring Forward*

Please join us at camp for a casual dinner, a brief ministry update, and a “passing of the torch” to our new director. This is a fantastic opportunity to understand the ministry of Camp Ray Bird and to raise money for the 2014 camping season! Please RSVP with the enclosed response card by May 12th.

May 24 *Spring Work Day*

Come help get camp ready for the summer. Lunch will be provided (you’ll be hungry!) Start time: 9:00 am Email for more info: shawn@raybird.org

Wanted

- Construction paper and washable markers susan@raybird.org for details
- Volunteers to help mow grass shawn@raybird.org for details
- Lowes, Home Depot, and Menards paraphernalia for this summer’s “Builder” theme, i.e. T-shirts, hats, signs...anything!
- Volunteers for the Spring Work day on May 24

Shopping on Amazon? Try AmazonSmile.

Amazon donates to Ray Bird Ministries with each purchase.



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.

Ray Bird Ministries, Inc. [501(c)(3)] would like to extend a very special THANK YOU to our Board of Directors for their dedication and support of our efforts. Members include Linda Burrell, Craig Clapper, Bob Foegley (honorary), Michelle Helmkamp, Phyllis Hueni, Jeff Korhorn, Randy Meert, Kevin Mitschelen, John Rader, Tom Thompson, Don Wierenga, and Keith Walatka.



Campers walking on the (frozen) water of Bass Lake, playing broom ball with the staff.

Thank You to our Supporters and Friends

Your support for Camp Ray Bird has helped us summer after summer. Please continue the tradition as we gear up for Summer 2014. We anticipate one to remember—one in which children and youth of the community will be enriched by the Gospel of Jesus Christ and taught what it means to live for Christ.

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From the Director's Desk: *A Tangled Mess or a Relational Web*

“How’s the new job going?” is usually the first questions people ask me when I introduce myself as the new director of Camp Ray Bird. I tell them about different parts of my job such as fundraising, hiring, and planning. But what has felt like the biggest part of my job is getting to know the people who are connected with CRB. I’ve been amazed at how diverse these people are, but there is a unifying characteristic—their value of God’s kingdom shown in their ministry to the people in their community.

At a recent lunch meeting with Irene, a member from a local church that supports CRB, I was describing this “networking” aspect of my job. I started to say it was like being thrown into a tangled mess, but she rephrased it as a “relational web”. Thanks Irene; I think your description is much better!

You see, the reason you’re getting this newsletter is because at some point in your past, you made a connection with Camp Ray Bird. Maybe you were a camper or staff member. Maybe you, like Irene, are a member of a church who has long supported CRB. Maybe you’ve never experienced CRB, but you regularly pray for us or give financially. Regardless of *how* you made the connection you *are* connected. (At least you haven’t contacted us to take your name off of the mailing list!) And may God bless you for that.

Jesus’ words to his disciples, recorded in Matthew 9:37-38, were that “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” Jesus isn’t being passive aggressive by hinting that the disciples should become workers. He is saying that the work ahead is bigger than them and that they will need others to join them. The work we do here at CRB is not just us. There are so many who in some way work in this field—generous donors, prayer warriors, like-minded churches and organizations, energized youth pastors, prayerful board members, and loving friends. As a staff, we often pray for these people. We pray God would bless them, that God would keep them connected to CRB, and that God would call more people like them.

I hope this issue of *The Potter’s Wheel* connects you once again to the mission of CRB and reminds you of the sowing and reaping being done here. I pray, per Jesus’ instructions, for workers to be called to the field. He has made it clear to me that I am one—one of many in this relational web. But he has also made it clear that *He* is the one who accomplishes his purposes through us. May we all be about our Father’s business this Spring season.

Blessings,



David Mui, Executive Director

Special Moments at Winter Mini Camp

This winter camp was awesome. It wasn’t the typical weekend because it included a special dinner in honor of Mike and his years of service. Over dessert, several campers and staff shared with the group about the impression Mike made on them and their wishes for him. Susan presented and commentated a slideshow highlighting the last 13 years of camp and the relationship she and her husband, Shawn, had formed with Mike. Later that evening we all laid hands on Mike to pray. With eyes closed, and the warm touch of a hand on a shoulder, our campers and staff thanked God for Mike’s influence and loving spirit. It truly blessed us to hear the little voices of our campers speaking to our heavenly Father with such compassion and thoughtfulness. If CRB played a part in how they learned to have such a relationship with God, we should be so proud. We are confident, and we are proud. (Pictures on opposite page)



A cabin photo featuring Mike’s beloved “elbow flab”. Oh, the drama!



Mike and his fiancée , Amy, enjoying a trip down memory lane as Susan presents pictures from over the years.



The snow in the dead of winter couldn’t keep these campers away from one of their favorite camp games, “Pit Ball”. Campers will literally play this game day and night.

A 9-Year-Long Prayer Request

The follow is a testimony to God’s faithfulness from Susan Titus.

The past 6 months have seen some huge transitions here at Camp. But we have seen the Lord’s faithfulness in His preparing our hearts, providing abundantly for Mike with a new job & fiancé :) and answering a 9-year-long prayer request we have offered up.

In our first 3 years here we saw 2 different directors and many staff transitions. We came to see how impacting this was to the campers and the staff and it prompted many sober discussions about who would eventually replace us to steward this amazing place. So we set to pray. We prayed that we would know when it was time for us to move on, that we would know the person(s) who would follow us and that there would be a continuity of purpose and vision.

In the past year, I have seen the Lord work through situations to draw a young couple to South Bend. David and Alyssa had both developed a heart for the ministry here and wanted to be more consistently involved. I could spend a lot of words in the long version of this story. But suffice to say, I have been humbled and amazed at God’s answer to our prayers. I sat in Mike’s office last summer as he said “I think I need to be done here, but who is going to replace me?” I replied, “I hate to say this aloud because I am so sad about you leaving, but have you ever thought that David is who the Lord is raising up to fill your role?”. Mike smiled and exclaimed, “YES!”

A lot has happened since that morning in July. The board that governs the ministry here had never met David and faithfully worked through the hiring process with several great candidates. We prayed, fasted and waiting for the lord to speak through the Board of Directors. And He has. We are thankful and excited to work for and serve alongside David as he leads. God is good, all the time.