

Prayer Requests & Praises

Praise:

- ◆ 675 campers have had the opportunity to hear the gospel and experience God's love during the first six weeks
- ◆ Continue to thank God for our new land—with it we have been able to do rustic tent camping with our campers every week. We are also grateful for the endless possibilities with this land.
- ◆ Thank God for providing another amazing group of summer staff that does a fine job of ministering to our campers
- ◆ For a great summer thus far that has been safe and relatively smooth

Prayer:

- ◆ That God will continue to open the eyes of many campers this summer so that they see their need for Christ
- ◆ For love and endurance as we move towards the end of the summer
- ◆ For effective Saturday afternoon visits (by summer staff) and for those campers who will attend our discipleship week at the end of the summer
- ◆ God's provision for camper scholarships and for the remaining \$100,000 needed for the land matching grant

below:

These three girls (and many others) memorized Psalms 47:2, Isaiah 53:6a, Matthew 9:35, Romans 10:9 and Matthew 7:21 to earn a Camp Ray Bird 2011 "Long Live the King" t-shirt.



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 Thayne Garberick
(from Ray and Diane Ritchey)

In memory of Randy Atkinson
(from Danny and Waneta Atkinson)

In memory of Preston Archer
(from Dale and Sue Archer)

In memory of Ross Billger
(from Don Brower)

In honor of Cassondra Ground
(from Mindy Nutter)



The Potter's Wheel

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



Summer Camp 2011

Summer is the most exciting time of the year at Camp Ray Bird. We are currently in the middle of our sixth week of camp and have hosted 675 campers thus far. So far this summer we have battled the heat, the cold, rain, homesickness, and illnesses among staff. In the end, however, we have been able to show God's love and explain the good news about Jesus so we know our labor has not been in vain.

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A Day in the Life of a Camper

(This is not an actual letter from a camper but it does accurately represent what a camper experiences.)



Dear Mom,
So far I'm loving camp! There is never a dull moment. I wake up and walk to the center of camp for flag raising ceremony at 8:15. There I learn the Bible verse of the day from "Sir Lancelittle" (they say he is a distant relative of Sir Lancelot but I'm not so sure). The theme this summer is "Long Live the King," and we are learning about the kingdom of God. After that we head over to the dining hall for breakfast. From there we head upstairs to learn more about the big idea for the day. Today we learned how sin has messed up the world. During our small group time (where our counselors teach my cabin a Bible lesson) my counselors explained that I am part of the problem. After small group I am ready to get out and do something, but first we have to tidy up our cabin. Some of the other kids are real pigs!



We do all kinds of activities starting in the mid morning. Things like archery, canoeing, the challenge course (they tell me it's good for me to learn how to exercise), cooking (today I learned an easy way to make mini pizzas with fiber. I don't really understand fiber but I guess if I eat it life will be better), fishing (I caught my first fish!), go carts, low ropes (they say I need to learn how to communicate and be part of a team), the nature center (there is this really cool owl named Sassy), pit ball, pontoon boat rides, scrapbooking, and swimming lessons. After a busy morning, I am ready to eat lunch. And then they make us take a nap...they call it "horizontal hour." The afternoons are the best! We get to go



swimming, and water sliding. We also get a little something to eat at the snack shop—there I can recite my Bible verses. If I learn all five this week, I get a t-shirt! I'm going to get it and make you proud. After dinner we have another small group time—just our cabin.



Every night the whole camp plays a game like capture the flag. After all this, we take showers. I take one everyday but some of the kids in my cabin don't. That's nasty! Then it's off for a quick snack and then campfire where we sing songs and learn more about God. Finally the day is over and we brush our teeth and go to bed as our counselor reads us a story from the Bible and prays with us. When we wake up, we do it all over again.

I miss you sometimes, but I'm having a lot of fun and I'm learning a lot. I gotta run now—horizontal hour is over.

Love,
Alex



P.S. The food is good here. No need to send any Miracle Whip.



Sponsors are still 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

About 800 campers will visit Camp Ray Bird this summer. Will you be a sponsor for this summer?