

Praise:

- ◆ 25 campers did all their Snail Mail (Bible correspondence lessons) and came back for Spring Mini Camp.
- ◆ The Spring Forward dinner was a fun time and over \$15,000 was given toward sponsoring campers for the coming summer.
- ◆ 29 summer staff members (out of about 36) have already been hired for the coming summer.
- ◆ Mike's girlfriend Amy plans to move up to South Bend from Texas in July.
- ◆ We are thankful to have had some new retreat groups out at camp this spring.

Prayer:

- ◆ That God will bring the kids that really need to be at Camp Ray Bird this summer. 8,000 applications are out in the South Bend schools.
- ◆ For the remainder of the summer staff that need to be hired. Specifically ask for godly college-aged students who will love our campers well.
- ◆ For guidance as we plan and make preparations for summer camp.
- ◆ For all the money necessary for another summer season.

THIS Saturday May 11



Will you join us? We will be mulching trails, planting flowers, and doing other jobs to get camp ready for another season. Workers of all skill levels are wanted. The work will begin at 9:00 AM. Lunch is provided. Please let us know if you are coming so we can plan accordingly by emailing susan@raybird.org or calling our office at 574-232-8523.

Donations were made...

In memory of Pearl Flaherty

(from Bruce and Shannon Runnels)

In memory of Mrs. Gerry Jakes

(from Jan Clapper)

Ray Bird Ministries, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization governed by a board of directors including: Linda Burrell, Bob Foegley (honorary), Michelle Helmkamp, Phyllis Hueni, Jeff Korhorn, John Rader, Tom Thompson, Billie Jo Wawrzynski, and Myrtle Wilson.

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.

WANTED:



Camp Ray Bird is in need of two desktop computers.

Please call or email Shawn Titus if you have one you would like to donate. shawn@raybird.org 574-232-8523.

We are looking for Pizza/ Cookie Crews on Fridays for summer camp 2013. Teams will assemble pizzas for dinner and make cookie dough. Email susan@raybird.org for more details or call 574-232-8523.



The Potter's Wheel

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



Inside this edition:

- The campers are coming!
- Glimpses of Spring Mini Camp
- Spring Forward results

picture: Campers sing for guests who came for a taste of camp at the Spring Forward dinner on Saturday April 13th.

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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The campers are coming! The campers are coming!

Ten years ago as a girls' counselor finished up our staff training week she had the obvious but sudden realization: the campers were coming in just a couple of days. She repeated, "The campers are coming!" several times with a fearful look. She would make this announcement throughout the entire summer but as the season progressed she said it with less fear and more excitement. By the end of the summer no sooner had the last camper been picked up for the week that she would happily announce: "The campers are coming in just 48 hours!"

This fun memory was triggered as I pondered the other day that campers will be here on June 10th—just over a month from now. Ready or not, the campers are coming! I feel both anxiety and excitement about this. The anxiety comes when I think about all that has to happen between now and then. There is a lot for us to do but some of it is out of our control: I still need to hire four girls' counselors. Campership gifts still need to be given. The excitement comes from thinking about what an amazing experience these kids will have. I still vividly remember my experiences at summer camp 30 years ago. I remember how God touched my heart and all the fun I had living life with my counselors and all the boys in my cabin. These same things will be happening for hundreds of kids at Camp Ray Bird this summer.

Thank you giving your time, giving your money, and praying for Camp Ray Bird.

Sincerely,
Mike
Mike Houghtaling, director



Glimpses of Spring Mini Camp, April 12-14



Spring Mini Camp weekend was cold and so it didn't really seem like spring. But this did not stop us from trying to fly kites in the (light) snow. As one of our staff pointed out: It is easier to fly kites in the snow than the rain! We had to get creative with some indoor activities but the campers seemed happy enough just to be at camp.

The campers who attended also came to camp last summer and since then finished 15 Snail Mail (Bible correspondence) lessons. Over the course of the weekend the campers learned about God's unconditional love for us. So many of them—and to be honest, plenty of us—fall into the trap of thinking they must do some things in order to deserve God's love so we were very thankful to have had time with this group of campers.



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.

- \$54 sponsors a camper for a day
- \$270 sponsor a camper for a week
- \$540 sponsors a camper for both a regular week and a week of discipleship camp
- \$2,160 sponsors a cabin (8 campers) for a week

800 or so campers will visit Camp Ray Bird this summer. Will you be a sponsor for this summer? **Checks can be mailed to Ray Bird Ministries or online gifts can be made at www.raybird.org/sponsor**



Summer Forward, April 13th

On Saturday April 13th 60 or so guests came to Camp Ray Bird for Spring Forward.. They ate dinner with our campers who were here for Spring Mini Camp and heard about Camp Ray Bird for the first time or got an update on new things that are happening. The highlight for many was listening to Marguerite, a camper back in the 1930's with Mr. and Mrs. Ray Bird, share about her experiences as a camper and her memories of committing her life to Christ. Thinking about all the campers who have been loved and introduced to Jesus at Camp Ray Bird make us feel so privileged to work here.

One of the goals was to raise money to sponsor campers for the coming summer. Our guests were very generous and blew us away by collectively giving \$15,000 as a result of this evening. This is a fantastic start. But we still have a ways to go this spring and summer. We still need to raise \$22,730 in camper sponsorships in addition to regular camp support.

There was a problem with smearing of names on the mailing labels of the Spring Forward invitations. Some of you received them late and some not at all. We are sorry if you did not receive your invitation. We will do this dinner again sometime in the future.