

Prayer Requests & Praises

Praise:

- ◆ For the 75 campers who did their first five Snail Mail (Bible correspondence) lessons so they could attend our Fall Mini Camp on October 15-17
- ◆ For the hospitality of Greater St. John Missionary Baptist Church who welcomed all of our campers and staff yet again for Sunday morning worship on October 17
- ◆ Most of the campers who attended the discipleship week this past summer have been visited
- ◆ Several visits have seemed exceptionally profitable

Prayer:

- ◆ God's provision for normal year round ministry and for the 109 acres next door
- ◆ That God will speak into the lives of our campers who are reading the Bible while working on the Snail Mail (and hopefully at other times too)
- ◆ For productive visits with campers who still need to be visited (and revisited)

Need to buy a Christmas gift for someone who already has everything?

You could sponsor a camper in their honor for the coming summer...

\$53 sponsors a camper for a day

\$265 sponsors a camper for a week

\$2,120 sponsors an entire cabin for a week

Ray Bird Ministries, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization governed by a board of directors including: Rev. Craig Clapper, Bob Foegley (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.

fall mini camp



On Oct 15-17 we welcomed back 75 campers for our annual Fall Mini Camp. All of these campers had completed five Snail Mail (Bible correspondence) lessons in order to be able to attend. It was very evident that God is at work in the lives of some of these kids. At chapel a boy shared that he had been scared about his sin after summer camp. Since then he has come to understand that Jesus came, died, and rose again to forgive sins. A girl told us that she is learning that no matter how people treat her, God wants her to respond in love.

Campers learned about the real significance of Christmas and Easter as has become our tradition each Fall Mini Camp. It was a beautiful weekend. Campers played outside in the leaves, made s'mores, roasted hot dogs, and made Christmas cards for their families and friends as a way to share the real meaning of Christmas later this year.



The Potter's Wheel

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



The campers enjoyed Fall Mini Camp and we were glad to have the opportunity to teach them more and to encourage them. As one of our counselors pointed out, Fall Mini Camp is also important in that it gives some of the shy and quiet kids who seem to fly under the radar a chance to demonstrate their desire to know and walk with Jesus. Their interest can be hard to discern in the summer when there are seven or more other campers, many of whom can be quite boisterous.

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not from the director's desk

This comes to you from Susan Titus this time and *not* from the director's desk. —Mike

Each fall we head out to various parts of the city to visit the campers who attended during the summer. We plot them all on a map and then knock on doors saying, "Hi! We're the Camp Ray Bird people." There are several reasons we do this which include: keeping in touch with the campers, learning about their home environments, finding out how we can pray for them, and lastly helping them see that following Jesus happens all year long not just at camp.

This fall we have been focusing on having longer visits with the campers that attended our discipleship week of camp. Their counselors had determined that these campers each had a personal relationship with Christ and were desiring to grow in their faith. We want to do all we can to help this process and have been praying for some time for God to show us how we can be more effective in this area.

On one of our first trips out, Mike and I rolled up to a house of a young gal who had been a camper for about 4 consecutive years. She had attended church with Shawn (my husband) and me for a couple months and then quit a few years back and had been inconsistent with her Snail Mail correspondence studies so we had not gotten to know her very well. But something clicked for her this summer. When we arrived on her doorstep (up 3 flights of rickety wooden outside stairs) she was excited to see us. She shared some of why camp had been different for her this summer, her struggle still to be consistent with her Snail Mail (she was behind in her lessons), and tearfully shared about her grandmother's illness. We talked about why it was important for her to keep talking to and getting to know Jesus more during the year. Coincidentally she was also the first person to hear that Bekah (our long time cook and friend) had gone into labor and we were going to be heading next to the hospital!

The following week I got a note from her with her Snail Mail giving us a new address. Her family had moved the previous weekend. Over the next several weeks she worked to get caught up with her lessons so that she could attend our Fall Mini Camp. It came down to the last lesson on the last day and if we used the normal mail routes she would not make it. So on Saturday I drove over to see her and her mom at their new place. Again I got a chance to sit and visit and tell her how proud I was that she had worked to get finished and that I really wanted her to be able to come to Fall Mini Camp.

She did finish and made it to the Mini Camp. On Sunday when the campers had gone home her counselor said "Destiny (not her real name) told me that she was very special to you guys. That you guys had come to see her and helped her finish her lessons so she could come for the weekend." Truly, she is special to us, like many campers. It takes so many "touches" throughout the year to help the campers see that Jesus lives in their real world, that He wants to be involved with them daily. From our visits, counselors sending out birthday cards and notes, being able to come back for Mini Camps, as well as continuing to build relationships with their summer counselors and full time staff, we slowly see some campers taking hold of real faith.

So pray as we head out, knock on doors, and say, "Hi! We're the Camp Ray Bird people," that we would be able to encourage campers to take hold of their faith in a practical way and walk with Jesus.

Susan Titus

(office manager, program director, food service director, and camp nurse)



current property

new land (109 acres)

new land

We are still praying for the land next door to us. The deadline of November 15th when we must give a firm commitment to buy or not buy is rapidly approaching. If we commit to buy, we must close on the land by December 15th.

Many things have been done to make this dream a reality. We have written several grant proposals to foundations who have the means to help, many of whom have helped the Camp in the past. Figuratively speaking we have made our horse ready for battle. Now our hard work is prayer.

"The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but victory rests with the LORD." (Proverbs 21:31)

For Camp Ray Bird, \$534,000 is a huge and impossible amount. But with God all things are possible. And so we are still praying that God will provide us with the \$534,000 to purchase these amazing 109 acres.

Despite all that is on the line, we do not fear. We know that God's purposes always prevail. "I know that you can do all things. No plan of yours can be thwarted." (Job 42:2) Please pray in faith with us. I hope to be able to share some exciting news with you soon.

did you know?

Did you know that the ministry of Camp Ray Bird continues all year long? After **summer camp** and **discipleship camp**, **visitations** are conducted at their homes. Many campers study the Bible through correspondence studies called **Snail Mail** to earn their way back to seasonal **Mini Camps** (weekend retreats). In accordance with our mission statement, we work to try to help campers get connected with good **churches** in or near their neighborhoods.

The work that starts in the summer continues all year round. And we are in need of your help with donations throughout the year. Currently donations are running behind. Please consider a gift today.

