

Prayer Requests & Praises

Praise:

- ◆ 858 campers were able to attend camp last summer
- ◆ 169 said they made commitments to follow Christ
- ◆ 93 campers were invited back for and attended our discipleship week
- ◆ 61% of the campers memorized four Bible verses and thereby earned a t-shirt
- ◆ 222 campers have started doing their Snail Mail.
- ◆ God provided good people for all of our summer staff positions
- ◆ We have a signed agreement with our neighbors to purchase their 109 acre property

Prayer:

- ◆ God's provision to buy the 109 acre property next door
- ◆ That God will make His presence known to the many campers who lead very difficult lives at home
- ◆ That we will persevere during this off season in pursuing campers who want to grow in their faith

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.

Save the date –Saturday Nov. 6

FALL WORK DAY

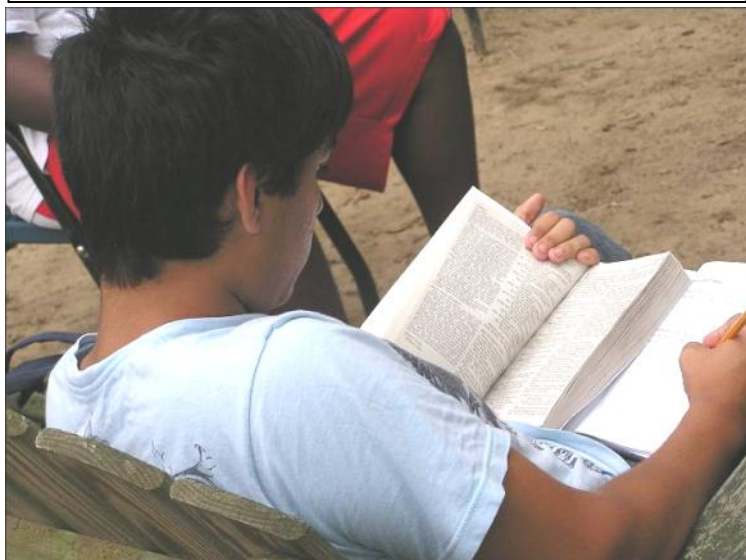


We will be raking leaves, winterizing the camp and doing odd jobs of various skill levels. Work begins at 9:00 AM. Lunch is provided. Please RSVP to 574-232-8523 or susan@raybird.org.

WANTED:



Camp Ray Bird is in need of a **pontoon boat trailer**. If you have one you would like to donate, please call our office at 574-232-8523 or email shawn@raybird.org.



Donations were made:

In honor of Dave and Linda Nelson
(from Scott Nelson)

In memory of Richard and Phyllis Boden
(from Randy and Julie Bladel)

In memory of Loren Bussert
(from Artie Janice Bussert, and the Fraternal Order of Police, South Bend)

In memory of Mary Irvin
(from Gene and Martha Stockdale, Tom and Bobbie Leland, Marguerite Monroe, Stephen and Carol Suth, Bessie Lindsey, Mark and Joyce Funderburg, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Wavyunof, Kenneth and Betty Beers, Russell and Stella Frazier, Bob and Carolyn Olson, Julia Hostetler, Warren and Joyce Gilmore)

In memory of Thayne Garberick
(from Marguerite Monroe, Jill Whimer, Pauline Smithberger, Ronald and Sharon Showalter, Pail and Cynthia Kujawski, Patrick and Beth Gallagher, Ray and Diane Richey, James and Carla Barnes, Alfred and Georgeann Chartier, Granger Community Church, Theodore and Anneliese Foti, Jim and Carolyn Hoffman, Dave and Jenny Gongwer, Thomas and Cynthia Blackburn)



The Potter's Wheel

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



For many of our kids, life is tough and there isn't much to smile about. But when they come to camp for a week, things are right and good and they can't help but crack a smile. And while we work hard to create such an environment, we work even harder to foster an atmosphere where being a disciple of Jesus is both caught and taught.



Ray Bird Ministries

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www.raybird.org

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from the director's desk

After ten summers at Camp Ray Bird I can say that this one was pretty typical. Hundreds of kids came, they lived with two counselors and about seven other kids for a week where they ate well, and had fun riding bikes, shooting arrows, swimming, boating, canoeing, driving go-carts, singing silly camp songs and all the other things you do at camp. As always, they learned about the God who made them and cares for them, the problem of sin, the good news about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection and the full life that God promises to His children. In addition to learning about God, they experienced a glimpse of the kingdom of God. They had a week where they were never hungry, an adult closely supervised them so they weren't mistreated or made fun of, and they saw staff members who loved and treated each other with respect.

When I talk with adults who attended Camp Ray Bird as kids, they sometimes don't remember much of what they learned about the Bible. But they do remember that their time at camp was very good. One man told me, "It was the only week of my life when everything was good and right." Good food, nice people, fun activities, we work hard to make these things happen for people. But God is the One who opens eyes, ears, hearts, and minds. Even so, it is our job to send kids home knowing that the people at Camp Ray Bird cared about them. And hopefully one day they will fully understand that it is only because there is a good God who deeply cares so much about them.

While I could say that it was a typical summer, even the typical summer is still pretty special. In addition to what happened at camp, some new things happened off camp. On three Saturdays during the summer, when staff members would usually be off duty, they went out into various neighborhoods to visit kids who had come to camp and had, either at camp or previously, said they had made a commitment to follow Christ. Usually these kids were visited by their counselor and one additional support staff member. We hope and pray that this extra contact will help these campers see that following Jesus is not just something for camp but for every aspect of their lives. And I also hope it taught our 50 staff members that the end goal is not a hand raised, or a prayer prayed, or even a decision made. It's about disciples being made. What does it look like to make disciples? This was the question that echoed thru the staff this summer. Making disciples is hard work. But that is what our Master has called us to.

—*Mike Houghtaling*, director

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age." - Jesus (Matthew 28:19-20)

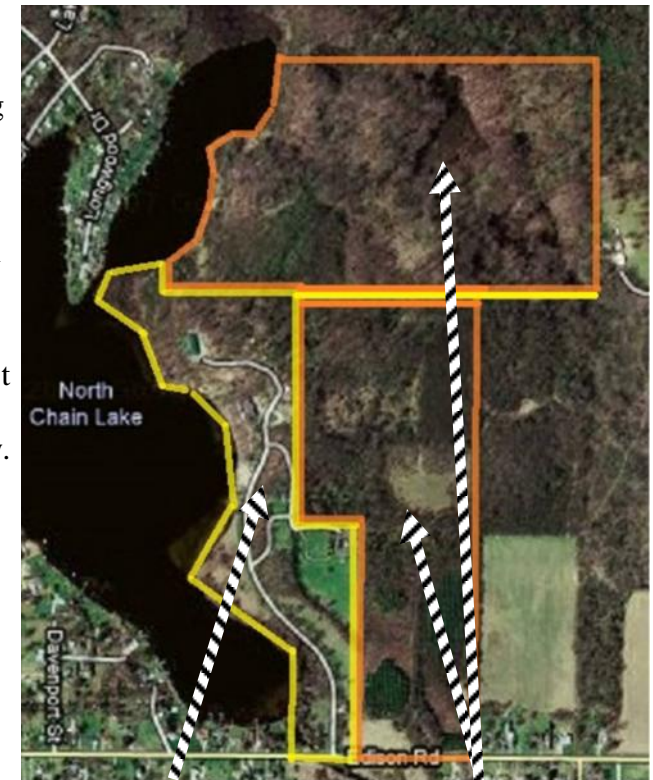


new land opportunity

Over the last several years I have asked you to pray about the ability for Camp Ray Bird to acquire more land. Well, God has been at work. God has worked over the last several years to bring us to agreeable purchase terms with our neighbors who own the 109 acres next door to us. I have walked this property and it is difficult to describe how incredible this land is. It's nearly completely forested and has many large hills and several wetland areas. This property is vast compared to our current 40 useable acres.

It is my dream to have older campers hike out to top of the largest and tallest hill, pitch tents and experience pure creation in hope that it might put them in touch with their Creator in a unique way.

I am told that even in the days of George Philips, the second director of Camp Ray Bird (ca. 1965-1984) there was a desire to have this land for the camp. So people have been praying and hoping for this land for decades. **Please pray that God will provide the \$534,000 needed for this acquisition.** We may be asking for your help with this but right now I am just asking you to pray. I have written several grants requests to foundations that have been very generous to Camp Ray Bird in the past. Please pray that God will caused these foundations to look upon our requests with great favor.



current property

109 acres

SUMMER 2010 IN REVIEW

Attendance: 858 **New commitments to Christ:** 169 **Discipleship week attendance:** 93

Average cost paid by family per camper: \$35 **Number of summer staff:** 50

Additional costs per camper covered by donations: \$265

Volunteer help came from: In addition to many individuals, groups came from the following churches: Castleview Baptist Church (Indianapolis), Elk Grove Baptist Church (Elk Grove Village, Illinois), Immanuel Baptist Church (Kankakee, IL), Findlay Evangelical Free Church (Findlay, Ohio), First Evangelical Tree Church (Rapid City, South Dakota), Liberty Bible Church (Chesterton, Indiana), Trinity Evangelical Free Church (South Bend).

