

Camps for Good

Summer 2011

Lakeshore Christian Camping www.prescamps4ever.org

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A number of years ago I was with our youth group on a retreat. Many had been touched by the Lord in a powerful way. On the last evening, after our group devotions, the students (about 30 high school students) wanted to raise an *Ebenezer*, a stone (or pile of stones) remembering the Lord's help.

Literally speaking, an *Ebenezer* is a **Stone of Help**, or a reminder of God's Real, Holy Presence and Divine aid. Spiritually and theologically speaking, the first *Ebenezer* was set up by Samuel after he defeated the Philistines, setting up *Stone of Help* as a memorial for the help he received from the Lord. An *Ebenezer* can be **anything** that reminds us of God's presence.



Like Samuel these youth knew that God had met them and helped them. They wanted to set up a memorial, so they did, a small pile of rocks that was there the next year when they returned.

Presbyterian Camps provides opportunities for youth of all ages to come and learn about God's help, Christian community and the saving love of Christ. We have many written testimonies of how God has worked in campers lives, you can find some of these on our website. These testimonies are *Ebenezer's*. You see when kids, families or visitors come to the camp, it is more

than just memories that they create. In fact it is not so much about what they create as it is what God creates in them.

We have a vision for the camps on the shores of Lakes Michigan to be preserved. A vision to bring children of different back grounds and economic status, children who have grown up hearing the gospel and children who have not, children from the inner city and the suburbs, we have a vision to bring them together to experience God's amazing grace in a place of amazing beauty. It is our hope that when they return to their every day lives they will share their testimonies of how God met them and helped them at the camp.

I close this with one verse from the familiar hymn "Come Thou Fount."

*Here I raise mine Ebenezer
Hither by Thy help I come
And I hope by Thy good pleasure
Safely to arrive at home
Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wondering from the fold of God
He, to rescue me from danger
Interposed His precious blood*

May each and every one of us always be blessed by the grace and peace of Jesus Christ through the *Ebenezers* that God has placed in our lives! The camp in Saugatuck, MI is an *Ebenezer*.

Dear Lakeshore Christian Camping,

We have another \$12.70 made from my daughter's lemonade stand yesterday to give toward Lakeshores efforts. (We got an additional 5.00 donation when we told a neighbor what we were trying to raise money for.) Next is a car wash, timing TBD.

A few weeks ago my daughter also gave me the entire contents of her piggy bank which was \$19.00. I was telling her the story of what happened and why the camp is for sale (not the details of why the debt, just that there is a large debt) and she broke down into tears and gave me everything she had.

We are still hopeful. We have to be.

Blessings,

A faithful camper



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Info Corner: Preserving a camps for Historical, Environmental and Spiritual value

Let Us Know:



We know many of you will be attending various family camps or reunions during the next couple of months. Lakeshore would love to take your group on a "walk to the future" around camp. With your invitation, we would welcome the opportunity to talk with your group about the future. We have a new short program that

would fit into your family camp schedule. What better way to "see" what the future holds for the camp than to have sand in your shoes?

Contact us at: info@prescamps4ever.org



Lakeshore Christian Camping



Lakeshore Christian Camping has a Facebook Page. Click our like button and you will receive our posts and current info. As you and/or your children visit camp, please feel free to share your stories and pictures. Those memories are at the heart of why we need to save the camps!

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