



OUT OF THE Woods

FALL 2014

VOLUME 17 • NUMBER 2

OUR MISSION:

to inspire & equip this generation to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God.

OUR VISION:

to provide an UNFORGETTABLE camp experience where the presence of God drowns out the world and its influences.

REGISTRATION INFO

Online registration for Woodlands' 2015 summer camps will kick off on February 21. More details will follow this fall. In the meantime, you can find our 2015 summer schedule under What's Happening or at woodlandscamp.org.

RECRUITING INFO

Prospective staff for Summer 2015 can apply online starting October 1 at woodlandscamp.org/apply. A full listing of our college recruiting schedule can be found on our Facebook page.

FINANCIAL NEEDS SNAPSHOT

Chapel Fund – \$241,936
Scholarship Fund – \$60,123

SUMMER 2014 BY THE NUMBERS

- Summer staff – 60
- Scholarship campers – 265
- Total campers – 3,296
- Offering - \$21,561.27
- Salvations – 248!!

Incredible summer!

So blessed and grateful!!!

ONLINE TRADING POST

Our 2014 line of Woodlands gear and apparel is available at woodlandscamp.org/shop.

CHAPEL PROJECT UNDERWAY!

by Big Jon

In 1961, a group of men assembled on a fledgling campground in northeast Georgia and built a chapel building. Over the next 50+ years, more than a hundred thousand people heard God's Word taught and the gospel presented within the walls of the chapel located at what is now Woodlands Camp. Countless lives and eternities have been changed including one of those construction workers in 1961 who trusted Christ on the concrete pad as they prepared to start laying bricks!

Four years ago, we outgrew the chapel. Many of our campers likely remember how crowded, hot, sweaty and stinky the old chapel was. So in 2010 we built the Dome in part to bridge the gap between our old, undersized chapel and a new one. The Dome has been an adequate summer chapel venue, but it has year-round limitations as it's not climate controlled. We need a big enough year-round chapel to have a seat for every bed.

So this fall, we are starting construction on a new chapel. Total square footage will eclipse the old chapel by more than three times. It will seat 525. It will have a state-of-the-art A/V system. It will have office and creative space for our program and media departments. It will have plenty of large bathrooms. We hope to even include a basement with additional breakout rooms for our teen camp Troubleshooters sessions. It will enable us to facilitate larger retreat groups which impacts both our mission and our bottom line.

Fundraising began for the Chapel CAMPaIn in January 2013. Since then, God has provided nearly 70% of the \$600,000 we need for the entire project. We still, however, have about \$240,000 to raise.



Would you be willing to give to this project? This is the building where the gospel will be presented and God's Word will be preached to nearly 10,000 campers and retreat guests each year for generations to come. The eternal significance of this facility cannot be overstated!

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

“ After hearing **WONDERFUL** things about a 2-day Christian camp, I did (LOTS of) research and asked [my kids] if they’d like to go. They were **SOOOO** excited after watching the promo video! Now, I can **NOT** say enough **GREAT** things about Woodlands Camp! The camp was gorgeous, peaceful and full of **FUN**. The camp counselors were happy and **ENTHUSIASTIC**. The devotions were very applicable, yet intentional. Although we won’t be living in Georgia next summer, I have a feeling we’ll be making a special trip back for this camp! On a side note, I am **SOOOO** protective over my kids. So, I promise... for **ME** to feel **100%** okay with them going, means it’s a pretty conservative place! I like to describe Woodlands Camp as the **Chick-fil-A®** of camps! ~ A Mom

Thank you for another amazing week of camp. We are so blessed that our children get to be a part of Woodlands. Thank you for investing in the lives of our children and others. You are amazing. We are so grateful for you and your ministry. ~ A Dad

[My daughter] talked non-stop on the way home! The biscuits were so yummy & **OH THE BBQ!!!** And the speaker was great! I especially loved hearing her talk about her walk with God. Through tears she said, “mom I want to stay that close to God all the time.” She was so precious sharing about her talks with [her counselor] and the incredible Scriptures she gave her. Thank her **BIG** time from this momma! ~ A Mom

I was blown away when I called to ask my little brother how his week at Woodlands went. What I expected was a detailed synopsis of the bunk beds in the cabins, the awesome camp food, the lake, the games, the activities and, of course, pranks pulled on the girl cabins. But what he told me instead warmed my heart even more than just the thought that he had loads of fun. “It was **AWESOME**”, he said, “I had the **BEST** counselor who helped me through lots of things. Whenever I had questions about God or anything he talked to us about them. And the chapel was so good. The speaker was really good...And I memorized a bunch of Bible verses. It was so much fun.” What an amazing response! When I asked him if he wanted to go back next summer he said “Um, **YEAH!**”. So thanks to everyone at Woodlands for making this summer experience one he will never forget!! ~ A Big Sister

I wanted to let you all know how grateful I am that two of ‘my kids’ had the opportunity to attend summer camp. When I heard there were scholarships available, I was so excited! I have two boys that I work with that desperately needed a positive experience away from home. When I picked them up [after camp],

they were spouting off their memory verses, talking about making new friends, sharing fun stories about counselors and games and races, and about the wonderful ‘home-cooked meals’. They told me it was the best week of their lives. I wanted you to know that it has made a difference for them! These special times and positive experiences will shape them to be better adults. I thank God this mission was laid upon someone’s heart and implemented so beautifully. It is an awesome retreat for kids. Thank you for making it possible for **ALL** children. ~ A DFCS Caseworker



I cannot say enough good things about the lasting spiritual impact Woodlands Camp has had on my children’s lives. Thank you [for helping to] shape his quiet time and to meet God in a powerful way. That app is something he uses every day and is such a great tool for him. Thank you for discipling our kids! ~ A Mom

I was a camper in 2007. I was struggling with feeling alone in some of the sin I was dealing with. Deeply depressed I confided in my counselor and so much changed for me. That week [the speaker] spoke of God’s overwhelming Grace, which built upon my previous visit to Woodlands when you spoke so vividly about the crucifixion and what it actually meant for Christ to be our propitiation. My experience at Woodlands was without a doubt the first time I experienced God on an intensely deep level. All the walls were down, the distractions aside, and God revealed His glory and what it means to truly enjoy Him. My counselor gave me the book “Don’t Waste Your Life” and its message began to rock me. We watched that Giglio video “Indescribable” and all my academically rooted doubts melted away. I am now a fulltime missionary in Ireland. 98% of people here don’t know Jesus here...My work here is broadening, and next year my goal is to open a kids camp on our property...The fire lit in me at Woodlands is still burning. It was a mile marker where my Faith took on a life of its own, and the Holy Spirit showed me what it’s like to practice God’s presence always. Camp Ministry rocks! ~ A Former Camper ”

POINTS OF EMPHASIS

When our summer staff arrived in mid-May, we launched four points of emphasis for them to keep front and center as the summer wore on. They proved to be incredibly helpful to them, so we'd like to share them with you. Maybe they will encourage and help you like they did our summer team.

- 1. Focus...** Focus on two things: Jesus and big picture. Oftentimes, our focus and attention is drawn to issues, drama and small picture thinking. Having the mental discipline to focus on Jesus and His teachings, commands and promises helps us also to focus on the big picture of why we are here and what He has called us to do.
- 2. Follow...** On the heels of focus is follow. Remember when you were a kid and would play follow the leader? The point was to focus on the leader then imitate what they did. Our responsibility is very similar. To keep our focus on Jesus, then simply imitate the way He lived His life.
- 3. Faithful...** As small minded, finite, control freaks, we often lose site of where God has us right now and what He has called us to do. We worry about the future that we can't see. We look longingly in the rear view mirror at seasons of life already past. We drift to the left or right trying to remedy circumstances that are outside of our control. Faithfulness, however, chooses to be all in right here, right now. To make the most of THIS opportunity. It has been defined as a long obedience in the same direction. Slow. Steadfast. Fruitful.
- 4. Family...** Psalm 133 says, "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! ...For there the Lord bestows his blessing." As God's family, we should be a unified team striving to build a Kingdom bigger than our own. Or as Phil Dooley, pastor of Hillsong Church Cape Town says, we should be of "a bunch of nobodies who love everybody and serve anybody and don't care about becoming a somebody."

CREATING ENVIRONMENTS

As we have developed the property here at Woodlands over the past 18 years, one of our goals has been to intentionally create outdoor environments that facilitate our mission. Environments like the bridge landing, decks, various seating areas and the cabin porches enable community, foster life-changing one-on-one conversations and provide a place for our staff, campers and guests to just be still and hear from God in the midst of a crazy, noisy world. This fall, a new environment will be awaiting campers and guests. Just below the Trading Post, we are building a paved, hexagon shaped area with five porch swings facing a center fire ring. Our hope is that this addition will be just another tool in inspiring and equipping this generation to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God.

THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT

Since its launch a year ago, the Woodlands app has had nearly 5,000 downloads and a quarter of a million page views! Do you have it yet? The free app has as its centerpiece a Scripture reading plan that navigates you through the entire New Testament, as well as the books of Psalms and Proverbs over the course of a year. It has an instructional video teaching how to have a quiet time with the Lord. It has a Scripture memory plan that connects the dots between 60 relevant topics and what the Bible has to say about those topics. It

gives access to all of our summer podcasts and videos. In the words of one mom, "that app is a part of my son's everyday life". We hope it will become a part of yours, too. Download it at woodlandscamp.org/app.

YOU CAN HELP!

Our mission is "to inspire and equip this generation to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God." Period. Every project that we undertake helps to fulfill that mission. Every camp that we run helps to fulfill that mission. Every newsletter that is printed helps to fulfill that mission. Every dollar that is donated helps to fulfill that mission. The goal of seeing lives transformed is at the core of everything that we do.



We cannot, however, fulfill that mission alone. Our needs are great, and you can help! We don't want to be overbearing in our fundraising efforts. We do, however, believe in making Woodlands' needs known to God's people so that if He chooses, He can connect hearts that have the desire and capacity to give with the opportunities and needs that exist.

If you do feel led to help, following are three ways you can help advance God's Kingdom through the ministry of Woodlands...

- 1. Pray!** – "The prayers of righteous people are powerful and effective!"
- 2. Give a one time gift** (either by mailing a check or online at woodlandscamp.org) to one of two key funds. Whether you prefer funding buildings and growth or paying for a needy child to attend camp, there are big opportunities to invest in Woodlands:
 - **Chapel CAMPAign snapshot:**
 - > Construction is set to start on a 500 seat chapel auditorium this August to be completed by Summer 2015.
 - > Remaining need: \$241,936
 - **Scholarship Fund snapshot:**
 - > Lord willing, we will bring 268 at-risk, underprivileged kids to camp on scholarship this summer. These campers can't afford to come without the generous help of friends like you.
 - > Remaining need: \$60,123
- 3. Give Monthly**
 - **Monthly Partner Program snapshot:**
 - > Monthly Partners are friends who commit to support Woodlands monthly for 18 months at either the \$25, \$50 or \$100 level
 - > All Monthly Partner donations will go toward our Chapel CAMPAign
 - > Donations can be set up online at woodlandscamp.org and occur automatically each month for 18 months
 - > Donations are debited monthly from a credit card or bank account
 - > All donations within a calendar year will be itemized on a tax-deductible receipt that will be mailed at year-end

Our needs are great, our vision is greater and our God is great enough to fulfill both. Thanks for being a part of what God is doing at Woodlands Camp!



THE WOODLANDS BULL'S-EYE

This is our hope and prayer for every camper that attends Woodlands...

1. To follow Jesus
2. To love God's Word
3. To live responsibly
4. To give generously
5. To have the most **unforgettable** week of their life!

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CONNECT:



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2015?

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| February 21 | Online Registration Opens! |
| April 13 | Golf Tournament |
| May 17-27 | Training Camp |
| May 28-30 | Pee Wee Camp |
| June 1-5 | Junior 1 / Xtreme Jr 1 |
| June 8-12 | Junior 2 / Xtreme Jr 2 |
| June 15-19 | Junior 3 / Xtreme Jr 3 |
| June 22-27 | JH 1 / Xtreme JH 1 |
| June 29-July 4 | JH 2 / Xtreme JH 2 |
| July 6-11 | JH 3 / Xtreme JH 3 |
| July 13-18 | Teen 1 / Xtreme Teen 1 |
| July 20-25 | Teen 2 / Xtreme Teen 2 |
| July 27-Aug 1 | Teen 3 / Xtreme Teen 3 |

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