

**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- Lots of snow
- Good bookings this winter
- New churches booked retreats this winter
- Allen family moved in and are a great addition to the camp staff
- Strong bookings for this fall

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# Camp Bethel Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SPRING 2014

## Great Winter

What a winter! Talk about busy. We are so thankful for all the retreats we had this winter. We had several new churches use camp for the first time and hope they will come back again.

The snow fall has been very good and the snow pack is great. We're expecting another 12" tonight if the forecast is correct.

It's also been a very cold winter compared to last year. We made it below -30 degrees more than once this winter with many days in the -20's.

When the weather is that cold for a long period, then things up here start to freeze, like our water pipes. Yes, I had the pleasure of more than one frozen water pipe. In fact, one of the pipes in the Dining Hall bath-

room froze and ruptured during the night. We lost all 3,400 gallons out of our reservoir through that bathroom. Needless to say, there's a very large ice cube be-



**Dinning Hall**

hind that building that will take awhile to thaw this summer.

We also had the transformer go out during one of our retreats. Talk about dark! The weather

was to cold for the propane to flow fast enough to keep our back up generator running, so we were without power for 12 hours. Our kitchen staff did an amazing job in the dark getting breakfast out on time without power (Thank God for propane stoves). By the time the new transformer was installed, we were close to loosing the water at camp due to frozen water lines. In the process of losing power, we burned up all three water pumps. Needless to say, it was just another day on the mountain.

Winter is always a challenging time, but comes with lots of rewards as we watch God provide and take care of us during our trials.

## Summer's a coming!

Hard to believe that summer is almost here when there's so much snow on the ground! But, regardless of the snow, time keeps marching on.

The process of selecting summer staff is almost done and there's an excitement all around. Our

summer staff is like family to us here and we always look forward to their return. With their return comes a very busy season of camps. The camp pastors have been lined up and we're in for another wonderful time as God uses them to speak to the youth and staff.

Staff training starts May 27th at 8:00 am and the summer ends after our staff meal on August 2nd. Then our rental season starts with a group on August 4th and we're booked through the rest of the month.

# The First Ten Days By Mary Allen

It is hard to believe I have been at camp for two full months now. What a blessing! I know things about mountains and snow that I never even realized were necessary to know. The first ten days I definitely was made aware of this steep learning curve. These are my mountain lessons from my first ten days:

- 1) Outdoor exercise on the mountain requires more than tennis shoes and jeans in single digit temperatures. Not only do you need snow pants & snow boots, but an oxygen tank would be advantageous as well.
- 2) Mice like to eat instant chocolate pudding, croutons, butterscotch chips, and ... DeCon ... in that order.
- 3) NEVER take your thermostat for granted. I have experienced 55 and 88 degrees in the house and neither are pleasant.
- 4) When temps drop to negative 32, interesting things happen. Ice rinks can develop in shower stalls and foods can freeze in refrigerators. Raw eggs are fascinating frozen solid.
- 5) Once you have developed the habit of not taking the thermostat for granted, NEVER take your transformer for granted. Camp transformer blew late one evening while we had a youth retreat in camp.
- 6) Boys rock at stoking fires – girls not so much (direct result of blown transformer).
- 7) Wearing headlamps to fix breakfast for hungry kids when power is out is a great idea .... Making eye contact while conversing is not a great idea.
- 8) It is okay to be happy to see the Internet Man when you have gone 6 weeks without internet / TV. I think Jon was even happy to see the Internet Man.
- 9) Going to town is ridiculously exciting! However, I now know that when buying snow boots, you are supposed to look at the warmth rating, not the cute rating.
- 10) Mountain man valentine romance includes a snowmobile trek. Who knew 80's vintage snowsuits, helmet hair, and two-stroke machine perfume would be so attractive. At least my boots were cute ;).

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God has used this snowmobile excursion to teach me a rather significant lesson. The day we headed out was extremely cold and windy away from camp and our destination was about 30 miles one-way. It didn't take long till I was very, very cold. I wasn't sure how far we had traveled or how far we still needed to go, I only knew how incredibly cold I was. I had thoughts of losing fingers and toes, and at one point, I was even thinking if I didn't make it ... at least Jon will because he is warmer. It was miserable.

We finally reached our destination and were able to warm up, thankful for fire and warm food. We eventually left, headed back to camp a different way. The weather was slightly better. Many miles into this, we came across a random sled and a snowmobile in a ravine. The guys stopped to look for a body, really.

Continuing on, about 5 miles up the road we came across a man walking. As soon as we stopped, he dropped to his knees. We offered water and Gatorade and his pain was obvious. We took him three miles further to Bear and EMT's.

Given the weather conditions, his dehydration, and pain from his roll down the ravine, and shock, I'm not sure if he would have made it that day if we hadn't been there.

It gave purpose to why we were out that cold day. As thankful as I was that God used us to perhaps save this man's physical life, I was also thinking about the insignificance of that compared to his spiritual life. If we saved his physical life, but he had no relationship with Jesus what good is that?

God also showed me that sometimes our suffering is not about us. Although my "suffering" that morning was temporary, I know everyone goes through seasons of suffering. Who has God placed with you in your suffering that is spiritually dehydrated and in need Living Water? Who around you is broken and in need of being taken to the Great Physician? 2 Corinthians 1:4 (HCSB) "[God] comforts us in all our affliction so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any kind of affliction, through the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

# A Frozen and Wonderful World

By Jon Allen

Do you remember when Lucy innocently shrouded herself in what seemed like just another piece of furniture during a game of hide and seek with her siblings in “The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe? But within that wardrobe as she sank deeper and deeper into its fur coats she stumbled into another world: a frozen and wonderful world termed Narnia. Well, just as the Pevensie children found their way into a magical land, the Allen clan has done very much the same: a wonderful, beautiful place called Camp Bethel.

Just like Narnia, camp is so picturesque. And just like Narnia it has dangers. For the Pevensie family it came in the form of the White Witch and strange looking creatures of hers. For the Allen’s it has been green metal roofs that cut knees open and mechanical failures that plagued us our first days here.

We are the Allen family and we recently moved to Camp Bethel to take on the role of Associate Director. When I say we took the role, I mean that when the board hired me, they got the whole Allen family and we are so excited to be here. My name is Jon and the Lord saw fit to move us from Powell to take part in His ministry here at camp.

It has not been without its difficulties and challenges however. Literally in our first week here the transmission in our Explorer went out, I cut my knee open on the roof of the dining hall and my snowmobile broke down not once but twice. Me thinks that satan might not want us here, but it is stirring that God does and that is worth it all.

When I would talk to Matt and Sheri Tremain and Tim and Charmaine about living on the mountain, I had the idea that it would be a dream come true to live here and that everything would be perfect. Lost somewhere in the translation was how challenging it is to live and work here. One example is snow.

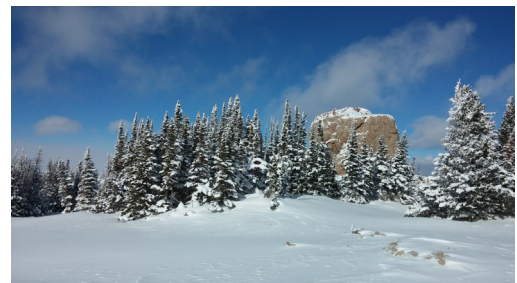
Did you know that it snows on the mountain? I mean a lot of snow. Did I say a lot? Our snow piles have snow piles and when shoveling out the entrance to the girl’s bathroom at Pine Lodge one must have a degree in aeronautics as it takes a throw into the stratosphere to get the snow to the top of the pile. Yes, we have oodles of snow. On the brighter side, I know now that my hands fit a snow shovel well.

Mary wrote an article as well listing some of the difficulties associated with living on the mountain so I will not prolong the complaining. Just suffice it to say that the dream come true involves hard work too. But, it is still a dream come true.

But with all the hard work and struggles I can’t complain at all because we have been blessed to move to the most breath-taking place I know. So even when trials come, we can glorify God, creator of all, that we call the mountain home not to mention doing his work here. Romans 1:19-20 tells us that “through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities-his eternal power and divine nature” and this is so true. So as we haul firewood or fix a sewer pump we are surrounded by his glory. How can we have a bad day in that?

We look forward to seeing what God will do through camp in the coming years as we eagerly serve beside the Huffs and the numerous summer staff that call camp home.

To God be the glory. Great things he has done, and is doing.





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### Camp Bethel 2014 Summer Camp Schedule

Pre Teen Grades 5-6 June 2-7 \$220/\$240/\$260

Young Teen Grades 6-7 June 19-24 \$220/\$240/\$260

Jr. High Grades 7-8 June 16-21 \$220/\$240/\$260

Mid High Grades 8-9 June 23-28 \$220/\$240/\$260

Sr. High 1 Grades 9-11 July 7-12 \$220/\$240/\$260

Sr. High 2 Grades 10-12 July 14-19 \$220/\$240/\$260

Jr. Boys Grades 3-5 July 22-26 \$190/\$210/\$230

Jr. Girls Grades 3-5 July 29-Aug 2 \$190/\$210/\$230

**See our website for more information.**

**The Mountain Top Experience**



# Upcoming Projects

We're still working on the power issue here at camp. We hope to have that resolved soon. We're having an engineer look at the power usage to determine what we really need to do to fix our low voltage problem we continue to have.

We're also planning to re-do the foundation on Pine Lodge and renovate the inside of the lodge. The renovation would include removing the partitions and installing walls and drop ceiling. We would also bring the building up to electrical code.

This renovation would allow the building to be used for youth as well as adult ministry. Privacy is needed for both youth and adult ministries.

Hopefully this coming winter we can finish the inside of the building and have it ready for the 2015 season.

Then we hope to start on some smaller family cabins. Between renovating Pine Lodge and adding family cabins, Camp Bethel will be a place where churches can come and host many different types of adult retreats.

The future is bright and exciting! Through support from many churches and individuals like yourself, this



**Pine Lodge**

camp we've all come to love will be even more diversified for even more ministry. A place where both youth and adults can come to be renewed in their walk with the Lord.

If you would like to start supporting Camp Bethel, you can send your gifts to:

Camp Bethel

PO Box 70

Dayton, WY 82836

Thank you to all who have faithfully supported this place over the years. You've directly impacted many lives for the name Christ. You are a missionary!