

Gospel of the Kingdom Campground
June 2015 • Issue 5

GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM CAMPGROUND

2015 Newsletter

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- A Message To the Youth
and more!



2015

Work Week/Youth Meeting

May 4 - 8

Camp Meeting

June 8-12

September 28 - October 2



SCHEDULE:

Prayer: 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Breakfast: 9:00 a.m.

Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.

Dinner: 4:00 p.m.

Evening Worship: 7:00 p.m.

*Diabetic Lunch served daily.

** Snack Bar open nightly after evening service.
All proceeds go back to the Campground.

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by Samuel Kee (printed with permission)

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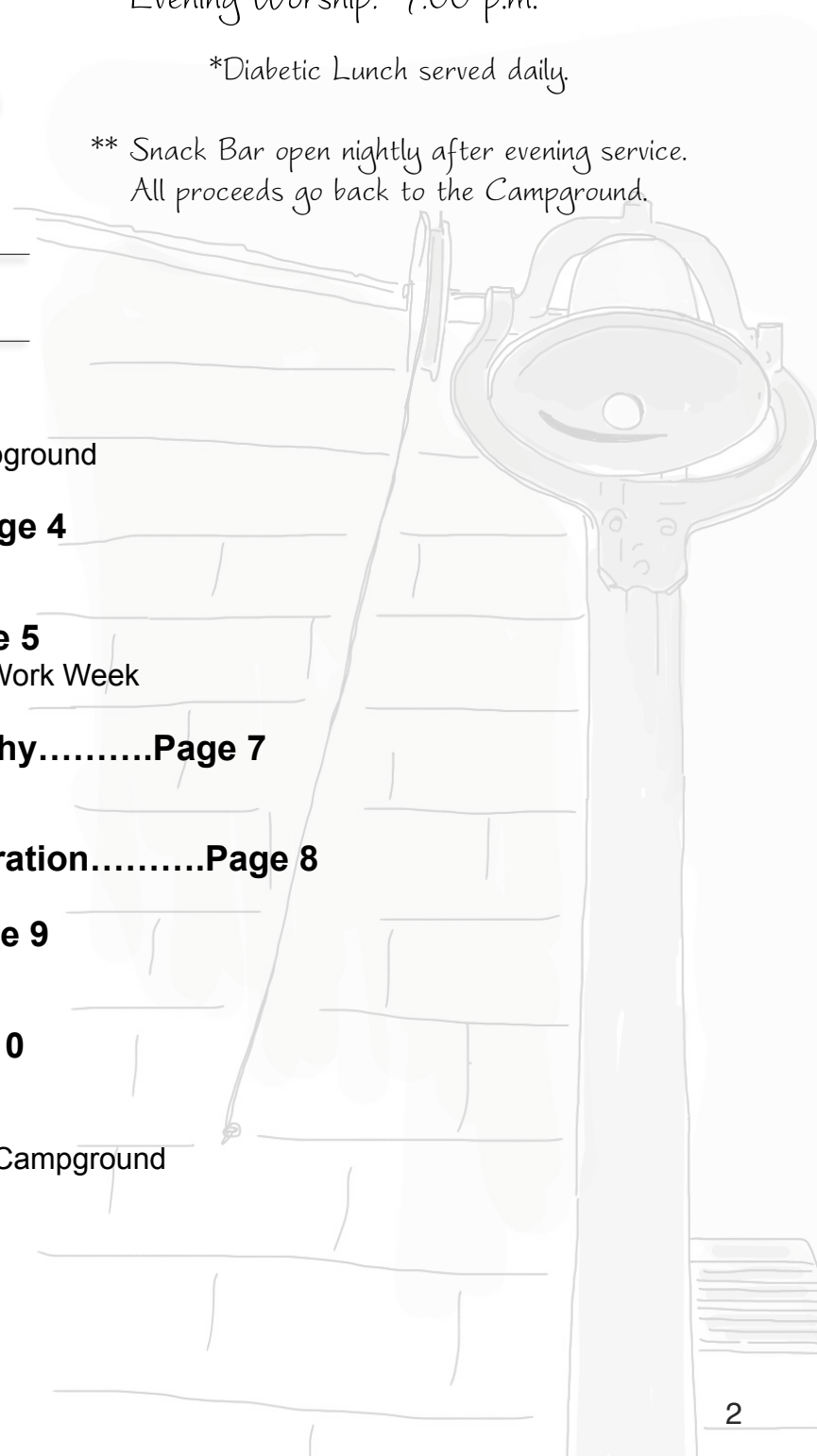
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TOGETHER AGAIN

It is our great pleasure and honor to once again welcome you to the Campground. The events that have transpired among us and around us in the months since we last assembled here serve only to further persuade us of the importance of our time together pursuing the unity of the faith in the unity of His Spirit. Regardless of how much longer our Lord may tarry, His need for laborers has never been greater, and time is of the essence. For this reason, the Campground has been and will continue to be a training ground for the servants of God.

All who gather here with open eyes and willing hearts come with an urgent expectation that God is at work. The secular world around us is reeling like an angry drunkard, unsure of where to go. Within days of our gathering together, the Supreme Court of the United States will usurp the place of God and issue its own definition for marriage and family. Meanwhile, in city after city, violence and riots rip the nation into pieces. We now live among a people with no respect for authority, and we live under an authority that rarely deserves respect. We can say with Isaiah the prophet, "We dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips." Isaiah 6:5.

The church in America is powerless, having long ago capitulated its authority to maintain righteousness and order. Even the Catholic Church's puffery and pontification is a masquerade to distract from the fact that its domestic membership is decreasing in massive numbers. (See, www.pewforum.org/2015/05/12/americas-changing-religious-landscape). As iniquity begets iniquity, the whole system is "a breach ready to fall, swelling out in a high wall, whose breaking cometh suddenly at an instant." Isaiah 30:13.

Mixed with these facts is the undeniable reality that each meeting brings us news of more fields opening to this Gospel. As the foundation of the United States fractures into pieces too small to "take fire from the hearth, or to take water out of the pit" (Isaiah 30:14), people across the globe wait anxiously for their opportunity to hear this vision for the first time. With the fields "white already to harvest" we beseech "the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth laborers into His harvest." (John 4:35, Matthew 9:38)

With awareness of the exciting days in which we live, the Campground joyfully accepts its role in preparing a generation of leaders who will turn the world upside down, choosing to forsake the temporal pleasures of sin and suffer instead with the people of God. It is our hope and prayer that through Work Weeks, Camp Meetings, and any other opportunities God makes available, this Campground can assist young people in the life-changing and eternity-changing response, "Here am I, send me!"



Photos from the Kitchen
Fall Camp Meeting 2014



The First Camp Meeting

The following memory is an excerpt documented by Helen R. Patrick. She and her family met William Sowders around 1932, when she was about ten-years-old. We are fortunate to have her first hand experience of attending the first camp meeting on Shepherdsville hill.

Brother Sowders wanted to have a camp meeting in June of 1935. The tabernacle was partially completed (the platform was covered at least). There was no dining room built as yet. Tents were erected and a few crude cabins were built. A large tent was used for a dining room and the meals were served there. The flies were so bad that the sisters took large branches and kept them waving over the tables as the people ate. I have never seen so many flies at once. It was a very rainy period! The people in the tabernacle had to raise their umbrellas to keep from getting soaking wet—others crowded on to the platform to keep dry.



In spite of the many difficulties everyone was happy and blessed by the Holy Spirit that permeated over the campground. Brother Sowders knew that he was being led by God!

A baptismal service was held at the bottom of a long, deep, narrow hollow. The pool of water had at one time served water for the farm. Brother Sowders did the baptizing. The band played as they stood on that hillside. A glorious time with worship and praise was had.

That first camp meeting left much to be desired physically but not spiritually. "The bud was small at first, but afterwards became a large flower."



The Heritage House is located in a newly renovated building across the street from the restrooms. This museum has photographs, documents, books, recordings, and video clips available for people to catch just a small glimpse of the elements that shaped the life and ministry of William Sowders.

- Bro. Paul Farmer

2015 Work Week Highlights

We had a great work week! The first night began with Bro Brandon Hodgeson speaking on being steadfast, immovable in the work of the Lord and about being a pillar. Throughout the meeting I cried like never before as I saw all my brothers and sisters wanting to stand up for the Lord. The meeting also renewed my confidence and thankfulness for the truths Bro. William Sowders received from the Lord. I want to encourage everyone — this is the Body of Christ! - Caleb Daves (Moberly, MO)



This year was my first time ever going to workweek. It really blessed me to see the young people of the Body of Christ working together spiritually and physically. The fellowship was really great and I got closer to a lot of my friends and God during the couple days I got to be there. It really is a blessing to be able to say I'm apart of the Body of Christ. - Hannah Burns (Owensboro, KY)

I had a ton of fun. Made new friends. Hung out with old friends and made new memories. We did a fantastic job working together. And did I mention the services? The services were great and blessing filled! God blessed every one of us. Work week overall was just amazing - Reyna Gingerich (Benton Harbor, MI)



My experience at the campground was even better than the year before. It was my second one I was able to attend. Bro Finnicum did a magnificent job in his talks to the youth. He encouraged us to stop thinking, "God CAN do it", instead think "God WILL do it." Sometimes when we pray we simply ask for something but don't follow up in trusting Him to perform. Many more things were said that helped me, and the services at night were really spirit-filled. I anticipate to go to as many as I can. I encourage any who haven't been able to make it, to make plans ahead of time to be there. You will not be disappointed. - Justin Beck (Godfrey, IL)

Work Week 2015

In May, these grounds filled again with laborers, young and old, dedicated to natural and spiritual preparation for the work of God here in Shepherdsville and around the world. Under the careful supervision of faithful men and women of God, young people from throughout the body of Christ labored together to maintain and improve the buildings and grounds. Improvements made included the building of a new transportation and security area, as well as much needed maintenance throughout the property.

While the saints labored in the natural, God and His ministry worked mightily in the Spirit. At the end of each day of work, the young people gathered in the Tabernacle to exercise their spiritual gifts and received intense training on how to implement the mind of Christ in their lives. Young sisters led worship and ministered in music, receiving vital experience for the days when they will be responsible to bring the Spirit into services at meetings, in local assemblies, and on the mission field.

Many young men received the opportunity to minister to the congregation, and they encouraged the people to continue running the race with diligence and purpose. As these young ministers gain more and more experience, all who are present for their messages can see plainly that God is already speaking through them. There is no need to worry about the ministry of the future. They are already preaching behind the Bible stand in the Tabernacle, expounding on the grace that God has placed in their lives.

The ministry encouraged each of the young people to determine God's individual vision for their lives and to pursue it with all their hearts. Many were the testimonies that returned from Work Week with a renewed focus and a greater determination to fulfill the plan of God. We are full of thanksgiving to our great God, who has permitted this blessed people and this humble place to have a part in the preparation of a chosen generation of young people called by God to continue His saving work in this day.



Bro. Howard Finnicum and
Bro. Alfred Daves
Work Week 2015



The Church Is Called To Be Churchy

by Samuel Kee (Printed with Permission)

I'm sitting in a donut shop. I've been here many times and nobody has ever complained about this place, saying, "This donut shop is too donutty." It's a donut shop; so you expect it to be donutty.

No one ever said that a sporting event was too sporty, a library too booky, a concert too musical, an airport too planey, a home too homey, a college too schooly, or a hospital too hospitably.

Yet, I hear all the time, "That church was too churchy." But what else should it be? Why the double-standard? Why do we condemn the church for being about Jesus, your soul, God, spirituality, conviction of sin, heaven, hell, salvation, righteousness, and judgment?

We surely don't complain that a donut shop offers Boston Crème, cinnamon buns, apple fritters, cream sticks, jelly filled, glazed, and blueberry cake.

Because some churches are listening to this sort of cultural critique, it's gotten ridiculous. Since some churches actually believe that they should not be churchy, they try to hide their spiritual donuts, if you know what I mean. Participants can attend, be fairly comfortable and entertained, without being confronted with too many spiritual matters. Then, right at the end, a little "Jesus" is slipped in.

But that's like going to a hospital, only to have the doctors and nurses pal around with you, never addressing your physical condition; but right at the end, when you're about to go to your car, some nurse's aid slips a little medicine in your pocket—with an apology!

All this time you needed surgery and an IV, but they were afraid of offending you. They were afraid to tell you how sick you were. They didn't want to appear intolerant because they were the only ones in town with the cure.

The church does nobody any favors when it refuses to be churchy. The church needs to be churchy and it must stop apologizing for doing so.

I will never convince you of the goodness of something so long as I hide it from you. If I want you to grasp the beauty of Bach's cello suite No. 1, then I must play it for you.

Church, do not hide your scriptures, your sacraments, your worship, your preaching, your service, your call to repentance, your lament, your urgency, or your joy in Jesus.

"But what if non-Christians don't like us?" I hear. If someone doesn't like us, then that's no reason to change who you are. Now, if you're a jerk, then, by all means, stop being a jerk. But, don't stop being the church. Those who don't like us must not dictate who we are. That's like allowing a blind man to lead a seeing man through the gauntlet.

If the church really can see, then she must lead the way. She is to dictate the culture, not the reverse. She is to tell media what's cool, not the opposite. The church is to set the trends, refusing to be a flea on the back of a dog, who merely sucks life from another organism.

Have you endured the cruelty of this world? Have you seen evil face to face? Are you aware of how dark life can get? Have you held a man in his brokenness? Wiped the flood of tears from a tormented woman? Looked into the hopeless eyes of a child? Stop messing around and get to Jesus as fast as possible. Jesus is our only hope. Jesus is the cure, the feast, the joy, the solution, the meaning, the purpose, the hope, the life, and the way.

To display Jesus is to be the church.

So stand firm. Be churchy. Be Jesusy. Be the light of the world.



To the parents of a chosen generation:

1 Peter 2:9

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:

Brothers and sisters, we live in exciting and urgent times. This generation of young people may see more people receive the true gospel of Jesus Christ than any generation since the days of the apostle Paul. They will not only see it, they will live it, experience it, and participate in it. It falls to us to prepare them, direct them, and let them fly.

Psalms 127:3-5

Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord:
and the fruit of the womb is his reward.
As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man;
so are children of the youth.
Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them:
they shall not be ashamed,
but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.



Whether our quiver contains one or many, our God has called us to prepare a generation that can turn this world upside down. For the arrows to fly true, much work remains to be done. The arrows must be fletched, nocked, drawn, and released.

Fletching these spiritual arrows requires the installation of core beliefs and guiding principles that will direct them in every decision they will be called to make. With home and church working in unity, our young people can be prepared to make decisions that will impact not only themselves but also unreached people that God intends to use our young people to reach. With God's help, the body of Christ can produce a generation of young people that can make decisions of eternal impact rather than being caught up in momentary debates of political winds, sports allegiances, or technological brand loyalties.

Once so developed, these spiritual arrows can be nocked—placed on a string and prepared for flight. Left permanently in the quiver, the arrows are of little use to God or man. But once nocked or placed on the string, the arrows can be aimed by a mighty God and directed by loving authority so that they can do great damage for the kingdom of God. For our young people to continue to grow and develop, they must be given opportunity to exercise themselves in the natural and spiritual gifts they have been given by God. As mentioned previously, the Work Week here at the campground has been developed to give young people exactly these types of opportunities.



Once nocked, the arrow can be drawn and released. As our young people become adults who are ready, willing, and prepared to do the work of God wherever his plan may take them, the time must come to let them fly. For some that may mean local ministry. For others, their calling may take them to the mission field. For many young women, their calling may lead them into marriage that involves moving to another assembly in the body of Christ. Wherever the plan of God may take the arrows that He gives us, we must be prepared to release the arrow. If we flinch in fear of loss, sacrifice, or the unknown, decades of preparation and instruction could be rendered less useful to the kingdom of God. The God who began forming these arrows while they were still in the womb can be trusted to guide them and protect them wherever their flight may take them.

A Message To the Youth:

Rom. 8:35-39 "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord"

In the last couple of years, I have seen our young people take this scripture and plant it in their hearts. I've seen a determination in them like I've never seen before. Many have faced strong adversity, many have faced trials that could have swept them away, many have faced disappointment, sorrow, and hurt... But yet they remain... With a determination to press on. This comes from having the truth of the word of God planted deep in their hearts, having their minds mind up, and a vision of the Body of Christ. We see these wonderful young people scattered all over this campground... Working in the dining room, working in the parking lot, cleaning the restrooms, working on the usher staff, playing in the band, sitting out in the tent so that others could have their seat in the sanctuary... These are servants of the King. These young people are bursting with talent, dedicated to using that talent for the glory of God, not ashamed to declare His name and to let their light shine in this dark world.

To this amazing group I say, "**Press on!** It is worth every heartache, every hurt, every disappointment. This life is worth every bit of the world that you let go of, it is worth every commitment and choice that you make to draw closer to Him. **You CAN** run this race and make it to the finish line! **You CAN** be an overcomer!"

-Sis. Lydia Oelschlaeger (Humble, TX)



Have We So Loved?

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16.

The words are quoted every day in dozens of different languages on every inhabited continent on the planet. We have heard them so many times that it renders them almost meaningless. Yet, the furtherance of the kingdom of God requires us to re-examine this familiar passage and apply it to our own lives as pastors, parents, and young people.

Hudson Taylor, perhaps the greatest foreign missionary in the history of England, left for China at 20 years old on the 19th of September, 1853. He had this to say about his departure. "My beloved mother had come over to Liverpool to see me off. Never shall I forget that day. She sat by my side and joined in the last hymn we should sing together before parting. We knelt down and she prayed the last mother's prayer I was to hear before leaving for China. Then notice was given that we must separate, and we had to say goodbye, never expecting to meet on earth again. As we passed through the gates and the separation really commenced, never shall I forget the cry of anguish that rung from that mother's heart. It went through me like a knife. I never knew so fully, until then, what "God so loved the world" meant. And I am quite sure my precious mother learned more of the love of God for the perishing in that one hour than all her life before."

God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son. The question to us then is how we will so love God, the world, and the body of Christ. We have loved all these things, but have we so loved them? As we embrace the plan of God for ourselves and the next generation, what sacrifices are we willing to make? In an age where social media and international cell phone availability make the sacrifice of separation negligible compared to the price paid by the early Christians, will we release our arrows for the glory of God? Will we commit ourselves and our posterity into the hands of an Almighty God, or will we rigidly cling to a false sense of security that comes from living and worshiping in close proximity to one another? For all of us, these questions may soon be far more than academic. God so loved us. God so loved the world. Will we do the same?



Missing An Issue?

Newsletters are available online.

We do have hard copies of past issues still available at the Registration Office.

If you would like to contribute a testimony, or photos, please send to:
newsletter@gospelkingdomcampground.org

How You Can Support Gospel Of The Kingdom Campground

Giving has never been easier — you can cheerfully send a weekly, monthly, or one-time, tax deductible donation to the Campground.

By the grace of God, (and the technological ingenuity of the good people at SimpleGive), we now have the capability of receiving your contributions electronically online. By making your contributions online you have the capability of making a one time contribution or setting up a recurring contribution that can be set according to your specifications. This service allows us to accept credit and debit cards with the Visa or MasterCard logo, as well as Discover Card. You even have the ability to set up a Direct Bank Transfer.



Thank you in advance for your loving support! For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Matt. 6:2

Website: www.gospelkingdomcampground.org

Online Giving – Debit or Credit Card

This safe and flexible option is the easiest way to give at Gospel of the Kingdom Campground! This method allows for a one-time gift charged to either your debit or credit card. This option allows you to easily manage your giving amount and specify where the funds should be applied.

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This is an easy and effective way to systematically give through your checking or savings account. To sign up to give by EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer from Checking or Savings account) where a set amount is drafted out of your bank account each month on a specified day. Talk to your bank to set this up. In most cases, this service is provided by your bank for FREE.

Send Via U.S. Postal Service – Check

(Never Send Cash) Checks can be mailed year-round to Gospel of the Kingdom Campground.

**Please make all checks payable to:
GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM CAMPGROUND**

Mail to:
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(October through April)
Mail to:
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c/o Gene & Sue Wyatt
2040 Berry Roberts Drive
Sun City Center, Florida 33573



*We're not here doing what we're doing
for the income,
but we are here doing what we're doing
for the outcome.*

- Bro. David Emmons



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— **CAMPGROUND** —

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