

# CLARION NEWSLETTER



Covenant Cedars Bible Camp

Spring Edition 2014

## Celebrating & Rejoicing

God's faithfulness from  
generation to generation!



## A 65 Year Legacy

**We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders which he has wrought. PSALM 78:4**

### What is a Legacy?

*Definitions:* Something originating from an ancestral source to spread between people or provide something freely; endowed or conveyed from one person to another; anything handed down from the past.

### What does the Bible say?

The Bible teaches that in God's order it is the parents who have primary responsibility for teaching children the truth about God and his will, (*Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Ephesians 6:4*). But the church family has a very important secondary responsibility to assist the parents, and to confirm these teachings, and to help children whose parents are negligent in their duties (*Matthew 18:5-6; Hebrews 3:12-13*).

Therefore it is important for all of us in the church—married and single, old and young, men and women, boys and girls—to understand the biblical teaching behind the motto of our children's ministries from Psalm 78:

*"That the next generation might put their hope in God."*

### The Ministry

As the ministry of Covenant Cedars Bible Camp celebrates 65 years, we can't help but reflect on your faithfulness as supporters in carrying out the words of Psalm 78:4. In the "Cathedral of the Great Outdoors", the truths of the Gospel have been proclaimed to each generation, handing down from the past, the teachings of

God's inerrant Word, thanks to each of you and your commitment to the "next generation".

**So we celebrate your faithfulness and thank God for each of you!**

**Over the past  
65 YEARS,  
it is estimated that over  
325,000 individuals  
have had the opportunity to  
experience CAMP!**

In this publication, you will have the opportunity to hear from just a few of those who experienced camp in a life changing way.

As you reflect on your camp experience, we would love to hear from you as well.

Email us at: [info@cedars.org](mailto:info@cedars.org).



# 65th Anniversary & Staff Alumni Weekend of October 4th, 2014

**Since 1949, there has been a family of servants to the Lord Jesus Christ at Covenant Cedars Bible Camp and Conference Center. These faithful people have served as volunteers, summer staff, and in year-round positions.**

What God has chosen to accomplish through them is an amazing and humbling thought. Their accomplishments are too numerous to count and have changed many lives for the Gospel. Their work ranges from weekend kitchen help to building construction, counseling students, to painting cabins, erecting a forty-two foot tower to intentionally creating lasting relationships with people.

Our family of servants will be getting back together again this fall at Cedars! Together, we will celebrate what God has done, fun stories of great memories, and relationships that have made this place stand out.

The first annual Covenant Cedars Staff Alumni Weekend will be held the weekend of October 4th, 2014 and it will include:

- *Amazing speakers and testimonies*
- *Tours of the camp ground*
- *Information on Guest Groups*
- *Meaningful conversations*
- *Renewed relationships*
- *Tower, zip-line, crate-stacking etc.*
- *Hayrack rides*
- *Newly renovated Green Dining Hall*
- *65th Anniversary Banquet*

Please be looking in your email, mailboxes, and on Facebook, for more information in the upcoming month for registration and deadlines. It is my

hope, and the hope of our staff, that you as Alumni will already be marking your busy calendars to attend this October. The goal is to make this a yearly event on the camp calendar. Let's start it off right with as many alumni participating as possible.

There will be many ways in which you and your family can participate in this first ever event! The current staff at Covenant Cedars thanks you for your overwhelming support and it is our hope that this weekend will serve those who serve this camp.

For further information, please visit our website [WWW.CEDARS.ORG](http://WWW.CEDARS.ORG); call the office (402) 757-3241, or for questions feel free to email [gabe@cedars.org](mailto:gabe@cedars.org).



# THEIR STORIES

## Evan Westburg Covenant Pastor

I am the Senior Pastor of First Evangelical Covenant Church in Lincoln, NE. Interestingly, the church I now serve is my home church. I spent the first eighteen years of my life being raised and nurtured in the faith by the congregation I now serve. Though I grew up hearing about Covenant Cedars, I did not become a camper until I reached ninth grade. At the urging of a friend, I decided to attend summer camp, and to my surprise – I loved it. Not only did I love it, I could not keep myself away. I soon became one of the first paid counselors, and worked for the next six summers serving in many different roles, from counselor to kitchen staff to managing the tower. ***Ultimately, it did not matter how I served; it was the ongoing relationships and life change that brought me back again and again.***

Camps like Covenant Cedars provide fertile ground for youth to encounter Jesus. The amount of life change that can occur in a week of camp may take years in other environments. There are very few places left that provide such space for pause and reflection for youth and adults alike. ***Camp changes lives. It changed mine.***

While I have learned many great principles and lessons over the years on how to be an effective and caring pastor, the beginning of my ministry education came through my days at Covenant Cedars. Those were formative years. I learned much about who I was, about how much God truly loved me, and I especially learned how to tell others about God's love shown through Jesus Christ. I hold Covenant Cedars in high regard. It shaped me, and I pray that my children have the same opportunities for growth and change – that they encounter the risen Jesus Christ. Camp changes lives.

## Kyle J. A. Small Associate Dean

I was a camper at Covenant Cedars Bible Camp from 1988-1995. Since then I have served as a staff member at Twin Lakes Christian Resource Center, (Iowa), as a pastor in Evangelical Covenant Church with my wife, Lindsay Small, and now serve as Associate Dean at Western Theological Seminary. I owe deep joy and passion to CCBC for preparing me to be a Christian witness and leader in all of these places. The counselors, friends, and staff members at CCBC are the people who encouraged my faith in Jesus Christ and formed my passion to serve the church.

I remember CCBC fondly. Kathy Swanson, Larry and Susie Carlson, Matt Rudeen, and Brian Carlson, among many others, loved me when I appeared unlovable. Each counselor and staff member believed in God enough to never give up on the kids, regardless of our temperaments or trials. CCBC was never about a place or facility but always about people, who lived in faith for God and in love for God's children.

***When I was a camper, a Covenant leader once said, "Covenant Cedars is the dumpiest property the Covenant owns, yet it is home to the richest relationships the Covenant knows." I celebrate this awkward compliment for I believe that this is the reason for my depth of faith and love for the church.***

I pray that CCBC continues to be a place of hospitality and rest for all who enter its gates. And that the long-standing imprint of loving disciples, (counselors and staff), serving future leaders continues.

Places such as Covenant Cedars are the essential opportunities children, youth, and adults need to get away and grow in Jesus Christ.

## Lyle Person Covenant Pastor

My first remembrance of Covenant Cedars is not positive. I was a shy farm kid. The first camp was a combination of homesickness and being overwhelmed by the new experience. It was a rough week in many ways. Caring people helped me weather the storm of that first week. I adjusted so much that I came back to camp as a camper for five more years plus two years on the staff as what was gloriously called a "flunky". Doing dishes, cleaning restrooms, sweeping and mopping floors were my duties for two summers. Those were long hot summer days of work and fun at the same time.

It was at Covenant Cedars where I solidified my decision to accept Christ's call to be my Savior. The experience was so special that I can visualize to this day the setting in the central room of the Wausa cabin. In those days most of the speakers were Covenant pastors. Almost all of the messages ended in an altar call. After several days, my counselor asked if I had made that choice and I said I was not sure. He prayed with me, and it was settled. However, he did not tell me until later that he STRONGLY encouraged me to share that fact at the campfire that night. Traumatized again! But I honored his request and was later glad that I had.

When I was pastor at Mead, I was asked to serve on the camp board. It was during that time we had the privilege to call Dan and Becky Buhr to serve on the staff. They have continued to serve so faithfully over the years. To remember what camp was 60 years ago and what it is today, there is no comparison in the facilities and programming, then and now. ***The mission has not changed. To lead children, youth and adults to Jesus and encourage them in their walk is what Covenant Cedars is all about.***

# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN “ADVOCATE” FOR A CHILD?

We are fervently asking each of our readers to consider how they might advocate for a child to attend camp. In order to help you understand the steps and resources available, here are some basic steps to follow:

## Step One:

Earnestly pray that the Spirit would bring to your mind a child in your sphere of influence that could benefit from a “faith building experience” (child, grandchild, neighbor, other relatives or acquaintances).

## Step Two:

After praying for them to be receptive, present the opportunity to them and their parents through printed material (available through your church or our web-site).

## Step Three:

Offer to help them fill out the registration, (if needed), present transportation options to and from camp, (if needed).

## Step Four:

Financing their experience should never be an obstacle to their attending. Most churches offer financial assistance, also you may contact the camp office for a scholarship or consider sponsoring them fully or partially yourself.

## Step Five:

See to it that they are ready for the trip to camp and pray for them while they are there.



**MANY YOUTH TODAY  
WILL NEVER  
EXPERIENCE THE BENEFITS  
OF CAMP  
WITHOUT  
YOUR  
HELP!**

Yet, it is so simple to provide that opportunity for them!

# 9 REASONS TO SEND A CHILD TO BIBLE CAMP THIS SUMMER:

1. FOSTER INDEPENDENCE
2. LEARN TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH KIDS THEY HAVEN'T MET BEFORE
3. APPRECIATE & VALUE COMMUNITY
4. LEARN THE IMPORTANCE OF MONEY MANAGEMENT
5. KNOW THEY ARE LOVED BEYOND THEIR FAMILY CIRCLE
6. EXPERIENCE UNIQUE WORSHIP SESSIONS
7. DEVELOP NEW SKILLS
8. IT'S GOOD, CLEAN (THOUGH OFTEN MUDDY) FUN!
9. LIVES ARE CHANGED