

CLARION

SUMMER EDITION 2015

WWW.CEDARS.ORG

AUGUST 2015



Above: Adam Hurt working on the construction site of the new summer staff housing. He is available for construction at AB Builders located in Aurora, NE. Photo credit: Mason Lindbloom.

STAFF HOUSING ON THE RISE

With the swing of every hammer and the sound of each nail driven into the new summer staff housing, excitement builds with the thought of having a new place to call their own. Features including separate laundry rooms for guys and gals, a staff lounge to hang out during their breaks and a small apartment in each corner for a summer staff leader, will definitely add to a summer experience. What a blessing this upgrade will be to future teams as they live onsite and serve the ministry of Covenant Cedars over the summers

for many years to come!

As you may know, this building will also host the DCFM (Deeper in Christ/Further in Mission) Discipleship Program, slated to begin in September 2016. This “dual purpose” structure will serve students from September to May by providing them with living space, classroom areas and space to study. The discipleship experience will accept up to 30 students and employ a DCM director and male and female RA. Please pray for the timely completion of the building and the final formation of the program!

Learning environments for the program include:

1. BIBLICAL STUDY
2. LOCAL AND GLOBAL MISSIONS TRIPS
3. COMMUNITY LIVING
4. SERVING AT CAMP AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITY



Above: Explorer campers and counselors begin jumping into the pool during their morning polar bear swim. Photo credits: Mason Lindbloom.

SUMMER REFLECTION

RISE UP 2015

*Kersten Hanson & RJ Bacani
Program Directors*

God doesn't call the equipped, He equips the called.

If there has ever been an example of this, our picture would be found in textbooks. We first stepped into our role as program directors at the beginning of January with only four months before the summer kickoff. Needless to say, our first year has been a learning curve for the both of us.

In spite of us, God has shown us great mercy and has worked through us to bring kids closer to Christ. Fast-forward to June and God carried us farther than we ever could have imagined. Our first week of summer youth camps

brought eager senior high campers who grew in their desperate hunger for God. The following week saw junior high campers who broke down barriers of sin to become a more unified body of Christ. Regardless of the week, one thing remained constant: the Gospel moved in the hearts and minds of our campers. From the moment campers arrived to their departure, each person is forever changed from their week at camp. God met them where they were and took hold of their hearts.

The same goes for us. As we transition to the end of the summer and prepare for the upcoming fall, we are now a changed people.

God continually sustained us and satisfied our souls, daily turning our hearts to Him. We are more than blessed for the opportunities that we have been given and for all God has provided for us this summer. But we are also reminded that God is greater than our summer. Our prayer is that these campers take Him in their hearts back to their families, friends, hometowns and schools. We pray that our campers continue to grow in their faith and love for Christ, taking delight in serving Him every moment of every day, patiently awaiting all God has to offer for next summer.

REVIEW AT A GLANCE



Top left: Explorer camper balances on crate stacking during free time at the tower.

Top right: Senior high campers prepare for WAVE Games at the lake.

Above: Explorer campers compete against each other in gaga.

Photo credits: Mason Lindbloom

“For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”
1 John 5:4-5



595 total number of campers
in attendance this summer



19% of students gave their
life to Christ at camp



69 campers felt called to be a
pastor, youth pastor or
missionary



*“For we are God’s workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which
God prepared in advance for us to do.”
Ephesians 2:10*

FORGE 2016 START YOUR JOURNEY NOW

Our workmanship takes many forms, from new summer staff housing to carefully laid plans for the summer program.

In next summer’s theme verse we read about God’s workmanship, which is us, the church! Unlike human workmanship, God’s is always perfect. If you read from the beginning of Ephesians you’ll see all the wonderful things God has done in us to create His masterpiece.

God’s purpose for His workmanship, the church, is that we

do good works. He has broken the power of cancelled sin in our lives by making us new creations in Jesus. Now we’re able to do His good works in the power of His Spirit and He wants to see us ‘in action’!

In His complete provision for us, God has already prepared the good works He wants us to do. As we go through our day today He’ll give us opportunities to do them. For example, maybe He’ll send us someone to comfort or encourage with His love or someone whose practical need we can meet.

One of the challenges for us is that although God knows what good works He’s prepared for us, we don’t. Some of the opportunities He brings us may catch us unawares in a moment of weakness. We may “pass by on the other side”, because we feel too busy or too tired to get involved.

Yet, if we will make ourselves available and respond whenever God calls us to do a good work, we’ll have the joy of bearing fruit that lasts, for His glory. Are you ready for Forge 2016?