

CLARION

SUMMER EDITION 2018

WWW.CEDARS.ORG

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A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we look around us today, things appear to be “falling apart”. I disagree! I believe they are actually “coming together” for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:1-5).

It may come as no surprise that the influence of Christianity in the U.S. is waning. Rates of church attendance, religious affiliation, belief in God, prayer and Bible-reading have been dropping for decades. Americans’ beliefs are becoming more post-Christian and, currently, religious identity is changing. Enter Generation Z: Born between 1999 and 2015, they are truly the first “post Christian” generation. The percentage of teens who identify as atheist is double that of the general population (Barna Research). This generation is under tremendous pressure!

In the mind of Paul, the last days bring an intensification of evil. In 1 Timothy 4:1 he

says, “Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons.” The apostle Peter says, “Scoffers will come in the last days” (2 Peter 3:3); Jude says, “In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions” (Jude 1:18).

So where lies our hope? Proverbs 22:6- “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.”

The later part of 2 Timothy however is the “good news” as Paul continues to instruct and encourage Timothy, just as we should continue to instruct and encourage youth today.. “You however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecu-

tions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from your childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

Invest in young people! Share your testimony with them! Help to surround them with the Word!

-Dan Buhr
Executive Director

SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS: REVIEW AT A GLANCE



WHAT PUTS YOU UNDER PRESSURE?

I was amazed at the answers that campers gave this summer as they were challenged with the above question. Some of the answers like school, parents, friends, and social media were understandable and expected. Others took me and many of the staff by surprise. Some campers knew exactly what pressured them and some only felt that there was a constant attack on who they were and what they were meant to do in life. They couldn't clearly describe the pressure but they certainly felt it. Sometimes, it was heartbreaking to hear the questions they had about the future, their faith, and the way the world treated them.

But one of the things I love about Covenant Cedars is that the campers felt comfortable enough to share their true feelings and thoughts. This summer's campers asked hard, honest questions of the speakers and openly

discussed the answers they received with their counselors and each other. The campers didn't back down from the challenge of discovering who they are and what God's plan is for them. They stood tall and looked deeper for answers and ways to strengthen their relationship with Jesus despite the pressure that they felt.

There is nothing else in the world like seeing campers enjoy the outdoors as they swim, run, fish, zip, climb, play, and worship. They are doing exactly what everyone expects to happen at camp and they all did plenty of that this summer! However, seeing campers open up about their concerns and fears so they could grow spiritually and deepen their relationships with Jesus is not something that happens at every camp. The Holy Spirit was definitely working overtime on our campers' hearts this summer.

This summer's theme verse was 2 Corinthians 4:8-10, *"We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body."* As we close out this summer, I pray that each of our campers is able to find strength in the first part of that passage to resist the pressures that they feel. I also pray that they follow the second half and share with others how they find that strength in Jesus.

God's blessings to you and we'll see you next summer!

Braden Wachtel
Director of Ministries

SUMMER STAFF STORIES



Working at Covenant Cedars this summer was honestly amazing. The relationship between everyone on staff really made being on staff meaningful, and the amount of silly inside jokes we have is impressive! I have done so many things this summer I never thought I would do and even through all the ups and downs, I am so grateful for this experience!

-Breanna Call, Summer Activity Staff

Camp has always been a great experience for me. I love working out here at camp because I always feel connected to God and I get to see God work through me and around me. I love seeing the kids grow in faith and I love it when kids accept Christ for the first time and when they reaffirm their faith in Him. The worship services are always the best because I love it when the band stops playing and we all keep singing acapella and it's just everyone's voices all crying out and singing of our love of God.

-Tyler Story, Summer Game Coordinator



BY THE NUMBERS



732

total campers attended
summer youth camp
throughout the summer



37

total campers gave their
life to Christ during
their week of camp



172

total campers decided to
renew commitments to
Christ while at camp



15

Speakers and Foundation
leaders came out to share
with our campers.



25

Summer Staff members
worked tirelessly to keep
camp going this summer



61

Volunteer Counselors gave up
a week or more of their
summer to serve at camp

CAMP CONSTRUCTION



Whitetail Lodge is open for use and has been popular with campers!

Whitetail Lodge, our newest housing on camp, was completed early this summer. Campers began staying in this lodge in mid-June and they are loving the new space. Thank you to all who donated and made this project a reality!

Our current project is a new office! We are excited to have this new space to welcome guests on to grounds



and for our staff to operate camp's different programs. Thanks to good weather and a great building team, we are hopeful this building will be ready for use this autumn.

New office, currently under construction.

SAVE THESE DATES

Mark your calendar for these upcoming camp and ministry partner events!

SEPTEMBER 21-23, 2018

Women's Retreat

(by Midwest Conference Women Ministries)

SEPTEMBER 23-25, 2018

Youth Pastors' Retreat

(by Midwest Conference Youth Team)

NOVEMBER 16-18, 2018

High School Fall Retreat

(by Midwest Conference Youth Team)

NOVEMBER 2-4, 2018

Middle School Fall Retreat

(by Midwest Conference Youth Team)

FEBRUARY 8-10, 2019

Covenant Cedars Marriage Retreat

SELECT DATES

Pizza Reach at Your Youth Group!



RESONATE UPDATE

Due to too few student applications for the 2018-2019 calendar, Resonate Discipleship Experience has been canceled for this year. The possibilities for this program are being prayed over and considered as we look at what next year may bring; please join us in praying for wisdom and faithful ministry decisions.

I WANT TO PARTNER WITH CAMP'S MINISTRY

I would like to make a donation of \$_____ to help celebrate all that God has done and to assist with operating expenses and year-round ministry.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email(s): _____

All gifts are tax deductible. Receipts will be issued at year end.

Cut this slip out and send back to camp to donate to our ministry.