

COVENANT CEDARS BIBLE CAMP

CLARION

NOVEMBER 2019



Discover how “citizens” of heaven must eagerly await Christ in their lives

We’re eagerly awaiting what God has for this summer, “Citizens”, which comes from Philippians 3:20. Paul reminds us that our home is not in these “earthly things” but in heaven. Our citizenship has changed; we were born into one place, but we’ve left that behind for a new home. And this new place we call home looks different than where we come from; in fact, it changes everything about us – not just who we were but who we are right now. Our new home brings with it a new life, and Paul knows this is true. This is the man who went from a life of murdering Christians to passionately following Christ; his life is radically different, because he has been radically changed by Christ. His life is a reflection of Jesus, and he encourages us to do the same. In 1 Cor. 1:11, Paul says to imitate him, to be like him as he is in Christ.

What an amazing thing to say, *“Follow me, because I’m following Jesus.”* Can we say this about our lives? Are we living in a way that reflects Christ and invites others to do the same? We’re not only changed by the things that we do, but our priorities change, what we think about changes, what we focus on changes. The things that give us joy and the things that break out hearts change, because Christ gives us an eternal perspective; he gives us the bigger picture. Our hearts change. Paul says that we should “eagerly await our Savior.” This is the heart of a Christian; we’re eagerly waiting, we’re hoping for and expecting Christ to return. We start loving the things of God more – we want to pursue holiness; we want to love people – and we desire things of this world less. Our heart wants to choose God more.

In Php. 3:20-21, Paul says that we will be transformed. We will be given a new body and a new home – one where there is no pain or darkness. And so, he will eagerly await, he does so with joy, because that is what we were made to do. Heaven is where we were made to be. Jesus is what will make the world right, and He has completed our salvation. Why do we eagerly await? We wait for our Savior. We’re not waiting for an event; we’re waiting for a person. We wait for our Savior who has done everything for us. He chose you, He called you, He will keep you and bring you home. This life isn’t about us, it’s about Christ. Join us this summer as we discover what it means to be citizens of heaven and how we can eagerly await Christ in our lives! Find out more on the summer by visiting www.cedars.org.



Anniversary weekend gathers many to celebrate 70 years of ministry

We celebrated our 70th anniversary back in September, and we were blessed to have many of our friends and families join us for the weekend celebration. Over 120 people came for the festivities, which included campfire worship, s'mores, ballfield games, fishing tournament, zipline, rock climbing, bounce houses, volleyball, hammocks, and a hayrack ride tour of camp with Dan.

The highlight was at our Saturday evening banquet where we heard how God has worked in our ministries and partnerships. We received updates for our own summer camps, as well as Royal Family Kids Camp, Teen Reach Adventure Camp, Operation Shine, the Covenant Trust, and our Midwest Superintendent, Tammy Swanson-Draheim. God uses this place to serve many people!

It has been an honor to serve Christ these past 70 years, and we're excited to continue working to further the Gospel the next 70 years. Thank you to everyone who came to celebrate with us this weekend, and thank you to all who have faithfully supported camp and the Lord through your giving, prayers, service, and friendship. Join us for all that God will be doing next at camp!



111
commitments
to follow Christ

111 campers made a first-time decision to follow Christ among the **718** campers just from Covenant camps this summer



131
groups were
served last year

We serve more than summer camps; we served roughly **131** groups during the entire offseason and the whole summer

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Alexa Edmundson - Omaha, NE
Volunteer Counselor

"I grew in my faith as a camper, and a lot of that happened because of my counselors. They poured into me and showed me the love of God. Because of them, I desired to be a counselor and give back. Being a counselor has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life; sharing God's word fills my heart with love and joy. It's one of the best decisions I've made, and I love every minute of it."



Devaney Brown - Wakefield, NE
Activities Crew

"God is prevalent at camp, and it's obvious to see Him; whether it's convincing a camper to climb the tower or making jokes with a camper at the lake. I made amazing friendships with the staff, friends that lead me towards the Lord. God worked in my life, and it carried into my first year of college. I'm thankful for the campers and staff; I can't wait to see how God works here next summer!"



Former summer staff member joins year-round staff in new internship



One of our former summer staff members, Tyler Story, has decided to enter into a year-long internship to explore his calling in camp ministry. He has been a long-time camper, volunteer, and staff member; he was most recently on summer staff between 2016-2019 in a variety of different positions, including facilities, activities, program crew, core counseling, and support staff. After his first summer on staff, God led him to enroll in Resonate Discipleship Experience, the gap-year program that was hosted at camp. Following the discipleship program, Tyler enrolled at Northeast Community College in Norfolk, NE where he studied theater. Now, he is excited to discover and follow a new passion in his life. "I really felt that God was calling me into camp ministry," he said. "This place has always been so welcoming to me. It's my second home." We're excited to be a small part in his process of discovery and obedience to God's will for his life!

HOW YOU CAN HELP



VOLUNTEER WEEKEND OPPORTUNITIES

Bring a group from your church to help camp get a jump start on getting ready for summer. Call the camp office at **(402) 757-3241** to schedule a time for your volunteers to come and experience camp, give of their time, and enjoy fellowship and fun, too. We will provide lodging, food and an inspirational time.

(If none of the weekends work for your group, please call our camp office to make other arrangements).

Friday, March 20 - Sunday, March 22

Friday, April 3 - Sunday, April 5

Friday, April 24 - Sunday, April 26

Friday, May 1 - Sunday, May 3

Please visit us at www.cedars.org or call our camp office at (402) 757-3241 to schedule a weekend.



Year-end giving opportunities include climbing wall and septic system

As you consider your year-end contributions to Covenant Cedars Bible Camp, please consider giving toward one or both of these immediate needs. First, the climbing wall modifications: we are in the certification process of our climbing wall that was built in the late 90's. Obviously industry standards have changed over those years and we will be required to make several modifications to the structure itself. The tower is currently safe and stronger than required; however, it simply does not meet the current industry

standards with the cables, clamps, etc. that were used at the time of construction. We feel that it is worth taking these steps in order to have an inspection company sign off" on it's certification. *The estimated cost for these climbing modifications is \$16,000.* Second, with the extreme amount of rainfall last spring and summer, we need to replace a totally saturated septic system in Critter Cove. We had to constantly pump the septic tank last summer as the leach field had become saturated and non-functioning

from the excessive rainfall. This current system services these highly used cabins and storm shelter. *The estimated cost for a new septic system is approximately \$6500.* We greatly appreciate any help you can offer to accomplish these two current needs. Thank you for all of your faithful giving, prayer, and commitment to camp this year! We can't wait to see what God has in store for us next year in 2020. Join us as we prayerfully step into the new year and walk in step with the Lord's plans for us!

Consider giving to climbing wall updates, Critter Cove septic systems

I would like to make a donation of \$ _____ toward modifications for the climbing wall and/or a new Critter Cove septic system.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email(s): _____

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