

Dear friends at Harvest Valley,

Here is a 'quick' update on what has been going on this winter and spring as we prepare for school to end and summer activities to begin: Camp served over 7000 guests through school groups, church retreats, and open ski days throughout the winter. The prayer is that those who came through our doors were exposed to the Gospel through our staff and sessions or were able to find needed rest and encouragement. March & April were slower times with a staff retreat, camping conferences, and smaller groups using our facility.

We are now getting ready for our summer ministry that is arriving very soon. We were blessed with many families and individuals volunteering for our Work Weekend Apr 29-May1, helping with cleaning up the grounds from winter, wood storage, setting up our summer activity areas, and working on a few new projects. I (Will) was blessed to have seven volunteers help that weekend with 4 different lighting projects that included upgrading lights in a repurposed storage area, building a new wooden light pole for our playground, and finishing some landscaping lighting.

With an extended winter season here, it prevented starting earlier on some of the outdoor projects that needed to get done. One of the major ones that I have been working on is solving why the power went out to one of our staff residences before Easter. I determined that it was an underground wire break as the thawing frost lift was causing power changes, but where? I connected some temporary power to the house for our gap-year students staying there, and proceeded to dig a hole, suspecting where the break might be. Hiring a company to find such breaks and five holes later, I and some other staff finally found it this past week - right where it had been damaged by some other digging last fall (unknown to me). :-)

One of the joys of working at camp is seeing God work in young men's hearts, stirring in them an interest in serving a ministry and using the gifts and abilities He has given them. One such man, Ethan, has recently arrived for the summer that I have had the privilege to work with. He is a trained welder who got tired of the lifestyle and culture of the manufacturing industry he was a part of. He grew up coming to camp and wanted to return to use his gifts and education for building the Kingdom. He will be counseling youngsters in June & July and then continuing to help the Maintenance team with whatever work he can put his hand to. He is very eager to learn and has a sensitive heart to spiritual growth. Please pray for him as he seeks direction on what the Lord has for him after the summer.

Interestingly, Jenn and I had been on an extended prayer journey throughout the school year regarding an opportunity offered by another camp to consider moving and starting a maintenance intern-type program with the purpose of training and discipling young men in the maintenance trades to assist camps or to provide experience for the start of a full time occupation. After a LOT of prayer and many conversations seeking spiritual counsel, the Lord directed me to stay here at Forest Springs to continue to assist with facility maintenance and to possibly start a program like that here. It was not an easy journey or decision, but I have grown immensely in prayer and trust in the Lord through it. Though not in an official capacity with me, having a young man like Ethan come to help camp and to learn is another confirmation that I am following the Lord's direction for me.

We value your prayers as we navigate the many year-end school activities and sports that our kids participate in. It also includes winding down Bible studies and regular youth group meetings for the summer that we each have been a part of.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and regular support for our ministry here at Forest Springs. We look forward to seeing you sometime this summer.

Blessings,
Will & Jenn Scott