



Black Rock Retreat

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www.blackrockretreat.com

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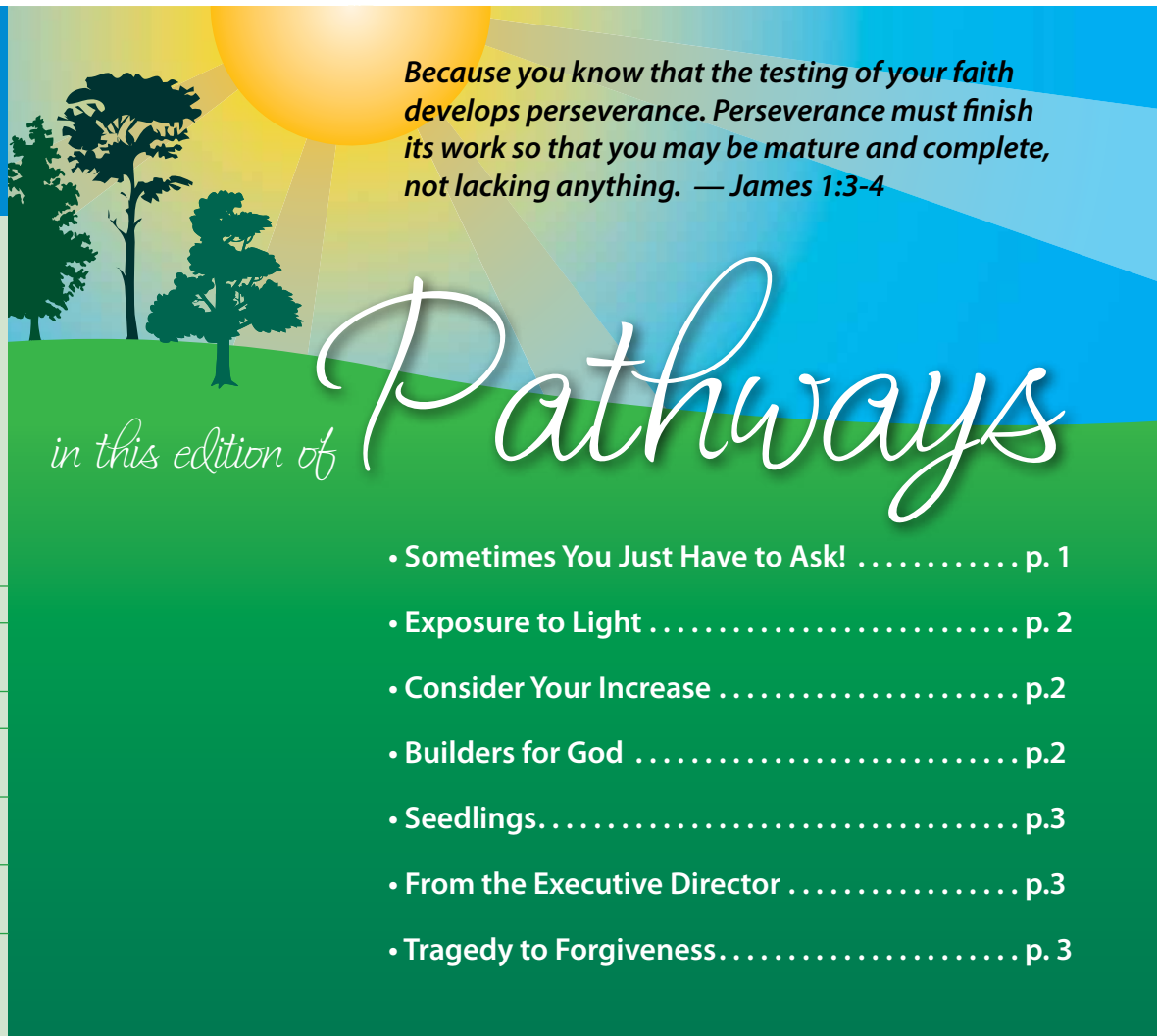
These items are needed here at Black Rock Retreat. If you are interested in funding any of them please call the office at 1 (800) 858-9299 or mail your donation to:

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Portable PA System	\$1000
Snow Blower	\$1000
Archery Equipment for Summer Camp	\$180
Bibles for Campers	\$200
Additional Portable Communication Radio	\$750
Water Study Class Kits for Outdoor Education	\$320
Funds to Taxidermy Birds for Outdoor Ed	\$200

Thank you!

Because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. — James 1:3-4



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Pathways

News, Information & Fellowship at Black Rock Retreat

Summer 2010

Sometimes You Just Have to Ask!

Many campers come each year to Black Rock Retreat from broken homes and non Christian backgrounds and God touches them in an amazing way. But sometimes the stories of the campers from Christian families right here in our own backyard are just as powerful. This story was submitted by one of our Summer Camp Senior Counselors.

This summer I had a camper named Kendra* in my cabin. This was my first week as a counselor, so I was especially nervous about going deep into one on one discussions with my campers. One on one discussions are intentional times that we as counselors have with each individual camper in our cabin for the week. This allows us to clearly understand where they see themselves in their relationship with God. These talks give us one of the best opportunities to present the good news of the Gospel to our campers. I planned to start one on one discussions on Wednesday afternoon. That morning I read a devotional about not being intimidated by anyone, which encouraged me to follow through with my plan.

That evening I went out to the dock at the Lake with Kendra and began to talk with her about her life and what she had learned during the week. She shared with me that she lived just a few minutes from Black Rock Retreat, that her mother was a Sunday School teacher and that she has attended church all her life. So I asked



her if she had ever made the decision for herself to follow Christ. She looked up at me with a smile and said, "I have always wanted to but nobody ever asked me!" I was blown away by her understanding of what Jesus and salvation really means, and so I was confident that her choice was real and true. She and I then prayed together to ask Jesus into her life. God works in powerful ways. He crushed my nervousness and led me to ask Kendra such a simple question. A question that I assumed I already knew the answer to but was wrong. I also realized that sometimes it takes a little bit of trust in God, and a willingness to ask that simple question: "What does Jesus mean to you?" You may just find yourself listening to the angels rejoice, as one more child or adult is ushered into a life with God. Praise the Lord for His perfect plan! ●

*Not her real name



Black Rock Retreat

Exposure to Light

Each Spring and Fall Black Rock Retreat is blessed to have many Christian Middle School students attend our Outdoor Education Program. Recently, a girl named Sabrina came to Black Rock with her 5th grade class. Prior to that year, Sabrina had never been in school before, and came from a very rough background. Her cousin's family took her in and put her in a Christian school. The school came to Black Rock Retreat for three days, and during that time the staff worked with Sabrina to help her see how much God loves her. She listened intently during devotions and classes, but didn't participate in any discussions. She was the most outspoken on the Ga Ga court (a game similar to handball), where she dominated and her confidence soared. We could all see the light that was hiding behind her eyes, even though she had come from a rough background and had a lot of sadness in her past. It was very clear that God had given her a sweet spirit, but her childhood did not allow her to fully develop it. When the school left, Sabrina's teacher assured us that there had been some growth and she would keep us posted. Not too much later we spoke with the teacher, and found out that Sabrina accepted Christ! She says that it's what she learned here at Black Rock Retreat about God that provided the foundation for that decision. Since accepting Christ, all of the "demons" in her head from her past experiences have started to disappear, and there is a noticeable difference in her personality. We rejoice in this testimony to the way God works through Black Rock Retreat! 🌟



Outdoor Education students see God's creation up close.

Consider Your Increase

"Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God." — II Corinthians 9:10-12

Recently one of our staff members stopped to speak with a retreat guest staying here at Black Rock Retreat. She shared that she was a first time guest and had been troubled when she found out that there would be no television in her room and she wasn't sure what she would do. Her speech and countenance, however, displayed incredible gratitude as she expressed over and over that she had found peace during her stay. Last week a summer camper prayed with her counselor to commit her life to Jesus. She had previously desired to take this step, but had been unable to find a safe place/person to walk her through it. She also walked in gratitude.

The scripture above makes it clear that God brings increase into our lives so that we can be generous on every occasion. We are grateful for the countless people who have, through the years, generously given time, talents, resources and wisdom to Black Rock Retreat. The needs of many have been supplied and they in turn are, "overflowing with many expressions of thanks to God."

If God has blessed you with increase, we encourage you to share generously. Though it is our commitment to encourage hearts that are generous toward God through any context, we invite you to consider Black Rock Retreat as a viable giving location. We are grateful for contributions to our camp sponsorship fund to benefit deserving families. We can always utilize on site volunteers and are happy to speak with you about specific ways you or your group may want to serve. We would welcome a visit or conversation with you to consider how you might designate God's generosity in your life. Contact Barry Stoner, our Development Director, at (800) 858-9299 or email him at devdir@blackrockretreat.com 🌟



Builders for God

Builders for God, an organized group of volunteers that spend one week each year at a chosen Christian camp, recently served at Black Rock Retreat in June. What a joy it was for us to have them serve us in this way! While they were here, this blessed group exceeded our expectations in their accomplishments and in their joy in serving. It was evident to us that they truly expressed the love of God through their action and work.

"The word that comes to my mind about Black Rock Retreat is balance. There is a quality about the facility and the staff that is the result of careful planning. Our group was ministered to by the kitchen staff, counselors and the maintenance staff. The love of God and the desire to witness to kids is alive and well here. I would love to come back!" —Builders for God participants



While at our property, the group was able to:

- Build a 60' X 12' wood shed
- Hauled and stacked wood from old wood sheds to newly constructed shed
- Built a Ga Ga Court at Hilltop Pavilion
- Demolished the old boat house and some of the old wood sheds at Hiawatha
- Painted Chapel railings and exterior doors and four fuel tanks
- Cleaned and re-stained the Maranatha Retreat Center Deck
- Cut weeds back along trails and drives
- Power washed and repainted both shuffleboard courts
- Weeded flower and shrubbery beds
- Cleaned windows
- Assisted in the office



From The Executive Director

I am writing this at the beginning of our Summer Camp season for 2010. We have completed our "Special Week", Black Rock Retreat's ministry to adults with

mental disabilities. What a joy it is to see the love and compassion God has placed in their hearts! And what a testimony it is to us! Now we have moved to our weeks of summer camp for children. Each week I have the opportunity of greeting parents at our registration line and seeing the sheer excitement of the children who they are bringing to our summer camp. I simply cannot explain in mere words the joy of being part of this ministry!

If you have the opportunity, please browse the Black Rock Retreat website, or visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/blackrockretreat, to follow the activities of each week's campers. As I greet each camper with their parents or guardian, I hear numerous stories from parents who attended camp here twenty or more years ago and are now bringing their children because of what Black Rock Retreat Summer Camp meant to them. Some mention their memories of horseback riding (which, unfortunately we no longer offer!), some remember which cabin they stayed in as well as the names of their counselors. I continue to hear of stories of people who made their first decision to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior while attending camp here.

The theme this year is: "IN PURSUIT". We are discussing the ways in which God pursues us relentlessly with His love and how we can pursue Him to "keep in step with the Spirit"(Galatians 5:25). I had the opportunity to listen to the personal testimonies of all forty counselors and staff. Half of our summer staff has served with us previous summers and for the other half, this is their first time of ministry at Black Rock Retreat. God has blessed us again with a team of energized youth that have so much love to give and a willingness to share how God has pursued them and they have pursued God.

It seems at times like these when we see the love of Jesus being expressed in so many venues here such as summer camp, outdoor education, Exploritas and our retreat groups, it only makes the devil work harder at trying to cause problems including health issues, maintenance issues, personal struggles with faith and relationship issues, dissension, financial pressures, discouragement and fatigue. We covet your prayers in times like these during both the joys and challenges. Pray with us for a summer full of the richness of God's grace on our summer campers, retreat guests and our staff! May God richly bless you in all ways as we look forward to your continuing partnership with us in the future. 🌿 — John W. Shertz, Executive Director

Seedlings *What's Comin' up at Black Rock Retreat*

21st Annual Black Rock Retreat Benefit Golf Tournament September 13, 2010

The Black Rock Retreat 21st Annual Benefit Golf Tournament will be held on September 13, 2010 at ParLine Golf Course in Elizabethtown, PA. There will be both a morning and afternoon sessions. For more information or to sign up your foursome please contact Black Rock Retreat at 1-800-858-9299 or visit our website at www.blackrockretreat.com

9th Annual Black Rock Retreat BR2RB Bike-a-thon Event September 17 & September 18, 2010

The Black Rock Retreat 9th Annual BR2RB 125 mile Bike-a-thon Event will be held on September 17 and 18, 2010. Riders have the opportunity to ride either Friday or Saturday in a fully supported ride that begins at Black Rock Retreat with a destination of Rehoboth Bay, DE. For more information or to register online visit our website at www.blackrockretreat.com/bikeathon

Annual Black Rock Retreat Fall Banquet October 12, 2010

The 2010 Annual Black Rock Retreat Fall Banquet will be held on October 12, 2010 at 6:15pm at Palm Court at Willow Valley Resort. The evening will include staff sharing how the Black Rock Retreat programs are impacting lives as well as special music from Andrea Brubaker. If you would like to attend feel free to contact us at 1-800-858-9299 or email office@blackrockretreat.com

Tragedy to Forgiveness

"In 2007 I came down here for a week retreat and it made such an impact on me, and on my inner peace. I was raging mad inside me and I didn't know this and I would argue with anyone about anything or I would tell them off with nasty, nasty language and thought nothing of it no matter what age they were. The words were just getting out of me I was just racing through life. And I came down here and I found it peaceful . . . so peaceful I wanted to write to you and let you know what you've done for me. And then time past by quickly and before I had the opportunity to write to you, we heard the news of the shooting of the Amish children (the Nickel Mines Tragedy) in your area. Because we had just been given the opportunity to interact with members of the Amish community I felt such a connection to them. I wanted to just get in the car and come down and do something but I didn't know what to do. So I did something I hadn't done in years. I went to church and I just prayed. The Amish community's forgiveness is overwhelming to me. The way they forgave everything . . . and they just made a big impact on my life. And I have come back to my own (faith) and I'm not fighting anymore. I'm not arguing. Sometimes I'm overkind to people!" Ann Powell, of New Hampshire, spoke these words to us on a recent return trip to our Road Scholars (formerly Elderhostel) program. While she was here a local pastor who ministered to the Amish families involved in the tragedy as well as the family of the person responsible for the tragedy spoke about the whole experience. Ann shared that the pastor gave her a sense of closure to this terrible tragedy. 🌿



Ann Powell shares a moment with our Road Scholar Coordinator, Nancy Engel.