

Canyon Echoes

a publication of
Yellowstone Alliance Adventures

October 2011

Record Summer Changed Lives

It is amazing that the summer has already come and gone. We started out the summer welcoming 13 Joshua staff and 22 Timothy students that came to help run our summer program. The staff were responsible for counseling, running activities and skill builders, cooking and a number of facility projects and chores. They did a great job in all these areas and were key in the success of our summer.

YAA had a record summer this year. Our last two camps were the largest summer camps we have ever had here at YAA. We had the privilege of hosting over five hundred students and adults this summer. Out of those we saw 30 students accept Christ as their Savior, 124 students desire to grow spiritually.

Our theme this summer was "Get Plugged In," that came from John 15. It was awesome to see each of our speakers communicate to students of all ages the importance of abiding in Christ. Students came away challenged not only to follow Christ but to live for Him. There are so many things to be thankful for and praise the Lord for.

I want to thank all those who were involved in investing and mobilizing students to discover and grow in Christ this summer. I would like to leave you with one of my favorite memories of the summer. At the end of each week of camp we have the chance to share with family and friends the things we did and learned at camp through a slide show, music and various recaps from leaders. During this time the campers get to face the crowd and sing a song that they learned. Most weeks it is usually a fun song with motions. The last week of camp we decided to sing a more serious song that really shared who Christ is. So if you could imagine 90 plus students standing, some arms around each other and others holding hands in a circle singing to their parents "Beautiful." It is amazing how God can bring a group of Jr. High students together for a week to be invested in and then give them the chance to share the Gospel to their parents. I believe we serve a God who is the perfect mobilizer. This summer we had a chance to take part in what God was doing in the lives of students!

PAUL HUNEYCUTT • Assistant Director

Get Involved

- Come to be a part of our **Fall Work Weekend** on October 21-22. We will have projects for all skill levels if you come with willing hands and a healthy body. Many hands make work weekends tons of fun!
- Become a "Friend" of YAA on **Facebook**. Stay up to date and know how to pray for the ministry.
- Offer to become a part of our network of volunteers and advisors to the Director
- Join the expanding base of people who are committed to YAA by giving a **monthly financial gift**.
- **Adopt a staff member**. Encourage them via cards, gift certificates, or invite them to your home for a visit. Ask them what inspires them to serve, what their greatest challenge is and offer to support them however you are able.
- Make a **specific gift** to sponsor one of the following needs:
 - Bows and arrows for our archery program
 - Footballs, Volleyballs and Basketballs
 - Garden shovels and Pulaskis (used for building trails)
 - Leaf rakes
 - High volume toaster
 - Replacement ¾ ton truck with a snow plow
 - Bumper pull dump- trailer
 - iMac computer & Final Cut software for our video productions
 - Two 10' projection screens

You're Beautiful • by Phil Wickham

I see your face in every sunrise
The colors of the morning are inside your eyes
The world awakens in the light of the day
I look up to the sky and say ...
You're Beautiful

I see your pow'r in the moonlit night
Where planets are in motion and galaxies are bright
We are amazed in the light of the stars
Its all proclaiming who you are ...
You're Beautiful

I see you there hanging on a tree
You bled and then you died and then you rose again for me
Now you are sitting on your heavenly throne
Soon you will be coming home ...
You're Beautiful
When we arrive at eternity's shore
Where death is just a memory and tears are no more
We'll enter in as the wedding bells ring
Your bride will come together and we'll sing
... You're Beautiful



from the Director's DEN



The heat and energy of summer may be dissipating but the echo of delighted campers resounds in my ears accompanied by hundreds of images that flood my mind from yet another summer of camp life.

- There goes Dillon ripping past, blazing down the hill side on one of our new mountain skate boards.
- That squeal sounds like Avery. She must have hit the bull's-eye again in archery. Look at that roaring campfire and goofy counselors acting out the Bad Beans skit for the tenth time.
- No, those streaking flashes in the sky aren't the Northern Lights at all—can't you hear the shouts? They're our high school campers riding the new zipline, 45 feet in the air, with glow sticks at 11:00pm.
- Enthusiastic and lively singing as Josh and Alex stir everyone into powerful worship during chapel.
- "Mmmmm"—is the satisfied sound that is heard as campers devour the renowned YAA camp food during meal time in the dining hall. (Pssst ... you have to come and see the incredible, remodeled dining hall).
- I hear cheers and shrieks followed by an enormous splash and shouts of victory as Ellie topples Alex and then Amy, off of the suspended pipe and into a six foot pit filled with ice cold, well water.
- A mere whisper is all that can be detected as quiet, shoulder to shoulder, conversations about life and God take place as counselors intentionally come alongside campers and share a few words with each other.



Building a community based on intentional relationships.

Building a community based on intentional relationships in which people enter into the adventures of life always proves to be powerful for both campers and staff. As this summer has now come to an end, the stories of how another week at summer camp has helped a camper or a family grow, start

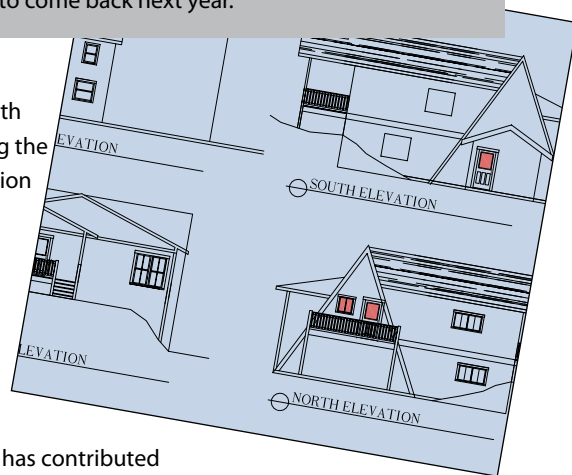
coming in. These are what assure me that my job has significance and success that can't be measured by mere numbers or fun activities. Here are a few accounts from a variety of moms, dads and even campers themselves. Enjoy.

JIM HAWTHORNE

"Mom and Dad, I think I am starting to believe in GOD." "My son just loved his counselors!" Overheard during one of our end of camp, family bar-b-cues, "There is such good, positive energy here!" "My son was at YAA for a week of day camp and a week of overnight camp this summer...he loved it so much he asked if there was two weeks of overnight camp to go to next summer!" "We have friends who sent their daughter to your camp and they had wonderful things to say about YAA!" "Thank you very much for all YAA has invested in our four children. The impact your lives and ministry have had on them reaches into eternity and we are extremely grateful. Thank you especially for seeing B's God-given potential and design and calling him forward into it." "My friend told me that her daughter came home and asked to be baptized because her life had been changed at camp." "My kids had a marvelous time at camp...they can't say enough about it....they love YAA and can't wait to come back next year."

This fall has brought new noises as earth moving equipment is busy excavating the holes for our next lodge and an addition on one of the staff houses that is home to Paul, Lorie, Rylie and Hudson. Concrete will be finished by the end of September! (Keep your ears open for a chance to volunteer on one of these projects). I can't tell you how excited I am to be a part of these wonderful improvements to our facilities.

A hearty "thanks" goes out to everyone who has contributed and continues to contribute to the building up of this effective ministry. And by all means, don't be a stranger — I'd love to give you a tour of all the exciting projects that are taking place. Come and visit anytime and start making plans to be involved in 2012.



Jon Hayter at a Glance

Having grown up in the Alliance, at First Alliance Church in Billings, I spent a lot of my summers at camp. I still have faint memories of the old candy shack, the old zip line strung between a couple trees and tubing down the path in the middle of camp with hay bales keeping you from hitting trees. I have many memories of time spent with friends in a beautiful place.

Once I was old enough I signed on as summer staff for a few years. These years provided a completely different view point of camp ministry. Late hours plumbing the new kitchen or climbing down into one foot wide trenches to run a new water line are some of the work memories I have. My time as a counselor taught me more than I could have ever taught the students in my cabin. These years had an impact on me, they helped form the man I would become and the love for camping ministry I have today.

Shortly after arriving to start as full time



staff one of the campers from my summer staff days shared a story with me. She told a story of how she didn't want to ride on the bucking barrel. After talking her into riding it she demanded that she not fall off. Fall off she did and she was not pleased at all. She remembers walking up and hitting me. I can't remember this as clearly as she did, but I remained calm and asked her to join the back of the line. The reason she remembers that story is that it was the first time someone didn't react in anger to her anger. It was one of those small moments where

the smallest of things can become a big teaching tool. The girl has grown to be an amazing woman of God, and has returned to be on summer staff the past few years. This is why I love this ministry. God can take the smallest actions from us to imprint on the next generations to become men and women following after Him.

I am blessed beyond words to be a part of the staff here, to be in a position that I can devote my time and energy to ministry.

My wife is amazing and has the harder job watching over the kids and homeschooling two of them. Our kids love their new backyard and enjoyed time with the summer staff. We thank God and our family and friends for the support and love that made this new adventure for our family possible.

I have been married to Joyce for seven years and we have four beautiful children. Our only girl, Taylor is six, Ben is five, Logan is three and Iann is one.

JON HAYTER • Operations & Facilities Director

SnowCraze February 2012

This mini-camp is designed to encourage, enrich, and mobilize youth toward a stronger walk with God enabling them to actively and confidently engage the world around them. Activities include: Tubing, Broomball, Skiing, Snowboarding, Flag Football, Air Bands, Games, Snow Sculpture contest, and much, much more. Look forward to... Dynamic Worship, Motivating Teaching, New Friendships, Time of Refreshment, Experiencing God first hand.

Dates: Feb. 17th -20th

Who: Jr. High and Sr. High Students

Cost: \$130.00 plus skiing/snowboard costs

Register by February 6th

Summer Camp 2012

Check out our website www.yaacamp.org for schedule updates and registration beginning January 2012. "Off the Wall" • 1 Kings 18:21

- Camp 1 June 11th – 15th
- Camp 2 June 18th – 22nd
- Camp 3 June 24th – 29th
- Camp 4 June 29th – 2nd
- Camp 5 July 3rd – 7th
- Camp 6 July 8th – 13th
- Camp 7 July 15th – 20th
- Camp 8 July 22nd – 27th

God Showed Up

It has been my experience that God often calls us, his children, to do some crazy things in order to grow our faith and expand our views of the world. He wants to teach us to see things the way he sees them. When I felt like the Spirit was nudging me to work at a camp last summer, I thought the idea was ridiculous! I had only been to camp one year as a child and that time was not particularly pleasant. I had also never heard of Yellowstone Alliance Adventures before and knew no one associated with the camp. Why in the world should I give up an entire summer to work there?

God showed up, as he usually does, and answered that question in some incredible ways. Being on the Joshua Staff at YAA was an incredible experience that opened my eyes to some truths about ministry that I had never before realized. I learned how to experience the freedom of worship by dancing around crazily in chapel with my campers. I learned how to engage in authentic community by meeting daily with the other staff members and supporting each other in prayer. I learned how to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit by trying things I had never done before, that were far outside of my comfort zone.

Looking back, I can easily see the myriad of answers to the question of why God led me to camp last summer. He wanted to refine my heart, expand my faith, and change me! I am a different person now than I was last May, thanks to the grace of God, and the adventures of a summer at YAA!

SHANAE EDDY • Joshua Staff Member



Why in the world should I give up an entire summer to work there?

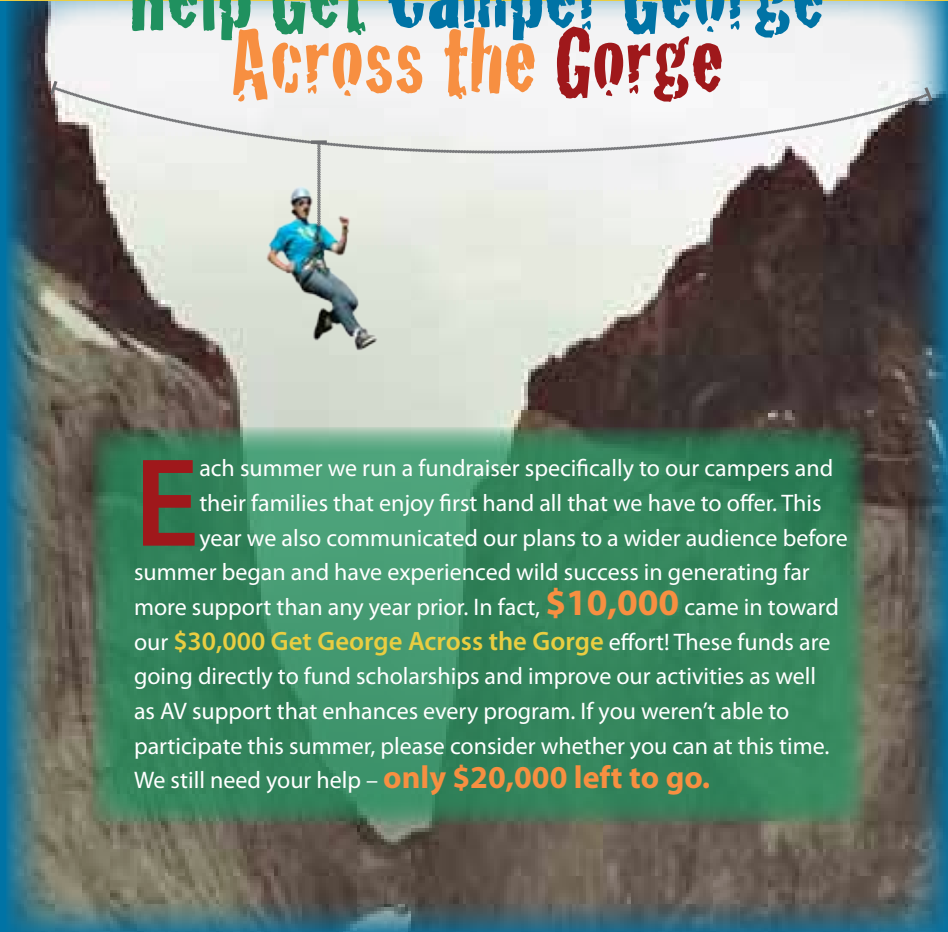
John 10:27

Help Get Camper George Across the Gorge



Retreats

Whether you are looking for a quiet spot for a personal refuge away from the pressures of everyday life or you need an event center for small to large group retreats, we have just what you're looking for! We still have dates available this year and are booking events for 2012. Yellowstone Alliance Adventures is available for reunions, youth groups, men's and ladies' groups, school groups, family camps, leadership training, service projects and day retreats. Some of the Activities that we offer are Zip Line, Climbing, paintball, mountain boarding, snow tubing, broom ball and lots of other outdoor adventures. If you have any questions or are interested in booking an event contact our office or email office@yaacamp.org.



Each summer we run a fundraiser specifically to our campers and their families that enjoy first hand all that we have to offer. This year we also communicated our plans to a wider audience before summer began and have experienced wild success in generating far more support than any year prior. In fact, **\$10,000** came in toward our **\$30,000 Get George Across the Gorge** effort! These funds are going directly to fund scholarships and improve our activities as well as AV support that enhances every program. If you weren't able to participate this summer, please consider whether you can at this time. We still need your help – **only \$20,000 left to go.**



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Return Service Requested



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