



“The Del-Haven Vision”

“Without vision, the people perish” (Proverbs 29:18)

Newsletter of Camp Del-Haven

Turning Kids from Crime to Christ

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“Out of the depths I have cried to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice, and let your ears listen to the voice of my supplications. If you Lord should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you that you may be feared. I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I do hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning...yes, more than those who watch for the morning. O Israel, hope in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption. And He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.” Ps.130

This Psalm is known as a song of degrees, or ascents. It begins at a point that is of low esteem and then progresses upward. Real praying always seems to emerge from the times of severe trouble and desperation. The pit of tribulation and affliction often becomes the most sacred closet of prayer. And, although our heavenly Father knows our needs before we ask Him, we still cry out for Him to hear our voice...for Him to bow His ears to our petitions. It was Spurgeon who aptly noted that there is a voice in our silent supplication; a voice in our weeping; and even a voice in that sorrow which cannot find a tongue. God’s hearing ear is even omnipresent where the desires of His justified ones are concerned. The plea of the oppressed is often just to be sure that He truly does hear. When we have already prayed over our troubles, we then may be led to pray over our prayers as this Psalm reveals. True submittal to the sovereignty of the King of our lives lets Him answer us as He wills, but we do desperately long for the assurance that He has given us His full attention. Like the Psalmist, we would have the King hearken, consider and weigh our requests.

Now all of this is in regard of His justified children -- all unto whom He has not imputed iniquity (Ps.32:2). Hence it is noted that if He did mark iniquities, then who could stand before Him? But, with the Lord there is an ever gushing fountain of forgiveness that spawns from those that are cleansed by it that reverential fear of God that functions out of love and not terror. The result of which is demonstrated in the practice of patient waiting for Him to make His presence known in the midst of the trial. There is help and strength enough in just knowing that He is there with us that will get us safely through the darkest valley of this world (Ps.46:1). To quote Spurgeon once again: “The waiting itself is beneficial to us. It tries faith, exercises patience, trains submission and endears the blessing when it comes. The Lord’s people have always been a waiting people.”

This is precisely why it is in His word that we do hope. His word is the very source of the strength whereby we are able to endure whatever troubles us. His word is where we hear Him sweetly speak to our souls. The activity of waiting is praying and studying His word -- believing in His word -- standing on the truth of His word. In His word is the vivid description of His faithfulness that gives us the hope that makes not ashamed, along with the peace that passes understanding.

It is divinely decreed that the elect people of God put their hope only in Him. Why? Because upon them He is ever so merciful -- and He delights to be this way! Although there is an abundance of sin in them, there is even a more abundant redemption provided by our Lord God. We have today, in Christ, what our Old Covenant brothers and sisters waited for viz. eternal redemption from their sins through Jesus Christ. What we wait for...what we must be patient to pursue...is our complete eternal sanctification, which will come to pass at the redemption of our bodies (Ro.8:23).

*For Christ's glory only!
A. Carpenter*

Chapel Update

We here at Del-Haven are approaching this new year with great anticipation of God's testimony that He, indeed, does hear our prayers and His wonderful presence truly is with us. On the last day of 2003, we were able to pay down the loan at the bank for the Chapel so that we owe right now \$25,000. Praise His Name! Please pray with us that this debt be completely met once and for all.

Help Needed for Work Projects

We are still looking for the answer to a most pressing problem with the floor in the Dining Hall and new shingles on the roof of the craft building. Some helpful ideas have been suggested, but what we need is some solid guidance as to materials to meet this need, and then scheduling the time with the help we also need in order to get the job done. We need your prayers for this important necessity. This is the best time of year to prepare, approach and accomplish

Classic Camper Letters

I can't tell you how much it means to me when you all send in your little notes of encouragement. I just love to hear from you. Some of the most positive remarks have been in reference to comments we have retrieved from our campers. With that in mind, I thought you might appreciate it if I dug out of the archives some of our classic responses.

Dear Camp, I liked swimming and getting to hear stories out of the Bible. I also like the counclers (counselors). I can't wait till i come back next year. I also have 2 favorite songs: "We Better Pick Up That Bible" and "I Am A Christian". I liked it when Sherry told scary stories. Sincerely, Steven

Dear Camp Del-Haven, What I like about camp is the nature hike and swimming but really I like learning about God. Your are the best camp. But I really don't like all the snoring! By Megan

Dear Camp, I had a great time! I love the pool, the cabins, Bible study, the food, the great idea of a talent show, and the trail. I learned lots of things from the Bible, and new songs and a lot more. One thing I didn't like were the horse flies. I also liked the visitors. You have great counslers (counselors) and helpers. And the cooks are real nice. Your camper Christina P.

Dear Camp Del-Haven, I think you are great. You taught me so much about God that I never knew about. If I was to give you a madole (medal), you would get first place. I had so much fun. I hope I come back next year. I in joyed swimming the best. Lunch is very good. Some times I think I ask too many questions. By Ceciley

*Dear Camp, Iv (I've) had the best time of my life. I hope I come back next year. Iv (I've) lornd (learned) a lote (lot) about the Lord and his Son and what he did to save us from our sen (sin).
From Zack*

Testimonies like these are so precious and dear to us. In spite of how young these little ones are, or the level of literacy that they may not have yet reached, the soul converting, life changing Word of our Lord still makes it's presence known. Praise His glorious Name! Thank you for your support.

"As it is written, he who glories, let him glory in the Lord" 1Cor.1:31