



"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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"Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy..." Ps.107:1-2 (Note: take a moment to read and reflect on this whole Psalm)

The theme of this wonderful Psalm is thanksgiving, and the portrait that this divinely inspired poem paints is that of redemption. Having been redeemed is the greatest motive that there is for which we should be thankful. Hence, this whole Psalm arouses the redeemed one to truly praise the Lord, the Redeemer.

According to Webster, to redeem means to free from that which distresses or harms; to free from captivity by payment of ransom; to extricate from, or help to overcome something detrimental; to release from blame or debt; to free from the consequences of sin. Psalm 107 describes with great precision that which this definition declares.

The true believer's walk through this world parallels the experiences of the four different sorts of distresses that this text describes. E.g. often there are times in the life of a Christian when they seem to be wandering through this life in a lost and lonely way. And, being alone and desolate, they come to hunger and thirst after the Lord so much that they falter and just about faint dead away. But, then they cry out to the Lord in their trouble, and He delivers them, and leads them in His right way.

Then again, every child of God can recall when they once sat in the darkness of the shadow of death -- a literal prisoner of the misery of their own sin. In this state of being we all are rebels to the words of God. We despise the omnipotent providence of His divine purpose and plan. The labor of sin will wear out the strongest of human wills. No one can help the poor soul that finds themselves in this condition. But, then they cry out to the Lord in their trouble and He rescues them, and calls them out of death's darkness, and breaks their bondage chains of iron in pieces!

And, it is also true that everyone of us has, at some time or another, sinfully played the fool. Sin literally makes one stupid! Transgression and iniquity harvest only one thing -- the destruction of its affliction and shame. But, then the redeemed and regenerated soul cries out to the Savior, and He sends forth to them the only divine remedy that there is for their personal healing from this sad situation -- the Word of God. The Word of the gospel is, indeed, the power of Almighty God (Ro.1:16).

Finally, it is all too obvious that the life and times of the true believer in this world is an experience not unlike a mariner out on the high seas. The storms of life create great consternation and fear and dread. Many times they drive one to their very wits' end. But, then they cry out unto the Lord and He brings them out of the midst of the stormy blast -- safe and sound. *"He guides them to their desired haven"*. The Lord truly is a very present help in time of trouble. Praise His Name!

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

Praises

We have much to be thankful for as we end this summer's sessions of camping. We have had almost 100 children come through the gates of Del-Haven who have had the opportunity to hear the Good News of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus. We also have had wonderful helpers this year as the Lord continues to draw volunteers of all ages to work with the children each summer. It has been a great summer and we look forward to relating some of those wonderful camp experiences in this newsletter and those that follow. Please rejoice with us as we celebrate what the Lord has done working in the lives of each boy, girl, and counselor at Camp Del-Haven.

Prayer Requests

As always, please remember to pray for the campers who attended camp that the Lord will bring to their memory the things that they have learned and the Scripture verses they have memorized. May the Lord make them each aware of His presence and draw them close to Himself.

We have had a few unexpected surprises this summer that have affected us financially. The water pipes on the camp ground are old and worn out and we have had several water leaks this summer. Water is such a necessity in the extreme heat of the summer and we were very blessed to have these things fixed quickly; however, the plumbing bill to fix the main leak along with the incredibly high water bill was around \$2,500. Also, our ice machine quit on us early in the summer and we have had to replace it. The cost of this item was around \$3,500. Please pray with us that the Lord will continue to meet our needs as He always does.

Notes From The Staff Journal

During the first 6 to 8 year old camp my table was last to go through the food line and I was the last person. When I got back to my seat all the children at my table had their heads bowed and one was leading in a prayer. I asked him why they were praying again (We already prayed as an entire camp before the meal.) He said, "Well, we had to wait so long to get our food that the first prayer might have wore off."

You never know what kids are thinking. . . I had my dogs up at the playground during free time and the children took turns walking them and playing with them. I told the campers I was going to have to take them home because it was time to go to Bible Study. Hannah looked at me very strangely and said, "You do Bible Study with your dogs?" Obviously, I meant it was time for all of us to go to Bible Study and time for the dogs to go home. After a quick explanation, she still thought it would be fun for them to have Bible Study too.

Anthony reads from his new Gideon Bible during free time at the playground.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1

Kayla and Raven are excited to read from their new Bibles during Bible Study.