



Rhodes Grove

Camp & Conference Center Est 1917

RHODES GROVE – News in a Nutshell

Spring/Summer 2012

Program Director



What happened to winter? Mid March...shorts, t-shirt, and flip flops? As I am traveling around talking at several different churches, I see the beauty of creation all around me. It constantly reminds me that

there is a Creator of the Universe. In the quiet of the drives, it gives me a chance to reflect not only on the Maker of the universe, but also of His undying, never-ending love for us. Honestly, I'm not thinking about His love for mankind...I'm processing His love for me. An imperfect, broken vessel with questions, doubts, fears, hopes and dreams. I'm processing His grace that he chooses to pursue us with each and every day. Will I take the time to listen? Will I slow down enough just to simply take it in?

I'm reminded of the passage in John 9. You remember the story. Jesus and his disciples are walking through town and the disciples notice a blind man. They asked Jesus, "Who sinned? His parents or him?" Jesus says, "No one. This happened so that the work of God may be displayed in his life". (vs. 3) Jesus makes some mud and puts it on a blind gentleman's eyes (vs 6) and then told the man to go and wash his face (vs. 7). This happened on the Sabbath and the Pharisees bring the man in to see what happened. They ask him a bunch of questions; they bring his parents in who essentially abandon him due to their fear of what the Pharisees would say. Then this guy who can see for the first time in his life says this powerful statement: "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. All I know is that I was blind and now I see". (vs. 25) How many times have I been blinded by busyness, worry, fear, or life circumstances? I simply need to take in what God has done for me through his Son, Jesus Christ. I need to sit

on my "foundation" of what I know of God and what He has done for me.

That is the theme for this summer's youth camp. FOUNDATION. It is based on I Corinthians 3:11, which says, "For no one can lay any foundation other than that which is already laid, which is Jesus Christ". I want students to be able to come to camp and see what it looks like for Jesus to be the foundation for their lives. I want students to know that Jesus, deep in His core, wants to be the foundation for them to build their lives on. He wants to be the basis for their daily decisions at school, work, and life. He wants to be in their lives regardless of any decision that they may have made.

The CLP (Camp Leadership Program) has been going extremely well. The CLP is a discipleship training for students who want to work here this summer. The number of participants has grown over the last few months. Here are a few comments from the students who participated in our last meeting: "This has been one of the most powerful weekends of my life". A comment from another student says, "Thank you for this weekend. I didn't realize how bad I needed this. I'm going to use this weekend as a milestone in my Christian walk. I'm going to live differently because of the impact of this weekend".

Can you help us at camp this summer? Can you please put Rhodes Grove on your regular prayer list? Will you please pray for the CLP students? If you need their names, please email me (program@rhodesgrove.com) or facebook me (www.facebook.com/rhodesgrove). Will you please pray for conference ministries? Will you please pray for our summer camp experience? Will you please pray that God will bring the people that HE wants here, both as summer staff as well as campers? Will you pray that we will give a clear gospel presentation to all of the campers that come on site this year? Please pray that students will make life changing decisions for Christ here at Rhodes Grove this summer. Please pray that campers would not experience homesickness as they are away from their

(continued on page 2)



**Spring Infusion ~
A Tea for Women**

Tuesday, May 15

11:00am ~ 1:00pm

For the Ladies!

Spring has sprung and that means it is time for tea. Won't you join us for a morning of food and fun as we welcome Lori Ann Gossert to share a message that God has laid upon her heart?

A native of the Chambersburg area, Lori Ann describes herself as eclectic, artsy, quiet, questioning and often brimming with awe and wonder, hopes and dreams. She enjoys learning new things, seeing new places and discovering other cultures and peoples. Lori Ann loves words. She fails and she flounders and she fights chronic illness, yet she is defined by this: she is a daughter of the Most High God. She is a mime and a student of tea and is passionate about using both to encourage others and help them draw closer to God.

Lori has shared, "At the Spring Infusion tea, I plan to take the ladies on a journey from early twentieth-century Japan to first-century Palestine, from a remote Indian village to the right here and right now. I will introduce them to characters such as Okakura Kakuzo, who wrote the book of tea, a Jewess with a very expensive bottle of perfume and a familiar servant with an arduous task. I will show and tell how the thread running through all their stories, as well as ours, helps us see a little deeper into the heart of God and the value He places on us."

Contact our office now
to reserve your spot!

Space is limited!

717-375-4162

info@rhodesgrove.com

Calendar of Events

April 21	Camp Cleanup Day	8am – 4pm
April 20-22	CLP Weekend	
May 15	Spring Infusion – Ladies Tea	11am – 1pm
May 18	On time Camp registration deadline	
May 25-28	Family Camp	
June 25-29	Summer Staff Training	
July 1 – July 28	Summer Camp	

Traditional Camps

July 2-July 6	Day Camp
July 2-July 6	Swim Camp
July 8-July 13	Adventure Camp
July 15-July 20	Journey Camp
July 22-July 28	Quest Camp

Horse Camps

July 1-July 6	Wild Wind 1
July 8 – July 13	Mustangs & Mavericks 1
July 15 – July 20	Mustangs & Mavericks 2
July 22 – July 28	Equestrian Experience

September 11	Steeped in Autumn – Ladies Tea	11am – 1pm
October 27	Camp Cleanup Day	8am – 4pm



Program Director (continued)

families for a week. Will you pray that the summer staff will have the strength, stamina, and grace to positively impact the campers here at Rhodes Grove this summer? Would you please pray for the camps in our local area? Would you please pray that many students in Franklin County would come into a deeper relationship with Jesus this summer, whether on our grounds or somewhere else? Please pray for our families here as a staff at Rhodes Grove. Pray that we continue to push into the heart of God as individual families.

Thank you for your continued partnership with Rhodes Grove.

James Reaves
Program Director

**Building Relationships
to Save Souls and Develop Leaders**

Alumni Corner

It was about this time of year throughout my childhood and adolescence that I would really get excited for the summer and, most of all, for summer camp at Rhodes Grove! I can remember being a day camper—learning camp songs for the first time and creating a cross during craft time in the pavilion. I remember my first week of overnight camp and how I thought my counselor was the coolest girl in the whole world! I remember how she talked about Jesus and cared so wonderfully for us (and how she gently encouraged us all to go swimming each day because she knew none of us were taking showers!) I remember riding horses for the first time and coming home so incredibly excited for the next year! The following summer is one of my sweetest memories of all—sitting with my cabin in the old tabernacle and hearing, really understanding, the Gospel message for the first time. I walked through a door frame that the speaker had sitting on the side of the stage, symbolizing my decision to walk with Jesus as my Savior. My memories of camp go on and on and each memory builds on the other. As I look at my life I realize that, somewhere along the way, camp transformed from a mere summer activity into a dynamic part of my life story.

As I grew older, I wanted to be a part of the camp experience for other children. And, to be honest, I saw how much Rhodes Grove had impacted me and I wanted to be there more than just one week as a camper! As a support staff member and then as a counselor and programmer, I was stretched and challenged and chiseled by the words of the speakers, the testimony and encouragement of other staff, and the experience of working for the first time in ministry. I learned to pray hard

and trust the Lord and I grew in confidence and maturity. I saw that God had gifted me in unique ways and that He could use me for His glory. I have memories of my own campers overcoming homesickness, learning to do new things, and singing with so much heart at the campfires. I remember praying with campers who, with tears in their eyes, accepted Christ as their Savior and I remember all the FUN we had playing games, eating meals, and throwing pillows before lights out. And as a staff member, besides the countless HILARIOUS moments we shared, I created deep and lasting friendships with my partners in ministry. (And I guess this is a good place to mention that God introduced me to my husband at Rhodes Grove! Dan even brought me back there to propose!)

All in all, I worked 8 summers before saying goodbye to my time on summer staff. I will sometimes hear people refer to camp as a “fun job” rather than a “real job,” but I could not disagree more. Working at Rhodes Grove was as “real” as any job gets. It required supernatural energy and patience as well as leadership and humility. I felt honored to be entrusted with people’s children for one week at a time and challenged to live out the Gospel for them in words and actions. I learned to work for the Lord and not for money. These are all things which I have carried with me into adulthood—into my personal walk with the Lord and into my ministry as a Marriage and Family Therapist (yes, it was camp that ignited a passion in me for counseling!). I now serve on the board of Rhodes Grove Camp and I am working on the alumni committee to make sure that the stories of other campers and staffers are not lost...because these stories of ministry—these lives that



Dan and Karen Thrush with Levi

have been changed—*ARE* Rhodes Grove Camp.

I continue to pray for the camp and pray for the unique ways it can minister to children and adults alike. In this world of constant motion and technology, of confusing and clashing cultures and ideologies, camp is one place where everything slows down to a peaceful pace. It is where the stresses of home are replaced with friendships, zip lines, water slides, rope swings, horses, canoes, swimming pools, crafts, and music. It is where children are encouraged to be who God created them to be rather than fit our culture’s mold, and it is where teenagers and young adults are challenged to step up in ministry rather than slip through another summer in a cool basement with video games and TVs. Rhodes Grove is where the Gospel is preached over a crackling fire and hands are lifted daily in worship. Rhodes Grove is where I came to know Christ, where I was later baptized, and where I first served in ministry. And I am just one person. God has used this camp to do amazing works in people’s lives, and I know that He will continue that work for many, many more years. Right now, I am already praying for those little campers who are excitedly awaiting camp to start—who are just beginning their own journeys at Rhodes Grove!

*Karen Thrush
Rhodes Grove Alum*

Easter Egg Campaign

This spring we are embarking on a fund raising drive to underwrite the cost of camp. Rhodes Grove anticipates hosting 400 campers this summer. The fee charged for registration does not cover the cost of camp. Rhodes Grove needs to raise \$100 to underwrite each camper that chooses Rhodes Grove this summer. We also have campers that need full assistance to be able to experience camp at Rhodes Grove.

Our goal of 200 eggs looks something like this: Egg #1 will be cracked with a minimum donation of \$1. Egg #50 will be cracked with a minimum donation of \$50, Egg #127 will be cracked with a minimum donation of \$127. Egg #200 will be cracked with a minimum donation of \$200...etc.

We cannot continue the Lord's work without you allowing the Lord to work through you. Will you partner with us to achieve our goal of receiving 400 kids to camp? Please, prayerfully consider what your portion is in partnering with Rhodes Grove to continue life changing, God honoring ministry.

You may be asking, "How can I donate?"

1. Mail a check to Rhodes Grove using the provided envelope.
2. Access our website, www.rhodesgrove.com, and click the Donate Now button.
3. Call our office and use your credit card over the phone: 717-375-4162

4. Call our office and set up an automatic withdrawal from your checking or savings account.
5. You can donate in honor of or in memory of someone special
6. You can donate based on a special date... January 28 could translate to egg #128.
7. When you do donate, please also check for matching funds through your employer. Many companies have matching programs of which you may not be aware.
8. Families can combine efforts and contribute a combined family gift.
9. Your Sunday School class can come together in the effort to donate.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to whatever support you can provide.

If you require additional information about Rhodes Grove or this campaign, please contact our office (717-375-4162) and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have. You may also visit www.rhodesgrove.com to witness the progress of the campaign. If you are sending your donation in the form of a check, please make it payable to Rhodes Grove Camp & Conference Center.

Thank you in advance for your partnership!



Rope Course

Introducing the Spider!!

Rhodes Grove is excited to unveil our newest attraction! Our brand new eight element low ropes course is sure to bring much delight and challenge and learning to all those who attempt to conquer it. There are tests of balance and coordination and strength and trust sure to defy many of those who dare to complete the course. Come to camp and test your skill! The challenge awaits you!!!



Conference Ministry

Chris Rotz, Conference Ministry Director



As I think about the upcoming summer camp program at Rhodes Grove and the foundation that will be laid for a multitude of young people, I am reminded of the scripture ...I Corinthians 3 ... where the theme for this year's program is taken. In my personal devotions recently, I read this excerpt from Max Lucado ...and I'd like to share it with you.

I'm writing to say thanks. I wish I could thank you personally, but I don't know where you are. I wish I could call you, but I don't know your name. If I knew your appearance, I'd look for you, but your face is fuzzy in my memory. But I'll never forget what you did.

There you were, leaning against your pickup in the West Texas oil field. An engineer of some sort. A supervisor on the job. Your khakis and clean shirt set you apart from us roustabouts. In the oil field pecking order, we were at the bottom. You were the boss. We were the workers. You read the blueprints. We dug the ditches. You inspected the pipe. We laid it. You ate with the bosses in the shed. We ate with each other in the shade.

Except that day. I remember wondering why you did it.

We weren't much to look at. What wasn't sweaty was oily. Faces burnt from the sun; skin black from the grease. Didn't bother me, though. I was there only for the summer. A high-school boy earning good money laying pipe.

We weren't much to listen to, either. Our language was sandpaper coarse. After lunch, we'd light the cigarettes and begin the jokes. Someone always had a deck of cards with lacy-clad girls on the back. For thirty minutes in the heat of the day, the oil patch became Las Vegas—replete with foul language, dirty stories, blackjack, and barstools that doubled as lunch pails.

In the middle of such a game, you approached us. I thought you had a job for us that couldn't wait another few minutes. Like the others, I groaned when I saw you coming.

You were nervous. You shifted your weight from one leg to the other as you began to speak. "Uh, fellows," you started. We turned and looked up at you. "I, uh, I just wanted, uh, to invite ... " You were way out of your comfort zone. I had no idea what you might be about to say, but I knew that it had nothing to do with work.

"I just wanted to tell you that, uh, our church is having a service tonight and, uh ... " "What?" I couldn't believe it. "He's talking church? Out here? With us?" "I wanted to invite any of you to come along."

Silence. Screaming silence.

Several guys stared at the dirt. A few shot glances at the others. Snickers rose just inches from the surface. "Well, that's it. Uh, if any of you want to go ... uh, let me know." After you turned and left, we turned and laughed. We called

you "reverend," "preacher," and "the pope." We poked fun at each other, daring one another to go. You became the butt of the day's jokes.

I'm sure you knew that. I'm sure you went back to your truck knowing the only good you'd done was to make a good fool out of yourself. If that's what you thought, then you were wrong. That's the reason for this letter.

Some five years later, a college sophomore was struggling with a decision. He had drifted from the faith given to him by his parents. He wanted to come back. He wanted to come home. But the price was high. His friends might laugh. His habits would have to change. His reputation would have to be overcome.

Could he do it? Did he have the courage? That's when I thought of you. As I sat in my dorm room late one night, looking for the guts to do what I knew was right, I thought of you. I thought of how your love for God had been greater than your love for your reputation. I thought of how your obedience had been greater than your common sense. I remembered how you had cared more about making disciples than about making a good first impression. And when I thought of you, your memory became my motivation. So I came home.

I've told your story dozens of times to thousands of people. Each time the reaction is the same: The audience becomes a sea of smiles, and heads bob in understanding. Some smile because they think of the "clean-shirted engineers" in their lives. They remember the neighbor who brought the cake, the aunt who wrote the letter, the teacher who listened ... Others smile because they have done what you did. And they, too, wonder if their "lunchtime loyalty" was worth the effort. You wondered that. What you did that day wasn't much. And I'm sure you walked away that day thinking that your efforts had been wasted. They weren't.

So I'm writing to say thanks. Thanks for the example. Thanks for the courage. Thanks for giving your lunch to God. He did something with it; it became the bread of life for me.
~ Max Lucado

So I ask ... what about you...will you step out of your comfort zone and help Rhodes Grove share the good news with our campers this summer? Will you consider being a Rhodes Grove liaison at your church? Is your love for God greater than your love for your reputation? Is your obedience greater than your common sense? Do you really care about making disciples? What kind of legacy do you desire to leave? Will you share your financial resources to help make Rhodes Grove summer camp possible? Can we count on you to provide the bread of life for our youth today?

Most Wanted

- **Rhodes Grove Prayer Partners** – Please call our office to join the RG Prayer Team
- **Rhodes Grove ambassadors at YOUR home church** – Please call our office and choose to promote Rhodes Grove events at your church. We will equip you with all the tools you will need to be successful!
- **Staff and Camper Alumni Contact Information** – We want to keep you in the “know”!
- **Easter Egg Fund Drive Donors**
- Cabin Refurbishment Sponsors - \$7,000 per building/\$3500 per cabin (materials cost)
- **5 weeks of donated labor currently in 2012 schedule!! Thank you!!**
- Furniture for cabins: Sofas, Loveseats, Chairs, Dinettes, Refrigerators, Double Mattresses, Curtains, Microwave Ovens, Air Conditioners, Toasters, Coffee Makers
- Wall Mount Heater (7) Shop; Girls Bathhouse; Guys Bathhouse, 4 Youth Cabins - \$250 each **1 donated!**
- Building Materials to winterize Youth cabins
- Replacement Windows for Youth Cabins
- Sports Equipment – Basketballs, Footballs, Hockey Sticks, Volleyballs
- Climbing Wall
- New Vacuum Cleaner (2)
- Pressure Washer
- Small Window Air conditioners
- Outdoor Walk-In Freezer \$9,323
- Chest Freezer
- Gas Powered Golf Cart or ATV \$2,500 + - **Donated!! Thank You!!**
- Carpeting for Stairway
- Kitchen Warmer \$2200
- Lightweight 8ft Tables (40) \$100 each
- Kitchen Aprons (24) \$12 each
- Soup Bowls (200) \$3 each
- Cake Plates/Pedestal Plates
- New Tea Towels for the dining room
- First Class Stamps

Memorial Gifts

Memorial Gifts

Irma & Lionel LaVoie
 Rev. Earl Shoap & Sarah Jane Shoap
 Arthur E. & H. Louise Wilson
 Edna & John Barnhart
 John Snoke
 Don Rotz
 My Mother
 Sam Shannon
 Raymond & Mary Helman
 James & Clara Hock Beard
 My Grandma – Ogata Wine
 Samuel Shannon
 Danielle N. Forney
 Rev. Wilber Sites
 Sam Shannon
 Clyde W. Meadows
 Roy & Mildred Co
 George J. Kline
 Wilber L. Sites

Julianne M Cook
 Barry & Carol Ann Clapsaddle
 Jay & Nancy Stoner
 Elwood & Donna Rotz
 Mary Snoke
 Ruth Rotz
 Anna Bamburg
 Perry Mentzer Family
 Franklin & Faye Gaugler
 William & Linda Beard
 Michelle Martin
 Richard & Judith Eckendrode
 Dale & Donna Forney
 Arthur & Debbie Page
 Paul & Lucinda Shannon
 Phyllis R. Meadows
 Walter & Janell Love
 Karen Holmes
 Mossie M. Sites

Honorarium Gifts

Raymond T Cook, Jr.
 Ashley's 21st Birthday
 God and all His good works
 Reba Miller
 Beth Jaczun
 Ruth Shannon
 Our Koinonia Sunday School Class
 Steve & Chris Rotz
 Rhodes Grove Camp Staff
 My Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Julianne M Cook
 Anna Bamburg
 Judy Thompson
 Gary & Wanda Goshorn
 Eric & Carole Silberhorn
 Perry Mentzer Family
 Dave & Pam Osbaugh
 Diehl & Karole McKalip
 Richard Rotz
 Robert DeGrange



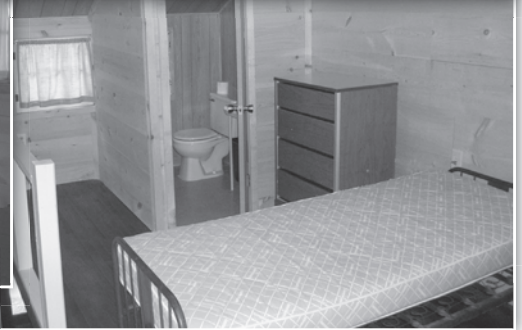
Cabin Refurbishment Update:

In the Spring of 2010, Rhodes Grove began efforts to restore a bit of Rhodes Grove heritage. The Rhodes Grove Cabin refurbishment project began with the goal of completing 2 cabins/1 building per year. At the moment, we are right on track with achieving these goals. We currently have 5 weeks of volunteer labor scheduled for work on the cabins in 2012, and Rhodes Grove has also been in receipt of donations specifically for the purpose of renovating our cabins.

A big thank you to all those who have made this project possible to date! We foresee that by the end of April, we will have completed a total of 8 cabins/4 buildings!!

Rhodes Grove continues to accept donations to advance the ministry toward the goal of complete cabin renovation. With the work to be completed in the month of April, Rhodes Grove anticipates depleting all the funds designated for this project to date.

Rhodes Grove is truly reliant on a group effort to accomplish the goals of this facility improvement! Thank you so much!



RHODES GROVE
Camp & Conference Center

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Rhodes Grove seeks to advance our Christian Community through personal renewal by offering experiential camping programs, Biblically enriching educational opportunities and full service retreats all in a naturally pleasing environment.



From the Director's Desk

the power of camp

Let us contemplate the Power of Camp! This issue of the Rhodes Grove Nutshell contains stories of impact. Impact that camp has had in the lives of those who have experienced Rhodes Grove. Imagine if any kid, anywhere could go to camp regardless of their ability to pay. Imagine if kids struggling with their identity, longing to be loved, faced with huge peer pressure and thoughts of self-injury could come face-to-face with a loving God who has a plan for their lives. That's our dream.

Did You Know?

- The average child only spends 3.5 minutes a week in meaningful conversation with their parents.
- Kids spend 4.5 hours watching TV each day.
- Suicide is the third leading cause of death for teens in the U.S.

The Power of Camp is the power to connect kids to trusted adult role models, to provide a break from their daily routines and pressures, to get them out in nature where they can have adventures, learn about themselves and the world around them, and discover

that they are known and loved by God.

Will you:

- Send an impoverished kid to camp? You can provide a campership to send a young person to camp who cannot afford to go.
- Help spread the word? "Like" "[The Power of Camp](#)" [Facebook page](#) and share it with friends. Also, share your story on the page to encourage others.
- Use your influence? Send this message on to friends and colleagues who may want to help. Encourage your church or civic group to help send kids to camp.

Thank you for spreading the word!

