



# Rhodes Grove

Camp & Conference Center Est 1917

RHODES GROVE – News in a Nutshell

Fall/Winter 2008

## A Super-Natural Summer Experience

by Phil Regetta: Program Specialist / Guest Services

Have you ever done anything that is so big that there is no way you could do it if it weren't for God? This question can be answered with an emphatic YES for the Rhodes Grove summer camping program. Everything from program preparation, the hiring & training of summer staff, the crazy games & great food and the worship & learning at Facing North (our chapel time). None of this would be possible without God's faithfulness and His awesome power. In fact, our summer theme of Super-Natural spoke about His awesome power. Our



theme verse, Romans 1:20, states, "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse." God's super-natural power was clearly evident as 22 campers made a first time decision for Christ and 42 campers rededicated their lives to Christ. These numbers reflect an increase over last year's decisions. His super-natural power was also evident in the fun and safety provided for the summer activities. There were the classic summer camp activities like swimming, crafts, ultimate cooking, horsemanship, archery and the waterslide

(most campers now know there are 168 tires holding it down). There were new activities like the gaga pit, the grander zipline and the improved big swing. Of course nothing is more vital to the camping experience than the relationship between the campers and the counselors pointing the way to our Savior. Singing silly songs at a campfire, jumping up and down together in worship, learning a new skill at activity time, or praying and having devotions together. All of these activities, coupled with God's guidance, helped build this relationship to further the Kingdom. We are thankful for all the counselors and support staff that helped serve at



Rhodes Grove this summer. We are very thankful for the generosity of our campers who gave \$1766.38 for our summer offering. Half of this offering is intended be put to use at the camp by supplementing the cost of installing air conditioning in the youth cabins. The other has been used to sponsor a child from Compassion International. Our sponsored child's name is Anderson Ivan Colorado Perez and he is from El Salvador. Check our website for a link to the Rhodes Grove Facebook page for updates and pictures regarding Anderson. You will also find tentative dates for the 2009 summer camp program on our web's youth camp page. Praise God for another great summer. To Him be the glory!

## The Ecclesiastes Institute

*"I devoted myself to study and to explore  
by wisdom all that is under Heaven."*

Ecclesiastes 1:13

Rhodes Grove's continuing education program in partnership with Lancaster Bible College & Graduate School continues. We are pleased to announce our next two courses. Visit our website for more information including downloadable registration forms.

### November 10, 2008 – Roadmap to Disciplemaking

Jesus said, "as you are going, make disciples" (Matthew 28:19). This introduction to what we know as the Great Commission, contains two important charges to us who are serving in His name. First is the issue of our lives as being on a journey. This entails both movement and progress. Second, is the charge to make disciples. This involves process and transformation. However, integrating this expectation of Jesus into our pastoral ministries is not an easy task. As you know, any journey can be beset by vehicle breakdowns, roadblocks, detours, and even getting stuck in the mud. Also, the transformation process entails change which has a built in resistance within the human spirit. In our time together we hope to enlighten the issue of the nature of our journey, what is our current location and condition, where exactly are we going, what is our roadmap, and how do we overcome some of the pitfalls that impede us from obtaining our destination? We also will be focusing on what kind of finished product we are seeking to develop in our roadmap to disciplemaking. What will be the form and function of our finished product? Did Jesus expect this task to be done by a limited number of professionals, or did he expect a reproducing disciple as the goal of the Great Commission. We are blessed have the leadership of Bishop Ron Ramsey, Rev. Pat Jones, Director of Healthy Church Ministries, and the Rev. Jeff Bleijerveld, Director of Global Ministries. All three leaders serve the larger Church out of the headquarters of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, USA.

### February 17, 2009 – Short-term missions / Christian youth

This course is being taught by Dr. Conrad Swartzentruber.

Conrad serves as the Administrator of Shalom Christian Academy where he began working in 1997. A graduate of Duquesne University

and Virginia Tech he has international experience working with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) in Indonesia and Bangladesh. As an educator and missions minded individual it is fitting that his hobbies include reading, traveling and gardening. Dr. Swartzentruber will be presenting a portion of his doctorate dissertation that focused on essential truths learned while studying the effect that short-term missions have on today's Christian youth in a global context.



### Most Wanted

- New Washer & Dryer – DONATED! Thank you!
- Remaining funds for Horse Corral – DONATED! Thank you!
- 4 Wheel-Drive snowplow truck – preferably automatic – 1995 or newer
- Portable Oxy-Acetylene torch kit (you know, for welding stuff) \$375
- Mig Welder (yep, we weld lots of stuff) \$275
- Carpet Extractor – New \$3000 / Used \$1200
- First class postage stamps
- News Tea towels for kitchen use
- Archery equipment – bows / foam-type targets \$500
- Electronic Keyboard \$500 already donated – Need \$750 more
- Pedestal Podium(s) – Need 5 but 7 would be GREAT \$60 each

### Remembrance Gifts

#### In Memory of:

Richard Reese  
Rev. Timothy P. Story  
Avis (Fox) Story  
Peggy Frost  
Bill & Gerry Phillips  
Bob & Juanita Frost  
Don Rotz  
Rev. James (Jim) Herman  
Clara Beard  
J.L. Jones

#### In Honor of:

Jim and Barb Furry  
Norman Martin

#### Given by:

Larry Reese  
Mark & Jill Story  
Mark & Jill Story  
Dean Hoffman  
Michael & Debbie Frost  
Michael & Debbie Frost  
Ruth P. Rotz  
Aaron & Stephanie Ziebarth  
William & Linda Beard  
William & Linda Beard

#### Given by:

Mt. Pleasant Koinonia SS Class  
William E. & Donna M. Martin

## Refurbishments

In an ongoing effort to offer clean and pleasing facilities and activities we have continued to refurbish and improve several areas of the facility.

**Retreat Center** – In addition to last year’s upgrades, this year we have added air-conditioning, improved lighting, energy efficient doors and windows, improved solar light panels and a fresh coat of exterior paint. Lookin’ Good! We will continue to make refurbishments to this key facility in the months to come.

**Sound booth** – We turned an unused coat closet in the Meadows Conference Room into a permanent location for our sound and video equipment. The bundle of cords and wires is now safely out of the way of foot traffic. All materials used to frame up the booth were recycled from other projects and a brand new sound desk was donated by a neighbor/friend.

**Zip Line** – How about a 330 foot ride down our new zip line? Participants jump off a small platform 35 feet in the air (of course they are harnessed in!) and zip down the cable until a gravity induced stop brings their ride to an end. Now located near the waterslide this new activity was professionally installed by Griffin Adventures (Bill Weaver) and enjoyed all summer long.

**Swimming Pool** – As previously announced our pool had a major facelift this spring. The floor of the pool was resurfaced with a smooth fiberglass finish, the leaks were repaired and we saved a bundle on chemicals and treatment this year as the operating system is now much more efficient. Thanks to everyone who donated funds to help make this happen!

**Big Swing** – Improved once again! Participants now go higher and faster as they are pulled up into the air by a group on the ground. Each rider chooses how high (s)he wants to go and self releases when ready. What a ride!

**Shop Junk** – Ok, we admit it....We camp people tend to be packrats when it comes to junk, thinking

that other people’s cast offs may be of use to us in some way...at sometime. We are pleased to announce the kicking of this habit as evidenced by the visibly reduced amount of stuff hanging around the maintenance shop and horse barn. Over \$1000 was received as we recycled the “junk” metal at a local scrap yard.

**Gaga Pit** – This summer’s campers went “GooGoo” over “Gaga”. Gaga, from the Hebrew word meaning “touch” is a handball game played in an hexagon shaped, wooden-walled, pit. It combines skills similar to dodge ball, tennis and good ol’ four-square. Played in a group setting but individually competitive, campers enjoy great exercise, the thrill of strategizing

how to play and cheering on their friends. What a great communal Christian camping game and a fun addition to our adventurous activities.

**Sewer Pumps** – So, no one likes to talk about sewer and no one really appreciates the value of a sewer pump until it stops functioning like it should (Especially in the middle of the night on Christmas Day in the freezing cold). After a long winter of battling pump failures we had the problem fixed this spring. This, not-so-exciting project resulted in a pumping system that is of high quality, is highly efficient and gives us the heightened ability to continue to grow the number of people we serve. All that combined really is exciting!

**Horse Fence** – At long last – A new fence around our arena! Some of you will remember that Mrs. Dice was the primary reason Rhodes Grove had a horse corral. She gave funds to purchase the supplies and even did much of the work involved in getting the original fence in the ground. This spring a group of volunteers, recruited primarily by the Frost/Conley families, came and installed the new posts and side rails. All of the materials were purchased with funds donated specifically for this purpose. The end product looks great. Many thanks to those of you who gave charitably, volunteered labor and waited patiently for this major project to reach completion!



## Employee Spotlight

*A great strength of this organization is the quality of people that have worked here over the years. We are specifically thankful for our two longest-running employees Grace Crouse and Loretta Mickey, respectfully. Following is a brief interview with each of these hardworking, dedicated ladies who have served in our foodservice department for a combined total of 52 years. Thank you Grace & Loretta for your tireless service to us all!*

### **What year did you start working at Rhodes Grove?**

**Grace:** 1980

**Loretta:** 1984

### **What are some of your earliest memories of working in the kitchen?**

**Grace:** It being really hot. The walk-in fridge wasn't so great. We had to cook a

lot of food because everything was served family-style back then. We used big pots and it was a lot of hard work.

**Loretta:** Making pancakes, looking out the windows and watching traffic go by. I loved the old kitchen and dining hall. I know many people didn't like it but I did. I always enjoyed the young girls coming and helping. I remember the boys who raised the flag always coming in and asking to make the pancakes!

### **Who do you remember working with or recall as having a significant ministry impact over the years?**

**Grace:** Kathy Coldsmith – Mrs Keller – Dr Clyde Meadows – The Couriers

**Loretta:** Mrs. Yoe – Heidi Baer – Kathy Coldsmith – A singing group from Huntington College

### **What is the funniest thing you have experienced working at Rhodes Grove?**

**Grace:** Many years ago I was



Grace



Loretta

preparing for our Sunday night meal – instead of putting sugar in the

applesauce I mistakenly put in salt – One of Dave's [Thrush] boys, I think it was Dan, said, "Something's wrong with the applesauce Ms. Grace" – I didn't believe him but after I checked I had to run and get fresh out.

**Loretta:** [Loretta remembered three humorous stories she wanted to share]

**#1** Down in the old kitchen, with the old gas stoves, one day we were baking cakes. The rack in the oven had not been put in right after it was last cleaned. When I pulled the rack out to check the cakes, the cake pans just kept on coming forward and tumbled to the floor. I was able to salvage some of it!

**#2** At the end of Campmeeting, around the old kitchen, the kids had thrown toilet paper EVERYWHERE. I don't know who did it but there was so much of it we had to work at removing it from the door just so we could get in to cook breakfast. Those were the good old days, we thought it was funny. [Loretta did mention a few possible names...]

**#3** I remember once we had an older lady volunteer in the kitchen. We asked her to cut up cabbage so that we could make coleslaw. She said she had never made coleslaw in her life and she wasn't about to start now! She never did cut up the cabbage.



### **What are the most noteworthy changes that have taken place?**

**Grace:** Moving from the old dining hall up to the new conference center.

Using the modern equipment makes it quicker – the way we serve now is better.

**Loretta:** We have more pre-made things now which is good. I remember having to cut up the raw meat like beef and chicken before we could start cooking. I like the new equipment but I still say you couldn't beat the old kitchen.

### **What is your favorite Rhodes Grove food/meal?**

**Grace:** I like our Strawberry salads and Chicken BBQ – I like all our breakfast foods.

**Loretta:** I like whenever we have Turkey and filling. I love that meal – especially the mashed potatoes and gravy. I'm not much for spaghetti or ziti. I always look forward to the French Toast.

### **What most causes you to continue in work and ministry?**

**Grace:** I like working with the people at Rhodes Grove and it is a pleasant place to work. I really like it. There is no tension and I love the kids.

**Loretta:** I like it – It's my type of work. I like my friends and the Christian people. I also know I'm liked and appreciated. Everyday you go in is a different day – not the same old humbug routine. Overall it has always been enjoyable.

## Family Camp – May 22-25, 2009

Pastor Ed Fleming will be our main speaker for family camp next year. Ed serves as the Director of the Central Pennsylvania Christian Institute, Inc (CPCI) which has multiple branches of ministry. No stranger to Christian camping, Ed has served as a board member of Camp Kanesatake (near State College) a ministry of CPCI that offers youth camps and serves guest groups similar in style to Rhodes Grove. Ed writes, “I was born on June 9, 1949 in Fort Worth, Texas. My father was attending seminary at Bible Baptist College. Two years later our family moved to Orlando, FL. where my father planted a church. At the age of nine we moved to Maryland where my father planted his second and last church. The rest of my “growing up years” took place in Maryland. Throughout my childhood there was a strong emphasis on the Word of God in my father’s ministry. Even at a young age, though still unconverted, I had a desire to know the facts of the Bible. I made a profession of faith at the age of five but was not genuinely converted until seventeen years later. Though heavily involved in religious activity (preacher’s kids often are) I had never truly repented of my sin, had never seen myself as lost and helpless. In a rain storm, in 1971, in an automobile parked in our driveway I cried out to the Lord and He saved me. My life has never been the same. In 1972 I married my bride, Donna Leigh True. We have been blessed with 4 children and 6 grandchildren. She has stood faithfully by my side and served the Lord with me for

all these years. In 1975 I went back to Washington Bible College to finish my degree. While at Bible College God stirred within me an even stronger desire to know and preach His Word. After graduating in 1977 I have pastored churches in Michigan, Oklahoma, and Pennsylvania. In every pastorate my passion and desire has been to faithfully teach and preach the Bible, disciple new converts, and then get them involved in doing the same. I continuously marvel at how wonderful God has been to me to allow me the privilege to serve Him and to preach the “unsearchable riches of Christ”. My life’s verse for ministry is Galatians 6:9: “Be not weary in well-doing; for in due season we shall reap if we faint not”. I believe that if I am faithful to obey God’s call that He will, in His time and in His way, bless my labors.”



Family Camp takes place over Memorial Day weekend from Friday evening until Monday morning. (We let you leave in time for the parades). We offer a full meal package, kid’s activities, horse rides, a variety of lodging accommodations, (including air-conditioned motel rooms) world-famous chicken BBQ and a safe place to enjoy time with your family while growing closer to God. You won’t want to miss it! Contact us for pricing, reservations, or more information.

## Campmeeting – August 16-20, 2009

Rhodes Grove is honored to have Ron Ramsey come as our Campmeeting speaker. Ron is Bishop of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, USA. He was elected to that position in June of 2005. Before that, he had served 12 years as pastor of the Main Street UB church in Walbridge, Ohio. Prior to accepting the senior pastor role at Main Street, Ron worked 13 years with Scripture Press Publications, Inc., Wheaton, IL. He began as Field Rep covering the Great Lakes Area, and then moved into other roles--a Marketing Manager, Director of Marketing Operations, and National Sales Director. He finally spent four years as Executive Director of Scripture Press Ministries, the not-for-profit foundation that owned Scripture Press Publications. In his various capacities with Scripture Press, Ron traveled extensively ministering in the areas of Christian education, church growth, and leadership. This resulted in national and international relationships throughout the United States, Canada, and overseas, and opportunities to observe various methods of ministry and administration in churches and

Christian organizations in their cultural setting. He was also the executive editor of the *Christian Education Journal*, a publication for professionals in Christian education. Born into a minister’s family, Ron graduated from Thurston High School, Thurston, Ohio, class of 1958. He then attended the College of William & Mary on a basketball scholarship from 1958-60. Ron was converted to Christ during a revival service in the Maple Grove United Brethren Church near Baltimore, Ohio, in 1962. He was mentored into the ministry by his pastor, Rev. Herbert Householder, and ordained by Scioto Conference in 1967. Ron graduated from Huntington University with an AB in Bible in 1967, and in 1990 from Wheaton Graduate School, Wheaton, IL, with a MA in Interdisciplinary Studies. He and his wife, E. J., have two grown children. Make plans to join us for our Campmeeting services each evening at 7:00 pm.



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## From the Director's Desk

We are under budget in income. We are over budget in expenses. We are experiencing the ill effects of what is perceived to be a horrid economy. We are feeling the painful pinch of trying to figure out how to make ends meet – just like many other nonprofits – just like many of you. We are also seeing kids come to Christ, relationships strengthened and Biblical truth declared as a result of our ministry and mission. There's a remittance envelope inside this newsletter – the purpose for which I am sure is quite obvious to you. We need your charitable donations – But that is not my main request of you at this time. Will you please pray for us? Rhodes Grove is setting aside November 19 as a Day of Prayer. Collectively our board, staff, key constituents and hopefully you will unite with us in spirit as we prayerfully seek direction and wisdom from the Lord. The format for the day will be simple, yet specific. This is not an event that we are asking you to come to

Rhodes Grove to attend. Rather, I am asking that you intentionally plan to set aside a specific amount of time on that day to pray for us, wherever you may be. On that day, at Rhodes Grove, I will lead our staff and available board members in a time that will include:

- prayers of confession for any areas where we have fallen short
- prayers for wisdom in decision making regarding the future
- prayers of praise and adoration for the changed lives we see
- prayers for the freeing of available financial resources
- prayers for unity and love among our staff
- prayers for safety and protection for campers and guests

In recent conversation with Bob Kobielush, the president of the national Christian Camp and Conference Association, he shared with me that these are the most difficult days for leaders of the nation's Christian camps that he has ever seen. These are unprecedented

times of unbelievable challenge but also incredible opportunity. My pastor's recent Sunday message called for Extraordinary prayer in times of Extraordinary need. That time is NOW. Please mark your calendar for November 19 and plan a time of prayer for Rhodes Grove specifically focusing on the above items / topics. We are also asking for churches that claim a relationship with us to embrace this Day of Prayer by praying for us on November 16 corporately during the Sunday morning worship time and by encouraging individuals to set aside some time on the Wednesday to follow to pray for Rhodes Grove. Life is hard – But God is good – And God is good all the time. Let's approach him collectively, intentionally, reverently and boldly on behalf of Rhodes Grove.



*Mark Story – Executive Director*