

Summer 2012

BLUEWATER REFLECTIONS



Outfitters
For Life.

Come For A
Week, Take Home
A Lifetime Of
Memories.

THE TRANSFORMATION

Romans 12: 2 "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is -- His good, pleasing and perfect will."

The idea of Transformation is a powerful theme in the context of camp. With the idea of leaving home and diving into new relationships in the cabin, we can expect that a person will change. The Holy Spirit grips a person's spirit and melts the heart of stone to revolutionize their lives.

One story of a 9th grade man who asked his parents to let him skip their family vacation because his friend wanted to go to camp. He spoke to his parents, "Mom, Dad, who knows he may give his life to Christ and I should be there." His friend asked a lot of questions and spent two hours talking with his counselor, then made a life altering choice to follow Christ. I found that young man by a tree broken with joy that his friend had made this decision. Now they continue to walk in the life of Transformation.



Power outages and rain could not deter the working of God at Bluewater Covenant Bible Camp in 2012. We appreciate the safety of our summer and thank God for providing the resources to survive 5 days without electricity at our Family Camp. A compliment to the staff, cooks, and campers was the statement that, "It doesn't even feel like anything is wrong at camp." Or "Except for the hum of the generators, I wouldn't know that the power is off."

There is POWER in Camp. With our staff we talk about R.E.E.M.

- Relationships
- Evangelism
- Enthusiasm
- Memories

We believe that in the 7,500 minutes of time away from the normal pressures of life, campers will build lifelong RELATIONSHIPS that bring positive peer pressure. We place our athletic competitiveness aside to become a temporary community where safe risks can be taken. Through dialogue from Chapel, Cabin Devotions, and One on One time with their counselors, a camper is able to ask meaningful questions of how to follow Christ.

EVANGELISM and Bible study are the source to our conversations.

Where else can you find the high adventure of large group games, tubing, learning how to wakeboard, beauty of nature, and so much more? Camp. We are ENTHUSIASTIC about creating



an environment where campers are physically engaged in activities that are fun and build life lessons.

MEMORIES pull us back to the place of God's Word transforming us for today's needs.

Continue to pray for and support the ministry of Bluewater. In 5 years we celebrate 50 years of camping ministry at Bluewater lake, plus many more years of camping ministry in the Red River Vally and Koochiching Districts. Pray for wisdom and discernment as we progress in developing Bluewater's facilities and ministry experiences.

Chadwick Persons- Camp Director

Anything But Ordinary

If you have heard Chad or I talk about Bluewater during the past year you have heard stories about the mind blowing summer of 2011 where God completely tore open our boxes and took us on an amazing spiritual ride – an absolute mountain top experience. We thank God for that but understand we aren't called to live on the mountaintop. We must come down and face the ordinary-ness of everyday life, knowing that He is still with us. In thinking about the summer of

2012 I believe it was a more typical camp summer. However, by "typical" I do not mean "ordinary". Camp is anything but ordinary. When you see 15 year olds choosing to spend an extra hour in worship instead of playing games, you realize this is not ordinary. When you see a camper sitting on a bench with a counselor for 2 hours because they finally feel valued and safe to open up and share, you know this is not ordinary. The list goes on – a seventh grade boy who, after hearing a sermon, felt called to missions work and was in tears because he understood the weight and the cost of that call. A cabin of high school kids growing close throughout the course of the week and forgetting that they are from three different towns, rival sports teams, etc. and getting on stage in front of their peers to act out a ridiculous skit. A college student giving up a better paying job and using their summer to

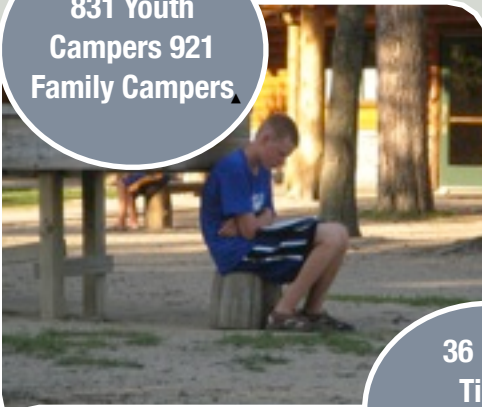
completely pour themselves into serving God through tiring service all summer. Or, simply not having a cell phone or Internet for 5 days and having deep conversations face to face instead of through text. None of these are ordinary events – based on the pattern of the world. With our theme of Transformation, we get excited about all of these events in which campers choose to abandon the pattern of the world in order to be transformed by God.

Each summer is a learning experience for me and a main topic this summer was God's faithfulness. He showed me that He is always at work and that He does not let a moment go to waste in which He could change a life. Even without all of the eye-popping stories of 2011, God remained faithful to this camp and to these campers and did amazing things in this place. One of my favorite authors, Wendell Berry, says it like this: "I see that the life of this place is always emerging beyond expectation or prediction or typicality, that it is unique, given to the world minute by minute, only once, never to be repeated."

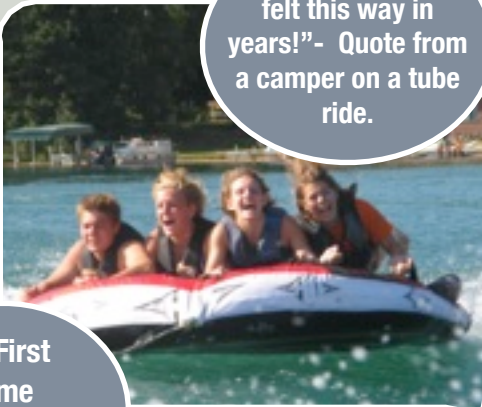
Each summer here is different and each one exceeds expectations. Bluewater is definitely a place that I want to be. I love this place and the God of this place and am thankful to be a part of this ministry.

Micah Rude- Program Director

831 Youth
Campers 921
Family Campers



"I haven't
felt this way in
years!"- Quote from
a camper on a tube
ride.



36 First
Time
Commitments
To Christ



242
Rededications
to Christ



122 Called
into Ministry

OFFERINGS



Camp Ecuador - \$2666.85



Bluewater - \$1,922.00



Congo - \$981.46



FAMILY CAMP MEMORIES

MEMORIES

God provided great days at Bluewater in spite of storms and no electricity.



CAMP KEEPS EXPANDING

We are excited to be building on camp housing for our year round Program Director. The move to provide housing for our Program Director helps to bring more staff onto the camp year round, and continues to expand the ability for our staff to serve people at retreats in the fall and winter.

Be watching for news on the next exciting expansion plans.

Total expected investment will be \$165,000.

We have had one donor give \$50,000, one \$10,000, one \$1200, one \$100, and many other gracious donations.

What are you able to give?



Please send gifts to:
Bluewater Covenant Bible Camp
38400 Bluewater Rd
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

All gifts are tax deductible. Bluewater Bible Camp is a 501 (c) 3 organization.

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