

**YEAR END
NEWSLETTER**

CAMP SYCHAR

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

It looks like Christmas out our second story bedroom window. There's snow on the ground, and neighbor's lights radiate our yard while the cold wreaths scratch the glass as the wind blows. Although Thanksgiving is yet to come as I write this, the local radio station switched to all-Christmas music two weeks ago. Every appearance speaks the truth that the blessed season has begun!

This time in years past, I would pull out Christmas cd's and put them into regular music rotation in the car and house. But things are different this year; my parents cleaned out the basement and gave me a milk crate of old albums. So I've been listening to records that once resounded in the house where I grew up —The Carpenter's Christmas Portrait and a stack of albums from Firestone tires that I can only assume my dad got with the purchase of four steel-belted radials. The sound quality can't compare to a cd, but the memories they invoke — are priceless!

Through the gossamer haze of distant memory, I'm back laying on the floor of our family room, listening to the hiss and pop of those old records. It's too warm and I'm probably sweating from playing Nerf basketball with my brother in our room. The sounds... however, from those oversized speakers, convey the calm and peace to me which the traditional scene of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem long ago, has spoken for centuries.

One of the songs on those old records is a hymn called "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne". It goes like this:

"Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown when thou camest to earth for me; But in Bethlehem's home was there found no room for thy holy nativity. Oh come to my heart Lord Jesus! There is room in my heart for thee."

It's this arrival and invitation that I think speaks to the heart of not only the Christmas season, but the entirety of

Mid November 2014
Snow Storm



the year. Jesus left behind all the comforts of heaven so that he could take on human flesh and come to earth for you and me. Paul describes it this way in Philippians 2:

Who being in the very nature God...made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness."

This is the arrival; God becoming human like us, so that He could bridge the gap that separated us from Him.

The invitation comes in the words "Oh, come to my heart Lord Jesus! There is room in my heart for thee." When, in recognition of our helplessness without Jesus, we invite Him in, we enter into the relationship for which we were intended.

Is this not the message of Camp Sychar? That people can be brought back into relationship with the Lord? — A relationship that continually is growing and deepening, transforming lives increasingly into the likeness of Jesus Himself? May it always be so!

May you and the ones you love have a great Christmas season! And may the calm and peace that comes from knowing the One who left Heaven to come to us pervade your lives, today and always!

Pastor Matt Brookes, President
mbrookes@campsychar.org

**"The World is
My Parish!"**

- JOHN WESLEY

CAMP SYCHAR MISSIONS

God is so good! and patient! and faithful! Imagine for just a moment, if we treated Him as well as He treats us. Would we be as patient with Him as He is with us? Would we be as faithful to Him as He is with us? Would we be as generous with our provisions as He is with us? Aside of course from the fact that we don't own the cattle on the hills like Him, I'm fairly certain that - if we did - we would not be so free with the blessing He is.

As the long Thanksgiving weekend teases me from beyond tomorrow and my favorite time of year is about to launch, I contemplate that which I have to be thankful for. Those "things" are literally too many to count but as I've aged in years and matured in Christ I've come to realize something. The gravity of that which we've been given is nothing only small in light of that which we do not share!

See, the stuff, the people, the job(s) we've been blessed with are great but they are not the reason we are here. We are "here" to be in a relationship with our Creator and it is what we do with that... that I want to do better.

Join me this Christmas season and resolve to give as He gives to us. To serve as He served us. To love as He loves us.

As Christians we are to be Christ-like. As believers, we are to be the salt and light to this world. I want to do that... I want to be *THAT* guy... I want to have *THAT* "mission".

So, if you see me this Christmas season... ask me how I'm doing and I will ask you as well.

Oh, and we made the budget too but - as I said when I started - God is good!

David Grissom - Mission's Secretary

**Don't Forget!
Work Week**

JUNE 29 - JULY 3 - 2015

THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED ON LEAF RAKING DAY!



A Letter from the Financial Secretary

As you may remember, we came up a bit short during camp for both the General and Missions Budget. I'm happy to report that we have come much closer since then due to the generosity of great folks like YOU!

We do however, still need funds.

As we head into 2015, we have facility challenges due to a **THRIVING** camp! — We need to make more room for families and replace some worn out cafeteria equipment, for example.



What a Blessing! **The secret is out!** Camp Sychar is an Awesome, SAFE and fruitful place to experience God's Grace, His Calling, AND His Holiness! I thank God for those who came before us and provided this place!

"One generation plants trees, but another get the shade..."

- OLD CHINESE PROVERB

WE ARE LITERALLY sitting in buildings that are the fruit of someone else's sacrifice! How I pray that our generation will have the commitment and vision to "pay it forward" selflessly. I joined the board, because I was confronted with the question, *"Do I love camp enough, to preserve it for the NEXT generation?"* **That** question pulled me off the sidelines!

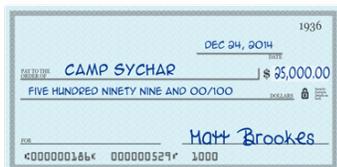
Let's NOT be satisfied to ONLY benefit from someone else's sacrifice! We Need to be Champions!

I urge you to integrate giving into your daily life, to both church and camp. The Body of Christ needs you now more than ever. To support Camp Sychar you can do that online at www.campsychar.org — and give one-time, or schedule a monthly payment to Sychar from your credit card or bank account. OR you can send Checks to the addresses below.

Thank you for your faithfulness!

Pastor Matt Greenawalt, Financial Sec'y

TO MAIL CHECKS OR PLEDGES: SEND THEM TO ONE OF THESE ADDRESSES :



1.



MISSIONS FUND

Mr. David Grissom
6876 Davidson Pike
Mechanicsburg, OH 43044-9309
614-376-7574 (cell)
dgrissom@campsychar.org

ALL OTHER MONIES

Pastor Matt Greenawalt
Camp Sychar
P.O. Box 146
Hubbard, OH 44425
330-448-2158 - Leave Message
mgreenawalt@campsychar.org

TO GIVE FROM YOUR COMPUTER:

TO GIVE FROM YOUR MOBILE DEVICE...



1.

GO TO WWW.CAMPSYCHAR.ORG
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GOES TO:

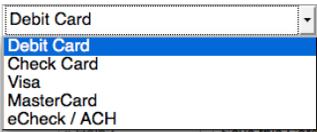
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1.



SPECIFY HOW YOU WANT TO GIVE



SPECIFY WHEN YOU WANT TO GIVE

SCHEDULED PAYMENTS OR ONE-TIME GIFT



SPECIFY WHAT YOU WANT TO GIVE TO!



VERY SECURE PROCESS