

CAMP SYCHAR

Message
from the **President**

Dear Sychar family:

When the time came for us to leave our last church, one of our "parting" gifts was a set of my Grandpa Brookes' sermons on cd. A wonderful woman in the congregation had taken the time to transfer all of the worn cassettes onto a set of ten cd's. We received a number of wonderfully sentimental gifts as we celebrated ten years of ministry together. Yet, none of those gifts surpassed in value the place those cd's had in my mind.

I was listening to a few of those cd's as I drove from our home in Bainbridge to my in-laws near Steubenville for Thanksgiving this year. It became for me a moment filled with emotion as I heard once again Grandpa's voice. It's been thirty-six years since he died; every year I struggle to recollect his voice and the way he spoke. In some ways, I feel like I'm gradually losing my connection with him. But what grows every year is my appreciation for the heritage he left me and my family.

Grandpa loved the Scriptures, and affirmed that love with a deep knowledge of them. He preached with passion, and backed up his sermons with pure living. His life of integrity and sincerity marked him as a man of honor, and he made countless deposits in the bank of our family's good name. We who bear his name and his blood are the beneficiaries of that heritage of intentional living. We realize that what he worked to build for those who would follow him in the family is a precious dividend and we seek to reinvest it in our own lives and those of our children and grandchildren.



**YEAR END
NEWSLETTER**

We too have received a rich heritage from Sycharites who have gone before us, both literally and spiritually. We are able to meet each year at camp, in part, because of them. In the years of financial stress, they were the ones who sacrificed. When the vision began to wane, they were

the ones to stoke the fires of passion for our purpose; to preach, live out and promote the reality of holy living. We are the inheritors of a priceless heritage. And now we are called to reinvest in those who follow behind us.

In this Mid-year letter, you'll find an article regarding the youth program at Sychar. I'm thankful for a legacy of youth ministry at the camp; most of our current Camp Sychar Board is a product of our youth and Children's ministries. As we enter into a new chapter in the story of Camp Sychar Youth, will you commit to investing in our youth and children? You will also find a report concerning our buildings and grounds. We are the stewards of fine buildings that progressively show their age. To care for them adequately takes a great deal of resources. Will you invest in the physical plant of Sychar so that it can be enjoyed by the generations that follow us?

We have received a fine heritage from those who've gone before us at Sychar. We now are called to invest the same so that those who come behind us will reap the benefits of our diligence. May you be blessed in this Christmas Season, and may Camp Sychar continue to be a blessing to the generations!

Pastor Matt Brookes, President
mbrookes@campsychar.org



YOUTH MINISTRY CHANGES - 2016

YOUTH MINISTRY is a high priority at Camp Sychar. In the past, Blaine and I have served in Sychar youth ministry and continue to have a passion for the Sychar Youth Program. Therefore, Blaine and I have been designated by the Board as the interim youth superintendents, to serve over the next two years. We will seek to provide pastoral leadership, while continuing to pray diligently for God's leading for the next Youth Superintendent. Our goal is to coordinate youth ministry and staff for as smooth a transition as possible, and to do whatever we can to mentor a new superintendent into the position.

TO THE YOUTH

Mark your calendar now for ten of the most life-changing and ridiculously fun days of your summer. Remember the dates for camp are a little later this year (**July 28-August 7**), so plan ahead to talk with coaches or whoever, to make sure you don't miss out on all God has for you at Camp.

You will be making new friends, re-connecting with old friends, and also seeing many familiar faces among the Youth Staff. We are planning and praying about all the details, so you can be a part of the best Camp Sychar experience ever!

Check out the website www.campsychar.org for the next Youth Letter and the Youth Application, which will be updated and available by May 1st.

E-mail us anytime with questions.

We are praying for you as you seek to follow Jesus all year long! Remember you are never alone! Have a blessed year with Jesus as your constant companion!

Serving with Joy!

Tom Keene

Blaine Keene

pastortom2@sbcglobal.net blaine.keene@yahoo.com

SCOTT & CARALEE CAMPBELL

We were saddened to receive the resignation of Scott & Caralee Campbell as Superintendents of the Youth Ministry and from the board.

We so appreciate the many years they worked with our youth. May we all covenant together to pray for Caralee's healing, and great strength and faith as they face the challenges ahead.



**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS
MAINTENANCE NEEDS**

We have two buildings that are in need of new roofs:

1. The Upper Bathroom, located across from the Nurse's cottage and up from the Children's tabernacle, currently has a moss covered roof that needs to be replaced at the cost of \$5000.
2. The Old Dorm, located across from the cafeteria, has a **severely** worn tin roof that also needs to be replaced. The cost for a new metal roof for the Old Dorm is \$12000.

Would you be willing to help defray the cost of either of these roofs? Or how about helping on both? If you would like to give towards the replacement of either the Upper Bathroom or the Old Dorm roof (or both), please send your donation to to the address above, marked accordingly **OR** go online to www.campsychar.org click on "ONLINE GIVING" and select one of the two funds.

FINANCIAL SEC'Y ADDRESS:

Camp Sychar
P.O. Box 146
Hubbard, Ohio 44425
donations@campsychar.org



www.campsychar.org

CAMP SYCHAR MISSIONS

The call to missions has been central to Camp Sychar from its' birth. The founders of the camp felt a deep response to the Holy Spirit led invitation to "go and make disciples of all the nations...". The place of Missions is so central to who we are as a camp, that the Board has always designated one member to lead the camp's response to that call.

For several years, our Missions program has been ably led by David Grissom. David's heart and passion for Missions have been evident in the growth of the Sychar Missions program during those years. This Fall, David resigned from the Board, and we would like to take an opportunity to thank him for his efforts and a willingness to be used by the Holy Spirit to further the Camp Sychar Missions program.

The budget for Camp Sychar Missions for 2015-2016 is \$31700. The Missions budget is set to cover Oct through Sept of the following year, and is set following the Fall Board meeting. Thanks to all of you who faithfully support Camp Sychar Missions with your prayers and finances. If you would like to donate to Camp Sychar Missions, you may do so by sending your donation to Matt Greenawalt, our Camp Financial Secretary. The detailed budget is available on www.campsychar.org.

Some may remember, my oldest brother Mark passed away just prior to Sychar. As a result, camp was tough on my brother Mike and I handling the financial duties. In our weakness, however, the Lord was faithful, in the form of the Holy Spirit and also the Sychar family! Thanks to Jill Martin for her tireless help and to Matt Brookes and other board members for *KIND, STRONG* and *LOYAL* leadership. — a braid of many cords is not easily broken! 'Nuff Said.

So... how amazing was that AWESOME VICTORIOUS giving at camp? I just can't help but reflect on the fantastic culture of giving, serving and volunteerism we enjoy at Camp Sychar. It's truly a pleasure to serve with you. During camp, folks actually celebrated... GIVING! Each night was met with cheering as we updated the numbers on the tabernacle wall! — **Hallelujah! #NoFear #Victory #Boom #GodisGood**

PLEDGE FULFILLMENT

Our work however, is not done. We are currently running at about 27% pledge fulfillment so far (End of Nov 2015). Don't be alarmed, we should be at about 40% by year end. So we're about 10-13% behind (from a calendar pro-rated basis). There are no foundations or endowments, its paid for by Sycharites! These numbers are specifically for pledges made, we rely on the pledges to meet budget.

To support Camp Sychar you can go online at www.campsychar.org — and give one-time, or schedule a monthly payment to Sychar from your credit card or bank account. OR send Checks to this address:

Thank you for your faithfulness!

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	PLEDGED	RECEIVED
GENERAL	37,090	12,182 ^{33%}
MISSIONS	15,990	3,260 ^{20%}
27%	\$53,080	\$15,442

PLEDGES FULFILLED (11/30/2015)

Matt Greenawalt
donations@campsychar.org

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF BUILDING AND GROUNDS

CARETAKER POSITION

After much discussion and prayer we are excited to announce that Tim and Laurie Johnson have agreed to stay on as the Caretakers of Camp Sychar. They have given of themselves so unselfishly to care for these Holy Grounds and we are blessed that this relationship is going to continue. We have held several conversations with them, and we realized that, as a Board, we must continue to improve our communication with the Caretaker AND the Camp Constituency. Part of that process has been to re-write the Job Description for the Caretaker position, and to include a Covenant between the Board, the Caretaker and the Camp Constituency. We are all in this Ministry together. Here is a part of that Covenant:

A Covenant between the Board of Camp Sychar, the Caretaker and the Constituency - Revised November, 2015

It is important to understand that the position of Caretaker is a Ministry position for maintenance and security of Camp Sychar. The Caretaker does not work FOR the Board OR Camp Constituency. We are a TEAM with the goal and purpose of promotion of Scriptural Holiness. The Caretaker, the Board, and the Camp constituency are all working with one another. Therefore, we ALL have responsibilities.

The Board enters into this Covenant realizing that they are to work along side of, assist whenever possible, encourage at all times and to pray for the Caretaker family. This responsibility is especially important during pre-Camp set-up, post-Camp tear down and the task of leaf raking/blowing.

You may read the full job description on the Camp Sychar website at www.campsychar.org. Please join with us in expressing your appreciation for and cooperation with Tim and Laurie as we move forward in our Covenant relationship.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

THANKS to all who were able to stay after the noon meal on the last Sunday of Camp to help with "putting the Camp to bed" for the season. Some of you helped take down the tents at the snack shop, others helped gather up AND clean the 40-50 garbage cans, others loaded up and stored all the picnic tables, while another crew moved, stacked and covered all the pews in the Main Tabernacle. What a blessing to see so many pitch in and complete these tasks in record time.

THANKS LEAF DAY VOLUNTEERS~ We had a great turnout of volunteers for both Leaf Days this fall. The leaves are down, raked, blown into rows ...AND sucked up and dumped off site. PTL! Thank you to all who had a part in this accomplishment. As we joined together the job was accomplished in almost record time AND we had a lot of fun, food and fellowship doing it!

OTHER UPDATES!

- Zion Restroom now has concrete sidewalks around the building to make it more handicap accessible.
- Restrooms on 2nd floor of Weatherwax have been started and will be open for 2016 encampment.
- Electrical repair of Camp Laundry mat is in progress to be repaired by end of the year.
- Fence along McGibney Road has been repaired after accident.
- Security lighting has been improved or repaired on the grounds.

Volunteers Keep Camp Sychar Going! God Bless You All!



Randy Spain
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