

The Gentle Breeze

A Publication of Zephyr Baptist Encampment

Summer Wrap-up 2009

A letter from the director

Another busy year is flying by. We had an amazing fall season at Zephyr, with almost every weekend filled with retreat groups from all over Texas. The spring was similar to the fall, but we added large construction projects to the agenda. Our main project this year has been the renovation and expansion of our dining hall. In addition to completely remodeling the existing dining hall, we added on space to seat additional campers for meals.



Stuart Lutz

A covered breezeway connects this section of the building to our new concession stand, camp store and nurse's station. We are so excited about these changes!

Zephyr is extremely grateful to everyone who has helped make these improvements possible, especially the entire Marshall families. These families continue to be an incredible blessing to the ministry at Camp Zephyr. We also cannot say thank you enough to Texas Baptist Men and Campers on Mission that have volunteered their time and efforts throughout this process. These projects would not have been possible without their servanthood and hearts for camp ministry.

We are also very excited about our "Next 50" campaign, which began earlier this year. If you are on our mailing list, you may have received infor-



photo by Sergio Castillo

The Marshall Pond is always a huge hit at Preteen Camp.

mation about this campaign already. This program is an opportunity for those have been impacted by Zephyr in the past to support the ministry today and invest in the future of the camp. We are looking forward to all that God will do through this new program as we look forward to the next 50 years of ministry here at Zephyr.

This summer has been a true blessing, with each week packed with campers, an amazing summer staff, and our new buildings working better than we could have imagined. Our guests cannot stop talking about the accomodating renovations! To see the staff and campers interact all for

the love of Christ makes me wish summer would never end. Except I need some rest!

We have seen God's faithfulness this year in new and exciting ways. We believe that He truly has a plan for this ministry and continues to reveal that plan as we seek His direction. Zephyr is grateful to all of you for your support, whether it is through prayer, time or financial contributions. You are an important part of all that goes on here.



Campers unleashed!

This summer, over 1,400 youth from across Texas attended one of Zephyr's three youth camps. The theme for youth camp was "Unleashed," which challenged students to live their lives unleashed from sin and showed them what this type of life through Jesus Christ looks like. This summer, our three youth camp directors were Allen Frans, Youth Pastor at Central Baptist Church in Round Rock, TX, Chris Dupree, Youth Pastor at Baptist Temple in McAllen, TX, and Steven Gaither, Minister of Evangelism and Discipleship at River Hills Baptist Church in Corpus Christi, TX. These men did a great job of working with the Zephyr staff to put on three successful camps. According to surveys given to sponsors at the end of each week, 111 students came to know the Lord at youth camp. This number does not include the many commitments and calls to ministry that also occurred throughout these weeks. Overall, we could not have asked for a better group of students to join us for our Zephyr youth camps this summer. In just three weeks, God worked and moved in the lives of these students, in their sponsors, and in the hearts of the Zephyr Staff in a mighty way.



"Creation Station" Kids Camp, out of this world

We were so excited to register over 1,200 students for Zephyr's three kids camps this summer and our excitement only grew as each camp passed. This summer's theme for camp was "Creation Station," where students learned about God's creation and most importantly, how God creates a new heart in His people through Jesus Christ. Summer Program Coordinator, Sara Martisek, was the camp director for each of our kids camps. God did an amazing work through the camp pastors and one of Zephyr's favorite worship bands, The Justin Graves Band, who led worship at each pre-teen camp. According to camp evaluations, 84 children gave their hearts to the Lord at Zephyr's kids camps this summer. Whether it was on the "blob," in the pool, at the snack shack, or on the inflatables, the Zephyr summer staff were always having a great time with the students. The energy these children bring to Zephyr continues to impress our leadership and we are already planning for even more successful kids camps next year!

To see more pictures from Zephyr's 2009 Youth and Kids camps, please visit our photo galleries at www.campzephyr.org/gallery

On a scale of 1 to 10, "Z Staff" voted 27+ + +

This summer, Zephyr hired 33 summer staff to serve our camp in a huge way. For three months, our fantastic staff ran rec games and evening events for six program camps, served every meal, cleaned dorms, maintained the camp grounds, lifeguarded, and served in any other capacity that they could. When we reviewed the surveys taken by pastors and sponsors at the end of each week, one opinion never changed: this year's summer staff is the best Zephyr summer staff yet! As we continue to push these incredible young men and women, they never cease to amaze us with their energy, love for campers, and servant hearts. Camp Zephyr could not run the way that it does without such a summer staff and we are already praying for those God will send to serve on Zephyr's 2010 Summer Staff. Thank you to all of our summer staffers for your hard work this year. We love you and could not



photo by Sergio Castillo

This summer, Zephyr employed 33 summer staff members and currently employs 10 year-round staff members.

A view from the staff porch

Being a first-year Zephyr summer staffer has been the most amazing experience of my life. Yes, it is probably one of the hardest jobs in the whole world, but once I got

into the rhythm, I realized this is absolutely the best job I will ever have. When campers and sponsors think of the Zephyr summer staff, they probably think of the people who serve the food, wear funny hats, lifeguard, unclog the toilets, and clean the cabins. However, that's not all we do. Engaging in a camper's week in any possible way shows our love as a staff and as brothers and sisters in Christ. All summer long I have seen how a simple "hello" can change a student's week. I've truly enjoyed spending time with the campers, sponsors and staffers this summer. I am definitely excited for God's plan for next summer and for the summers to come here at Zephyr. See y'all next summer!!



Lauren Rotramel

Memorials for 2009

Given By:

Robert and Amy Marshall
Robert and Amy Marshall
Marion and Dollie Black
Trinity Baptist Church -
Mirando City
Carlos and Bessie Carranco
Janis Bull
Dorothy Kelly
Mary Albobrook
The "Links" Clubs at
Riverbend Church in Austin
High Valley Baptist Church
Texas DPS Crime Lab -
Trace Evidence Section

In Memory of:

Alec Holbien
Julio Perez
Stanley Marshall Jr.
Stanley Marshall Jr.
Stanley Marshall Jr.
Jeanelle Robertson
Jeanelle Robertson
Jeanelle Robertson
Jeanelle Robertson
Jeanelle Robertson
Jeanelle Robertson

Thank You...

Camp Zephyr would like to say thank you to Texas Baptist Men, Campers On Mission and the Marshall families for their love and support, both physically and monetarily, of Camp Zephyr. Without your obedience to the Lord and passion for our ministry, we would not have had such a successful summer. Both the staff and our guests have truly enjoyed our new kitchen, dining hall, camp store, snack shack, and nurse's station facilities. God has blessed us with your love.

*Sincerely,
Camp Zephyr*

Giving to Zephyr

People often ask how they can help the ministry of Zephyr and many people help in a variety of ways. Some people include Zephyr in their monthly monetary giving through their church, Sunday School class or as individuals. From time to time, we have people who will give specific items that we can use such as tractors, jet skis, or other heavy equipment. Still others lift up the ministry continually in prayer asking that God's mission be accomplished through the work of Zephyr.



Please consider how you might join in this giving and feel free to call the camp to talk with Stuart or Shaune about opportunities for giving. Here's a list of current needs with which you could help:

In-Kind

Golf carts in good condition
DitchWitch or other trencher
Generators
Late model truck or Suburban
Light towers

Financial

The Next 50 Campaign
New lifejackets-\$100 per set
New picnic tables-\$75
Motel room renovations

Prayer

Campers
Full-time Staff
Summer Staff
Join the Zephyr Prayer Team by
signing up at campzephyr.org

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