

FECConnections

'Little camp in the Ozarks' sees God's provision

LifeChange Camp, now 8 years old, hosts camps, retreats, changed lives.

By Kristi Reimer, *FECConnections* Editor

Eight years ago, Bill and Carol Anderson stood on a parcel of wooded land outside of Clinton, Missouri, and looked around. Then they looked at each other. Each knew what the other was thinking: This was going to be the site of the camp God had called them to build more than 10 years earlier. "Let's do it!" they said.

That piece of property, which at the time contained nothing but trees, is now the home of LifeChange Camp, an affiliate ministry of the Fellowship of Evangelical Churches. It boasts seven buildings and hosts a year-round schedule of camps and retreats. And the Andersons have seen God take care of the camp time after time. "It's amazing to see how God has laid LifeChange on the hearts of people," Bill says.

Not a typical camp

The Andersons have built the camp in the style of an Ozark mountain retreat. When the property was partially cleared for construction, they used the trees that came down to build log furniture and siding for the buildings. Antiques and primitives make up the décor. Flower beds adorn the landscape and Adirondack furniture built from construction scraps invites visitors to relax on the front porches. "We've tried to make it a place that, once you come on the property, you never forget," Carol says.



winter 2011

Inside _____

LifeChange Camp

FEC Happenings

- 4 Shake-Up Kalamazoo
- 5 CSF Achieves Goal; 2010 Fall Quizzing

International Ministries

- 6 News from Albania; FEC Work Team to D.R. Congo
- 7 BAM Top 10 of 2010

Back Page

- 8 The Malignancy of Unchecked Sin

LifeChange *(continued from page 1)*

Although word-of-mouth has brought visitors flocking to LifeChange, some even before the facilities were completed, camp leaders also use other strategies to spread the word. On the first Sunday of every December, the camp hosts an open house with the facilities decorated to the hilt. “We make it look like an old-fashioned Ozark Christmas,” Carol says. “We’ll have 200 to 300 people come out on a Sunday afternoon, and we’re able to share the vision of LifeChange Camp with them.”

And apparently the message is getting out. In the wintertime, every weekend is booked for an adult or youth retreat. The summer season is made up of weeklong camps. In fact, the camp leadership added a second children’s week to the schedule in 2010, allowing even more families—especially local residents—to send their kids to LifeChange. “We’ve received a lot of support from Grace Community Church in Newton, Kansas, and other FEC churches,” Bill says. “And we trust that will continue, but we’d like to reach local people as well.”

When at LifeChange, campers and retreaters won’t necessarily find a ropes course or other high-end activities like some camps offer, but they will find “small-town fun,” Carol says—activities such as Luau by the Lake and Hillbilly Olympics. Plus they’ll eat well. “We put on a great spread,” Carol says. “Our cook, Rita Yoder, is a good little Mennonite gal, and she can bake like nobody’s business.”

*We’ve worked
very hard to make
LifeChange
different—better
than your
typical camp.*

*Carol Anderson,
LifeChange Camp*

All in all the Andersons, with the support of the camp’s board of directors, have strived to create a unique camp experience that furthers the work of God’s kingdom. “We’ve worked very hard to make LifeChange different—better than your typical camp,” Carol says.

Needs provided

The Andersons received God’s call to found a Christian camp more than 20 years ago. They were pastoring a church at the time, so they started to spend their weekends with their kids in the car going to look at land. They found the property in Clinton, Missouri, and knew this was it—but they were starting with nothing. Since that time, God has provided for the needs of the camp over and over again.

From the beginning, the Andersons say, LifeChange Camp has had the full support of FEC. “Through FEC and the Lord’s leading, we’ve been able to build seven buildings debt-free,” Bill says. In fact, early on the camp’s leadership made a commitment not to borrow much money for anything, and as they’ve trusted the Lord for the needs of LifeChange, God has come through.

For example, Carol says, when the camp was first starting to host retreats, the only coffee makers they had were a couple of slow Mr. Coffees. So during a board meeting, the Andersons asked if they could purchase a commercial unit that would turn over coffee quickly for a large group of people.

The board agreed, but before the couple had a chance to look at models and compare prices, a man called the camp. He had a commercial coffee maker new in the box, 15 glass coffee pots that went with it, and 10 boxes of coffee. Was this something the camp could use? “We had our coffee maker that afternoon,” Carol says.

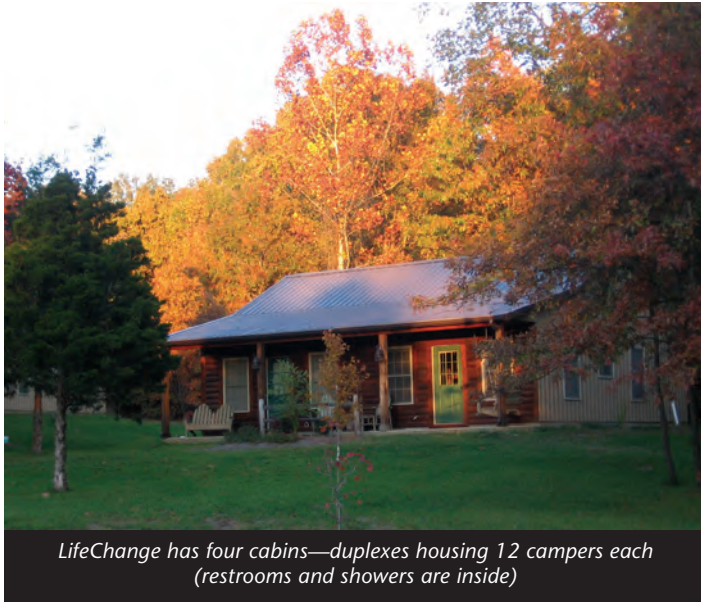
Here’s another instance of God’s provision: Recently Bill approached a man to ask if he wanted to get involved with the camp financially in some way. The man said no. “Well,



The Welcome Center, which houses LifeChange Camp’s dining hall



Retreat group using the fireplace room



LifeChange has four cabins—duplexes housing 12 campers each (restrooms and showers are inside)



Campers holding the “cleanest cabin” trophy

that was a little difficult to hear,” Bill says. But two weeks later, the man called and said, “OK, Bill, come get your tractor.”

“What do you mean?” Bill replied.

“Well, for the last two weeks, ever since I talked to you, God’s been working on me,” the man replied. “And He says I need to give you my John Deere tractor.”

So the camp came into possession of a tractor, “and that tractor has been invaluable!” Bill continues. “For snow removal, for moving lumber, for keeping the roads graded—it’s such a God thing. He’s making it happen.”

And still another example: Recently the camp’s refrigeration unit went down, and the repair was going to be costly. Before the Andersons had a chance to make a plan, the man who’d originally donated the equipment said he had two new units—could the camp use them? Yes, as a matter of fact, they could. So the donor installed the equipment, hauled the old units away, and everything has been functioning perfectly ever since.

Just in the last year, God has provided an even greater blessing. “We’ve long had a goal to have a rec center by this summer,” Bill says. “When we go into churches and the community to talk about the needs of the camp, we never do a hard sell, but we lay the opportunity before people and see who responds.”

Toward the end of 2010, someone did respond. The camp received a major donation that will help fund an 80-by-100-foot recreation pavilion. The facility will house a full basketball court, a game room for ping pong and other activities, and summer chapel services.

“It’s going to be a very nice addition,” Bill says. “The Welcome Center has been acting as our dining hall and game room, so this will take a great deal of stress off an overused building. You know, God says He’s going to bless us even before we ask. Our master plan was to build that building, but we hadn’t even gotten around to ask Him for it yet.”

Carol agrees. “We could tell you story after story,” she says. “At camp conferences they say that 50 years ago you could start a camp with donated stuff and a used pickup—but you can’t do that anymore. Well, we know that’s not really true!”

A vision fulfilled

Since the beginning, LifeChange Camp’s development has taken place alongside a commitment to tithe on all donations. “Since we formed LifeChange Foundation 10 years ago, we’ve not only been able to pay for the things we’ve needed, but we’ve been able to give away \$100,000,” Bill says. “God has been so faithful to His Word where He says, ‘Test me in these things.’ You can’t outgive Him.”

Even when the camp didn’t seem to have enough dollars, the directors still put 10 percent away in an account consistently, and when the board held its semi-annual meeting, they would give that money away. “Once we gave away \$5,000, and the next day we received \$10,000,” Bill says. “This year we gave away \$5,000 even though we had a \$5,000 debt we needed to pay off. Then someone gave us \$82,000, and we have money in the bank to build our new rec center. This has happened over and over and over.”

The Andersons say they are constantly humbled by the fact that God would be a part of this “little camp in the Ozarks.”

“Every morning as I sit here with my cup of coffee and look out the window, I’m in awe that what was in our hearts so long is now a reality—that I have the privilege of seeing it happen,” Bill says. “Of course it’s a lot of hard work and there are days when we get discouraged. But then I’m reminded again, look what God has done! I was in a church not long ago and a little boy came running up and grabbed ahold of my legs—it was a camper from last summer. That kind of thing is so rewarding. Lives are truly being changed at LifeChange Camp.” ■

FEC Happenings

Shake-Up Kalamazoo 2011

Are you looking for a domestic missions trip for the students in your youth group? Do you want to find something that enables you to teach service and volunteering in a simple way? Now Miracle Camp can help you. Shake-Up Kalamazoo is a youth group service program committed to teaching junior high and high school students the value of living a Christlike life.

Students who attend Shake-Up Kalamazoo will have the opportunity to serve and share their faith in Kalamazoo, Michigan. You and your church youth group will spend time during the day serving and volunteering in Kalamazoo. In the evenings you'll return to camp for worship, teaching, and debriefing. At the end of the week each youth group can choose a fun activity to participate in before leaving.

Activities include:

- Miracle Camp's high ropes course
- The Kalamazoo Valley Museum
- A trip to St. Joe's Beach
- Mac Wood's Dune Ride

Shake-Up Kalamazoo dates are available in both the spring and summer. Camp staff members also are willing to cater the experience for your group. To register your youth group or learn more about Shake-Up Kalamazoo, call (269) 624-6161 or e-mail frank@miraclecamp.com.

2011 Shake-Up Kalamazoo Dates

<i>Session</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Speaker</i>	<i>Price</i>
Spring break	March 20-24	TBA	TBA
Summer	June 19-24	TBA	\$200*

*One leader is free for every six students within their gender

Sample schedule

Sunday

3-4 p.m. Arrival
4 p.m. Orientation games
5:15 p.m. Dinner
6 p.m. Orientation
7 p.m. Group game
8 p.m. Swimming/Blobbering/
Water Trampoline/Gym time
11 p.m. Lights out

Serving days

8 a.m. Breakfast
8:30 a.m. Personal devotions
9 a.m. Depart for service projects
12:30 p.m. Eat sack lunch
1 p.m. Resume work
5 p.m. Depart for camp
5:30 p.m. Chill time
6 p.m. Dinner
7 p.m. Chapel, share stories from
the day, worship, speaker/training
for the next day

8 p.m. Youth group time
8:30 p.m. Evening programming
11 p.m. Lights out

Last day

8 a.m. Breakfast
8:30 a.m. Pack up and clean
9:30 a.m. Closing session
10:30 a.m. Go to fun activity



Christian Service Foundation achieves goals

By Al Rupp, CSF President



For the last several years, CSF has aspired to coordinate the registration efforts in seven states so that they are all timed to be completed together and so that the same offering circular can be used with all states. That goal was accomplished in early December 2010 after a lengthy process of working with our new attorney firm and filing registration materials and amendments over the last several months. The good news is that the process should be much easier and happen more quickly in the future.

Other changes and accomplishments include:

- New offering circulars have been created, put into booklet form, and printed in-house.
- New brochures have been printed in-house and are now available at all FEC churches.
- A new purchase application and agreement document is now in full use.
- The CSF team is continuing its work coordinating new computer software with previous financial statements.
- Crossroads Evangelical Church in Napoleon, Ohio, is enjoying the use of its new building purchased by CSF.
- Additional 7.5 acres of land adjacent to the building in Napoleon purchased to give the church a total of 10.5 acres.
- Crossview Church in Grabill, Indiana, held its first service in its new building on Sunday, December 19. CSF provided the financing for that project.
- LifeChange Camp completed its sewer system with CSF financing the needed loan for that work.
- Many investors are grateful for the extended terms and higher rates offered by CSF for investment certificates.
- CSF Dinner held October 2 at Crossroads Evangelical Church in Wauseon, Ohio.

Term investment certificates from CSF:

Terms	\$1,000 Minimum	\$50,000 Minimum
12-month	2.00%	2.25%
24-month	2.25%	2.50%
36-month	2.75%	3.00%
48-month	3.25%	3.50%
60-month	3.75%	4.00%

Youth Stewardship Certificates pay 2.50% interest.

For more information about the Christian Service Foundation, call Erin Smith, Assistant, at (260) 423-3649 or e-mail csf@fecministries.org.

2010 Fall Quizzing Results

Top 10 junior high quizzers

1. Carissa Diller, Archbold
2. Tim Williamson, Brookside
3. Jenna Metcalfe, Eureka
4. Emily Armstrong, Eureka
4. Colleen Williamson, Brookside
6. Brett Holder, Upland
7. Zach Bonham, Grace-Morton
8. Elizabeth Powers, Pine Hills
9. John Magee, Upland
10. Micah Gerber, Highland Bethel
10. Taylor Kern, Highland Bethel
10. Piper Nicholson, Grace-Morton
10. Samantha Walters, Grace-Morton

Top junior high quizzer from each church

Carissa Diller, Archbold
 Matt Nussbaum, Berne
 Colleen Williamson, Brookside
 Jenna Metcalfe, Eureka
 Zach Bonham, Grace-Morton
 Micah Gerber and Taylor Kern (tie), Highland Bethel
 Elizabeth Powers, Pine Hills
 Brett Holder, Upland

Top 3 junior high quiz teams

1. Upland: John Magee, Jonathan Siegelin, Brett Holder, Sydney Curtis, Nicki Mortland, Abby Gruendyke
2. Eureka: Tymon Mauer, Jessica Metcalfe, Megan Armstrong, Faith Ford
3. Brookside 1: Colleen Williamson, Amelia Colon, Paige Hazelett, Anna Milliman, Amy Halstead

Top 10 senior high quizzers

1. Caleb Andrews, Archbold
1. Eric Holder, Upland
3. Kelly Hirschy, Berne
3. Lydia Klassen, Grace-Morton
3. Whitney Webster, Highland Bethel
6. Abby Sells, Upland
6. Ashley Steffen, Eureka
8. Jillian Pflederer, Eureka
9. Grace Lawler, Grace-Morton
10. Judah Sistrunk, Calvary EMC
10. Kayla Too, Pine Hills

Top senior high quizzer from each church

Caleb Andrews, Archbold
 Kelly Hirschy, Berne
 Jon Keller, Brookside
 Judah Sistrunk, Calvary EMC
 Rebecca King, Crossroads-Monticello, Ill.
 Marty Litwiller, Dewey
 Ashley Steffen, Eureka
 Lydia Klassen, Grace-Morton
 Whitney Webster, Highland Bethel
 Kayla Too, Pine Hills
 Erick Holder, Upland

Top three senior high quiz teams

1. Eureka 1: Ashley Steffen, Jillian Pflederer, Rebekah Coon, Alana Schlupp
2. Archbold 1: Caleb Andrews, Grace Diller, Trisha Cousino, Tim Rettig, Micah Schumacher
3. Eureka 2: Emily Armstrong; Jenna Metcalfe, Karl Mauer, Ashleigh Gipson, Matthew Wood

International Ministries

News from Albania

Donors' gift helps church find a home of its own.

By Adam and Allison Roseboom, FEC International Ministries, Albania

For many years our small group of believers in Albania has been praying for a building of their own. These prayers have been answered! Through the gracious donation of someone in England, along with the giving of Albanian believers in Durres and Sukth, God has provided a building for the Sukth church. We are now praying that the building will be used for additional activities and also serve as an attraction for the many nonbelievers in our town.

Praise: Recently on a cold yet sunny Sunday morning, we headed to the beach to celebrate with three of our church members as they were baptized. The service was special for Allison, as she had gone through discipleship materials with all three girls. She continues to meet with them weekly for Bible study. All three gave their testimony during our morning worship service. Afterwards at the beach we had a time of singing and prayer. Then we got into the frigid water—Adam's toes are still trying to defrost!



Church building in Sukth, Albania

If you'd like to learn more about the work here in Albania, e-mail us at adamandallisonroseboom@yahoo.com.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Construction Team 2011 • June 11-25

Team leader: Steve Nelson

Location: Tshikapa, D.R. Congo
Tshikapa is an African small city in very rural central Africa, considered bush country.

Point of entry and exit:
Kinshasa at Njili International Airport

Cost: Approximately \$4,000 per person (to be determined). Price includes international and domestic flight costs, in-country ground transportation, travel medical insurance, group meals, lodging, Additional personal costs: passport, country entry visa, inoculation shots, airport food, drink and souvenirs.

Payment: \$100 deposit with application. \$2,500 will be due by March 31 so airline tickets can be purchased. All funds must be on deposit before tickets will be purchased. Remaining \$1,400 will be due by April 30.

FOR APPLICATION: Steve Nelson at FEC Resource Center, 1420 Kerrway Court, Fort Wayne, IN 46805
Phone (260) 423-3649, Cell (260) 416-6005 or E-mail s.nelson@fecministries.org

BAM top 10 of 2010

Business as Mission ventures making a splash around the world.

By Doug Witzig, Business as Mission Coordinator, FEC International Ministries and TEAM

People often ask me what kinds of businesses are effective in the strategy of Business as Mission. One of our criteria is: Does the operation of the business provide frequent contacts with the people we are trying to reach? Another important criterion is: Is the BAMer able to share the gospel with unreached people or disciple national Christians? These questions help us evaluate whether the presence of the business is leading to the planting of the church.

With these principles in mind, let me share my "BAM Top 10." These are BAM ventures that I either visited during my overseas trips in 2010 or whose BAMers I interviewed by phone or Skype.

1. Best bed-and-breakfast: Positioned near a popular trekking trail, this hostel services expat tourists while employing and partnering with local people from an unreached group.

2. Best business consulting company: Due to the experience of its manager, this consulting firm is helping start small and medium-size businesses that can hire and disciple local believers to reach their own people.

3. Best factory: A successful factory that manufactures fishing lures for the North American market is subcontracting to a small workshop being set up in an unreached minority people group area.

4. Best coffee shop: A church-planting team in downtown Tokyo opened up this shop to serve everyday customers and offer weekend concerts. It now has a small, growing congregation meeting there on Sundays.

5. Best fitness center: An American woman manages a Curves franchise as a way to reach Muslim women in a Middle Eastern city.

6. Best cultural center: A team of expats uses a blend of coffee, English conversation classes, and community projects to bless their Middle Eastern city; the center is now the meeting place for several congregations.

7. Best travel agency: A family from Texas is operating tours in a Middle Eastern country for visitors to see the biblical sites or for hunters to bag the big game!

8. Best English training center: A new company based in Colorado Springs is assisting teams in creating both brick-and-mortar and online English training businesses, which can help reach local students.

9. Best business seminar trainers: Workers who know Arabic and have a long experience in the Middle East are offering crosscultural training workshops for managers of international firms.

10. Best new idea: A young man is test-marketing in Central Asia a type of ice cream made with yak's milk, which has a higher cream content than cow's milk.

As you read through this list, do you see any BAM projects that you could join? Or take the same idea and replicate it in a different unreached people area? Maybe you have your own business plan that could be turned into a BAM venture. We are praying for God to raise up more BAMers in 2011!

Please contact me to start a conversation.
E-mail: waih93@yahoo.com or call (309) 634-9675.



FECers Doug Schaffnit (center, Grace-Morton) and Jonathan Jeran (right, Pine Hills-Ft. Wayne) joined Doug Witzig (left) on a BAM consulting trip last May. During a visit to the Arabian Peninsula, the team had an opportunity to tour a university campus, hosted by these Communication Department students.



President's Corner

Rocky Rocholl

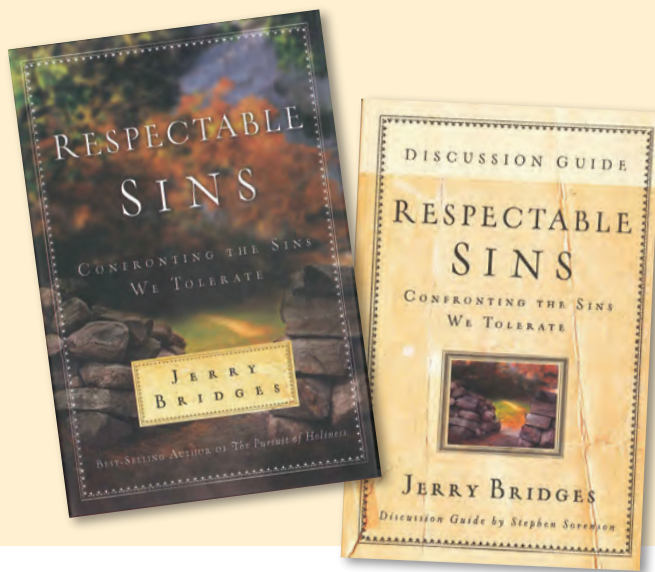
The malignancy of unchecked sin

Five separate times in just the last several weeks, I have received the heartbreaking news that a friend has been diagnosed with cancer. That word evokes feelings of despair, fear, panic, and hopelessness—in fact, we have coined the phrase “the big C” so we don’t even have to say the word. Another way to describe the condition is “malignancy” or “malignant.” Jerry Bridges, in his book *Respectable Sins*, defines “malignant” this way: “a tumor of potentially unlimited growth that expands locally into adjoining tissue by invasion and systemically by metastasizing into other areas of the body.”

I believe God has sensitized me to these words through this series of shocking news. I was especially impacted when Bridges went on to say, “Sin is a spiritual and moral malignancy. Left unchecked, it can spread throughout our entire inner being and contaminate every area of our lives. Even worse, it often will ‘metastasize’ from us into the lives of other believers around us.”

My heart breaks for my friends and their families as they fight this terrible physical disease. But I far too seldom have the same angst for my own spiritual condition. Just as malignancy can grow and grow undetected, those sinful thoughts and actions I ignore can grow until they are out of control. In Galatians 5:17 Paul calls this our sinful nature, or “the flesh.” What are we doing, first of all, to discover or identify those ungodly things in our lives? And then, are we taking the responsibility to remove them? We need to apply God’s truth to each situation and depend on His Holy Spirit for the strength to face and deal with our sin. If we ignore the symptoms, it can have disastrous results for us and also metastasize into other areas of the body.

We as FEC are seeking to expand the visible body of Christ. That process starts in each individual’s heart and life. Only then can we have healthy churches that in turn reach out in healthy ways to our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and around the world. Please join me in the commitment to let God do surgery on us individually so we can be that healthy expression of His body here on earth.



Rocky Rocholl, FEC President

If you’d like to do a little reading on the subject, check out *Respectable Sins* by Jerry Bridges.

