



BSBC NEWS

FALL 2011



FROM THE DIRECTOR...

To say the last five months have been busy at Big Sky would truly be an understatement! It has been a good "busy," however, as we continue to see the Lord use Big Sky for His glory. The summer was one of the best yet for Big Sky as we saw a 12 percent increase in attendance and numerous campers come to know Christ as their Savior. Although we don't normally encourage it, two of those campers desired to be baptized. Their families were contacted and with their families and peers around them, they were both baptized before departing from camp.

This fall has brought with it a full schedule of guest groups and ropes course groups! We have estimated that there has been more than 1,000 individuals through our ropes course since September including all of the 8th and 9th grade of the Flathead High School in Kalispell.

God is definitely doing a great work here at Big Sky and we are thrilled to be a part of that work. Thank you for your continued support!



Farewell to Two Special Ladies...

We would like to recognize two special ladies who have given much of their lives in ministering to others at Big Sky Bible Camp. Nancy Lawrence began serving at Big Sky in 1956 (yes, that's 55 years ago!) with her husband, Charles. She was involved part time while she raised their four children until 1984 when she began serving full time. Nancy spent her days teaching Bible classes, managing the craft room and doing hundreds of behind the scenes tasks. She was always a hard worker and will be truly missed here at Big Sky!



Karen DeVries began attending Big Sky as a camper in 1958. She served as a counselor from 1969-1971 and then began serving full time in 1972. Karen has been an integral part of Big Sky's operation serving in capacities from Bible teaching to registrar to counselor for many campers and counselors. We will greatly miss Karen and her love for each and every camper (see the interview on back for more info.!)

Thank you Nancy and Karen for allowing the Lord to use you in a great way!

Welcome to the Olsons...

We are excited to welcome our new maintenance director and his family to camp! Scott and Jen Olson, along with their daughter, Oakley (2 years old), moved to camp in the beginning of September. We asked the Olsons some questions to help you get to know them:

What are some of your hobbies? "We love to camp, Scott enjoys hunting, horseback riding and trapping."

What is your favorite memory from camp? (Scott and Jen both have a long history of being involved with Big Sky!) Jen - "Just working out at camp, especially helping out with Camp Promise." Scott - "Rock climbing."

What is your favorite Bible verse? Jen - Psalm 139:13-18; Scott - Ephesians 5:15-16.

Random Fact about Jen - Her great grandmother, Edna Oursland, served as a cook when Big Sky rented a camp on Flathead Lake!

Random Fact about Scott - Because of his close friendship with John Brenneman Jr., Scott spent much of his childhood at Big Sky and would ride his bike over from Ferndale. In fact, he knows the grounds better than anyone thanks to his trapping excursions at camp.

We are excited to have Scott and Jen here and to watch the Lord use their gifts and abilities to glorify Himself!

Some thoughts from Karen DeVries

Karen DeVries, born in Conrad, Mont., grew up on a farm and began her involvement in camp from a very young age when her mother came to clean and cook at a nearby Bible camp. She began attending Bible camp around 8 years old and accepted the Lord at camp when she was 12 years old. After Karen graduated high school she completely turned her life over to the Lord and camp ministry. She counseled for several summers after graduation and became a Bible Centered Ministries missionary at age 21. She remembers that BSBC still had tents until the girls dorm was built in 1979, and the guys dorm followed a year later. As a BCM missionary she spent her summers serving at camp and winters teaching Bible clubs in Missoula. "Even though I went to church all my life, camp is where my life changed," Karen says. "If your heart is receptive things will happen."

As a BCM missionary Karen has had several tasks - she taught Bible classes, helped the director with program details, helped with electives, and much more. "It all flowed together," she says. She remembers when BSBC didn't have a dishwasher and everything was done by hand. "There were three tables and three tubs for washing. The kids divided it up, and as a team, washed all the dishes each meal." One of her fondest memories is seeing children of former campers now grown up. "I counseled and worked with parents and children," she said. "I saw generations go through the camp." Karen has had the opportunity to try several new things while working in camp ministry, specifically being a part of the two-week trails camp last summer. "This had always been my dream," she says. "I'd always wanted to try trails camp and I finally did." The group hiked 11 miles into the wilderness and stayed for two weeks to clear trails in

Continued Below



Mark your calendars!!!

What: Big Sky's Annual Fundraiser

When: Saturday, March 3rd at 6 PM

Where: Big Sky Bible Camp Traber Chapel

See you there!

Non-Profit Org.
Postage Paid
Bigfork, Montana
Permit No. 219

Karen DeVries cont'd...

conjunction with the Forest service. What motivated Karen to dedicate her life, more than thirty years of service, to camp ministry? "Besides the Lord's calling, my mother and her love for camp really influenced me," she says. "She encouraged and fostered my love for camp." The summer of 2010 was Karen's last summer at Big Sky Bible Camp. After more than three decades of camp ministry, she felt the Lord's calling to move on. "I heard the Lord, and He said time here was done," she says.

But that doesn't mean her life of service is over, only a new chapter is beginning. Karen spent time serving at a conference center this past summer and is still active in Bible clubs.

What wisdom from so many years of service would she leave us with? One of her favorite quotes, "only one life, twill soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last."

It's Winter Retreat time...

Senior High Getaway

When: Jan. 6-8, 2012

Who: 9-12 grades

Cost: Free for 2011

**L.I.T's; \$35/person
for anyone else**

Snow Camp

**When: Jan. 27-29,
2012**

Who: 6-8 graders

Cost: \$35/person

WANTED!

WHO: WORK TEAMS, INDIVIDUALS, ANYONE WILLING TO HELP OUT!

WHERE: BIG SKY BIBLE CAMP

WHEN: ANYTIME, JUST CONTACT JAMY

WHAT: CONSTRUCTION, LANDSCAPING, CLEANING, MECHANICAL WORK, ETC.