

THE LANDIS NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2018

Ground-breaking celebration

Throughout the year 2017, Big Sky Bible Camp celebrated its 70th anniversary, reflecting upon God's goodness over 70 years of ministry. Personally, it was a good time of reflection for me on God's faithfulness as I think about all of the joys and challenges that occurred during those years.

As we look to 2018, our focus is on the future and where we believe the Lord is leading Big Sky. After many years of dreaming and scheming, all of the staff at Big Sky are truly excited to finally break ground on the new facility. Particularly in the summertime, we daily face the dilemma of full buildings, waiting lists and disappointed parents due to full camps! We definitely won't be setting any construction speed records, but it is extremely meaningful for us to be taking this step and trusting in the Lord all the way.

The day will include a 5k run, fund-raiser lunch, the ground-breaking ceremony and lots of games and activities. Please join us in prayer for this event and for the Lord's continued provision for this project. If you would like to learn more about this undertaking, go to www.big-skybiblecamp.org/apromisekept.

Praises:

- For our encouraging and supportive church body.
- For the summer staff the Lord already has in place.
- For the Lord's provision for our family and camp.

Prayer Requests:

- For clear and accurate presentations of the gospel from the various teachers this summer.
- For energy for us to handle the demands of a large family and camp.
- For interest and support in Big Sky's "A Promise Kept" project.

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Around Camp (Jamy)

As usual, there is a lot going on around Big Sky!

In January, we hosted around 70 jr. highers for a great weekend of tubing, snow games and learning from Pastor Matt.

In February, we

enjoyed having high school age students for a great weekend of

worship and time in the word. As I write this, we are preparing for our version of "March madness" - close to 90 3-6th graders spending the weekend at Big Sky! These retreats truly provide great blocks of uninterrupted time in which to teach the kids from God's Word. The above average snowfall this winter also made for interesting outdoor games!

In addition to those retreats, the staff has been busy hosting guest groups, clearing snow (a weekly task this winter!), renovating dorm rooms, recruiting summer staff, preparing for the ground-breaking, writing curriculum and thinking about the summer. Much of my

time now involves the new facility - working out plans with engineers and architects, fund-raising and trying to keep things moving!

We are excited to have numerous individuals coming out to serve this summer from Pennsylvania - and we always

welcome more! We are particularly in need of guy counselors as we continue to prepare for our summer programs.



www.bigskybiblecamp.org

Family Update (Lisa)

As we eagerly anticipate the arrival of spring- the melting of snow, thawing of the ground and ice and cloudless days bringing blue sky and sunshine- we are often thankful for the hope we have in our Faithful, Unchanging Creator. Central in conversation among friends and strangers alike is the hum of longing for spring, for a change from the white and gray that blankets the earth and sky throughout northwest Montana winters and the hope of what is to come. As we patiently wait for Him who is always faithful to bring the change of seasons we cannot help but be reminded of the same Sovereign One that is also faithful to finish the work that He began in us and to bring about the hope of our salvation.

This reminder that God is faithful to complete His work is indeed an encouragement as we walk through the daily grinds and demands of life and work at camp and face the realities of our own limitations. Our family often experiences a mild case of cabin fever this time of year as we begin to envision green grass and sunshine after a long winter of plugging away at homeschooling and routines of life. There is however, no lack of activity! Hours of sledding, ice skating, and ice fishing often define our winters here at camp, and our girls enjoy including as many girlfriends as they can possibly round up to join them in their play. After a winter of sewing lessons for the oldest four girls, we now live with a constant buzz of sewing machines at the dining room table and as they craft and create. From pillow-cases and nightgowns to doll clothes and everything in between, they are all appreciating the new skills they are learning. The older four girls continue to enjoy playing piano while Joella and Aleyah have begun to learn to play the violin and cello this year as well. We do not lack for a joyful noise in our home! Jamy and I are tremendously thankful for a weekly girls bible study here at camp that the four girls have been a part of for the past two years with a group of their friends. Johanna, our newly married program director, has blessed us in her desire to disciple our girls and challenge them in the Word and in living lives worthy of the gospel.

Our children have also continued to enjoy the many pets and animals that fill our lives and they have had more than one science lesson out in the barnyard!! We are in the midst of spring calving and more than one unsuspecting heifer has had an audience as the kids have enjoyed



witnessing the birth of some of the calves fairly front and center! They also appreciated the excuse to stay up half the night recently to witness one of our pigs farrowing. We all have fun laughing at the antics of the little piglets as they nurse and play! Even for Jamy and I, the opportunity to witness the birthing process is a remarkable experience that points us to our amazing Creator. We added a new red lab puppy to our family in January after tragically losing our other two dogs in an accident in December, and Clancy continues to bring much joy to us all and aids greatly in teaching responsibility as he enjoys eating whatever anyone may leave on the floor!

We truly are thankful for the full and blessed life that we have been given, and we continue to be molded and shaped as a family as we walk through the various seasons of day to day life together. We praise God for His faithful, sustaining and guiding hand that keeps us as we persevere!

