

# THE TRAIL GUIDE

CAMP EDEN NEWSLETTER

MAR 2013

ISSUE 4

## Mountaintops & Majesty

BY RANDY VAWTER

As a hiker, I've never puzzled over the use of "mountaintop experience" to describe an emotional high point. Few things can combine the feelings of accomplishment, wonder, satisfaction, weariness and sheer terror like summitting a 14er (a mountain over 14,000 ft in elevation for all you flatlanders).

In the last issue of the *Trail Guide*, we explored what makes a camp Christian. One of the elements that makes Camp Eden a Christian camp is our commitment to progressive sanctification. The mountaintop experience that campers have at camp is an important stop in the road of sanctification. Unfortunately many tend to view this experience as harmful, rather than helpful.

At Camp Eden, we would argue that mountaintop experiences, properly understood, are helpful. We are not saying that the Christian life, or progressive sanctification, is a series of emotional highs. The view of Christian growth that essentially says you must be zapped with emotionalism every so often in order to grow is unbiblical.

There is an example of a mountaintop experience in the Gospels that helps inform us about what needs to be happening in a Christian camp setting. After feeding 4,000 men, Jesus Christ extends a challenge to those who want to be His disciples: "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must...take up His cross and follow me."

One week later, he takes three of His disciples - Peter, James, and John - up a mountain. At the top, Jesus is transformed before their eyes. He begins to glow with the radiant glory of heaven. Then two men, Moses and Elijah, appear alongside Christ. These incredible events testify that this man, the one they have been following for the past several years, is more than just a good teacher from Nazareth. This man is the Messiah; the Son of God; God Himself.

Immediately, the disciples fall to the ground in worship. Peter (who can't let any significant event go without comment) says, "If you're willing, Jesus, we'll make some shelters for you to stay in.



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Then we can enjoy the company of Moses, Elijah, and the Messiah all the time!" Before he can finish his suggestion, Peter is cut off. God speaks from heaven, "This is my Son, and I am pleased with Him. Obey Him."

The meaning of God's interruption of Peter is clear. This experience is not meant to last forever. The revelation of God's glory and majesty is not meant to be a normal part of life, a physical location in which we constantly dwell. It is meant to be a motivation for obedient living.

David has a similar experience in Psalm 19. He looks out at creation and into God's Word and sees who God reveals Himself to be. In response to that, David asks God to change his heart in order to please the God Who has just revealed Himself.

Camp Eden is driven to provide quality **Christian camping** resources to local churches and our community.

Continued on page 2

## Spring Schedule

MARCH 16	VOLUNTEER GROUP
APRIL 20	RENTAL CAMP
APRIL 27-28	RENTAL CAMP
MAY 3-4	RENTAL CAMP

Continued from page 1

At Camp Eden, we seek to have campers come face-to-face with who God is. We intentionally remove them from the mundane and place them in a location in which God's creative majesty is on display. As we remove them from the distractions of the world, we immerse them in God's Word through preaching,

teaching, memorization, and personal Bible study. In this surrounding and with these emphases, God's character becomes a constant focus. While that event will not last forever, we want that mountaintop experience to motivate the camper to obedient living.

This is where the local church is so important. Camp is not meant to be a normal way of life for anyone. The decisions made in the midst of this artificial environment must be carried out, not at camp, but in the church. So as Camp Eden seeks to help young people make obedience to God's Word the focus of their lives, we plug them back into their churches to equip them to work out their choices in the context of normal Christianity.

The disciples left the Mount of Transfiguration with a clear plan in mind: they would obey Jesus' call to take up their cross. Campers should leave Camp Eden with a similar mindset: I will obey my God and grow in Christlikeness.

## A Eulogy for Ahna Pollock

By Jason Pilchard

At Camp Eden, we were introduced to Ahna in the summer of 2007 when she agreed to serve on our summer staff. As it turns out, that summer she was effectively recruited by her future husband, Byron Pollock. I don't remember meeting Ahna during that summer, but I remember being very eager to meet her - not because I heard that Byron was interested in her, but that she was actually interested in Byron!

After the summer of 2010, Ahna was hired as Camp Eden's first registration secretary. Ahna helped with a lot of Camp Eden firsts - she was on our first year round program staff and our first 5K planning team. Ahna was a key member of the pioneering team that essentially replanted Camp Eden! Everyone associated with Camp Eden during the past few years will always remember with much gratitude Ahna's tireless work in almost every aspect of the camp!

Ahna worked as my secretary for almost two years for the camp. I had never served as a camp director, and I had certainly never worked with a secretary. Ahna knew that. She also knew that most of the time when I gave her a project to do that I had no idea what exactly the end goal of the project was or how her part fit into the big picture. However, she was always incredibly gracious. She never so much as smirked when I gave her something to do!

Byron and Ahna were married at Camp Eden on December 21, 2010. True to form, immediately after their brief ceremony they went to the back of the lodge, threw their Camp Eden aprons over their wedding clothes and served refreshments to those in attendance.

During their wedding ceremony, as is the custom in Christian weddings, both of them vowed to love one another "in sickness and in health." Rarely do we see those vows so faithfully fulfilled - even from very godly couples who have been married for 10 times as long as Byron and Ahna were married! Thank you, Byron, for faithfully representing the Gospel and giving all Christian husbands a living example of how to love your wife "as Christ loved the church."

Ahna was fun-loving, gracious, incredibly patient, and courageous in suffering and pain. Ahna never complained (even when she had plenty of reason to). It was as if her strength increased as her physical challenges increased, and her strength gave strength to everyone around her.

Over the past two years, Ahna's health challenges increased. She was on the list to receive a second liver transplant when all kinds of medical complications and infections began to set in. After a short stay in other hospitals, she was moved to the University of Colorado Hospital on November 5th and remained there until January 20th at 6:40 PM when God called her Home to be with her Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Those of us who observed Byron and Ahna over the past few months all asked the same question, "How did they remain trusting and hopeful and courageous and others-minded in the face of such incredible challenges?"

Continued on page 3

## Camp Eden Needs List

A camping ministry is sustained by the generous help of others. Here's a few ways you or your church could help the ministry of Camp Eden. More items can be found on our website under the "Sponsorship Opportunities" tab.\*

### Featured List Item:

#### Bed Sets for Queen Beds

Cost: \$50

Comfortable bedding for the queen beds in our cabins is always a must. And with adding more queen beds (check out page 3 for more info) we're in need of some more bedding!

### Other Items:

Folding Chairs for Lodge

Cost: \$20 each

Queen Mattresses

Cost: \$500 each

Zipline

Cost: \$4500

Fender Passport 150 Sound System

Cost: \$400

We've also added a Walmart Wish List to our Sponsorship Opportunities page. Check out items that you can buy for Camp Eden the next time you stop in the SuperCenter!

\* Items can be purchased via the website as well



**Ahna Pollock (con't)**

I think the answer is found in two stories - one told by Ahna's dad, Don Carbon; and another story found in God's Word, the Bible.

From Don: *It's hard to believe now, but Ahna was very rebellious when she was young. She and I used to really butt heads, and I had come to grips with the idea that she would always hate me. Then as a teenager she went to camp one summer. She got saved at camp, and God really changed her heart! She became one of my best friends.*

*She just trusted God. Even at 19, before her first liver transplant, she had to meet a psychiatrist as part of her evaluation. He asked her about her feelings if the transplant didn't work out. She very nonchalantly answered, "I know I will be in a better place."*

The second story is found in 2 Corinthians 12. The main character of the story is Paul. In God's providence and goodness, He allowed Paul to receive what the Bible calls a "thorn." As the story goes, three times Paul asks God to remove the thorn.

Instead of answering him with a direct "yes" or "no", Jesus answered Paul with a "I have something better for you." His said, "My grace is sufficient for you: for my strength is made perfect in weakness."

The question that explains the whole story is: "What did Christ get out of Paul's suffering (or Byron and Ahna's suffering)?" The answer is Christ got an occasion to demonstrate HIS grace and HIS strength. We thank God for the fact that Byron and Ahna were willing to "boast in their weakness" and were "content in their sufferings" for "Christ's sake". We have all seen God's grace and strength more clearly!



**Summer Camps 2013**

ALL-IN-ONE CAMP 1	JUNE 17-22	RON PERRY
<del>TIMBERLINE CAMP 1</del>	<del>JUNE 17-22</del>	<del>JOEL ALBRIGHT</del>
TEEN CAMP 1	JUNE 24-29	KIP DOAN
ALL-IN-ONE CAMP 2	JULY 1-6	AARON POLLOCK
TIMBERLINE CAMP 2	JULY 1-6	WARD SMITH
<del>TEEN CAMP 2</del>	<del>JULY 8-13</del>	<del>JERRY SIUNKSTY</del>

**From Under the Chef's Hat**

Everybody likes pizza! But maybe you've never had pizza like this!

**Hot Wing Pizza**

Mix together even amounts of Frank's hot sauce and olive oil (enough to cover pizza). Spread evenly over pizza crust (add more Frank's for hotter pizza). Heat cubed cooked chicken and desired amount of hot sauce in pan. Once heated throughout, add to pizza. Top with mozzarella cheese and bake at 425' for about 20 min.

Or like this!

**Chicken, Tomato and Basil Pizza**

Evenly spread olive oil over pizza crust. Add mozzarella to completely cover pizza. Sprinkle with garlic powder or garlic salt. Add cooked cubed chicken, fresh diced tomatoes, and fresh or dry basil. Top with a light layer of mozzarella cheese. Bake at 425' for about 20 min.

**Campsite Updates**

Staying in the cabins at Camp Eden is a little like traveling back in time. Old metal bunks, dim lighting, and worn carpet all point to some much needed updating.

Over the past month, a team of people from Beth Eden Baptist Church have given their Saturdays to begin the process of giving the inside of the upper cabins a much needed face lift.

It all began with a donation of wooden bunk frames. They are carefully cut down to fit a camp mattress, sanded stained, and varnished to look like new.

Painting and patching the walls is the next step, followed closely by new carpet. Once that's all complete, we will move the new bunks (with one queen bed per cabin) into the refurbished rooms. The result is a comfortable, cozy mountain cabin just waiting to be used this summer.



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