



# CAMP TALK

Published by The National Association of Christian Camps among churches of Christ in the U.S. and Canada



2005  
National  
Christian  
Camping  
Workshop

at

Copper  
Basin Bible  
Camp

April 5—8

Theme:  
**The Integrity  
of Christian  
Camping**

Info on  
Pages 4 & 5

## 2004 Yamhill Workshop Recap

Camp Yamhill in Oregon hosted more than 80 camp workers from 20 camps at the 2004 National Christian Camping Workshop. And what a joyful scene it was as dedicated Christians from across the nation shared the joys and even the difficult challenges of this ministry.



Powerful, impacting workshop sessions led by well prepared speakers using the Word, their own words and multi-media presentations gave the attendees what they came for. Not only were they encouraged, motivated, reaffirmed and reassured in their ministry, they came

away better equipped to help kids at camp deal with the world around them.

The theme “STOP Looking for Easy” was very appropriate in view of the challenges faced by today’s camp workers. Topics ranged from Discipline at Camp to Developing Innovative Camp Sessions to Camp Website development. Audio tapes of workshop sessions are available. (See order form on page 6).

**THANK YOU,** Jim Williams, Camp Yamhill manager, your entire staff and Board of Directors for a very successful Camping Workshop. Well done!!



Some of the more than 80 Camp Workers at the Yamill, Oregon Workshop

<i>In this issue...</i>	
Yamhill, OR Workshop Recap	Page 1
A note from the NACC President ~ Article: CAMP IS...	Page 2
Article: “Why ‘church’ Camp”	Page 3
2005 Workshop Info	Page 4
2005 Copper Basin Workshop Registration Form ~ Article: A Few Thoughts About the NACC	Page 5
2004 Workshop Tape Order Form	Page 6

## A note from the NACC President

**G**reetings to all of you wonderful people that get to work at the best job anyone could ever have, a Christian Camp Worker. Doesn't time just fly by? It seems like not so long ago that I was writing an article for CAMPTALK and here I am again. I hope this finds you in the middle of hiring, organizing, developing staff training material, gathering menus, lining up your cooks, Bible lesson preparation, and in good cheer for the up-coming camping season. We out here at Camp Deer Run had our BEST year ever in 2004—just under 1400 resident and day campers. So, obviously I am so pumped for this summer.



David E. Ward

I sure hope that your camp is planning to have someone attend the National Christian Camping Workshop this year. The camps that have been hosting these workshops over the years have been so beautiful and the people that attend are even more beautiful. (sorry, that's the warm, fuzzy, in-touch with my feeling side of me!) I know that Camp Deer Run has received many blessings from being associated with the workshop. Two years ago at Fallhall Glen in Wisconsin, LeRoy Lathum gave us all a Pine tree (We took 2) to take home. Both of ours are still alive. Then last year I borrowed 7 trees from Jim Williams out at Camp Yamhill. I have one of those cedars still alive. Now I am looking forward to going to Copper Basin Bible Camp in Arizona this year so I can bring back one of those famous cactus in the old western movies. There are so many reasons to come and be a part of this years workshop besides trees. Come and rejuvenate yourself for this ministry. And, if your cup is already full, then come bless others with the abundance and overflow of joy from your ministry. Come and share your success. April 5-8, 2005 will be here soon, so please make plans to go to Arizona.

May God Bless each and every one of you and your ministry as we strive to bring Honor, Glory, and Praise to our Heavenly Father through our Christian camps.

Your President, David E. Ward

## CAMP IS...

by Joe Keefer – Pennsylvania Christian Camp, Blue Knob, PA

**A** small wisp of steam lifts from the coffee cup cradled in my hands, a promise of early morning warmth. My eyes focus on the fog lifting off the mountains as I stand outside the lodge. As the fog lifts, appreciation settles into my heart. I am so glad to be a part of a Christian Youth Camp. As my heart ponders how much it means, my mind can't help considering what *camp is*.



**Christian.** This camp is a Christian Camp, and that fact makes my involvement a noble endeavor, not a walk down a purposeless path. It is a place where Christianity is taught and displayed openly without fear of interruption or embarrassment. It is a setting not only of majestic scenery, but also of majestic values – those taught by Jesus. Here, campers will not only take nature hikes to gain mountaintop experiences, they will also take journeys into the word of Christ to gain luminous lessons of eternal life.

**Advance.** Though outwardly it appears to be a retreat into the mountains, camp is really an advance for the cause of Christ. It may seem to some that we are here retreating from the assault of a hectic world, but we are actually here preparing an assault on the world for Christ. Here, Jesus is held high for everyone to see – from the young camper to the very well seasoned staff member. Later, we will leave this spiritual-boost camp inspired to live aggressively for Jesus.

*Continued on page 4*

## "WHY 'CHURCH' CAMP?"

Camps seem to be multiplying faster than rabbits these days! You've got your Band Camps, Majorette Camps, Flagette Camps, Cheerleading Camps, and Sports Camps (Football, Basketball, Baseball, Soccer, Volleyball, etc). In addition, there are also Scout Camps, YMCA Camps, and 4-H Camps. There are even Academic Camps (Math, Science, Computer, Art, etc) that have begun recently. And of course, all of them are *absolutely essential* to your child's growth & development! (Need I mention that none of these are free?) Who's got the time, interest, energy or money left for a *Church Camp*?

*We need to do everything in our power to help our kids know the life and love of Jesus Christ. Our Christian Youth Camps can provide that experience!*

On more than one occasion, Jesus made it clear that kids were a priority with Him. He even rebuked the disciples

once in Mathew 19 for keeping them away. After being personally involved with more than 30 different camp sessions, I have come to some conclusions about this discussion.

1. A Christian Youth Camp provides an experience of fellowship that many kids from small congregations just don't get any other way. Their memory of friendships lasts a lifetime.

2. A Christian Youth Camp offers the attention of very capable teachers and role models who have been assembled for their growth. Their own congregation may not be providing that.

3. A Christian Youth Camp provides an environment that shows how Christ-like lives can be lived in a more "normal" surrounding than a classroom or church pew.

4. A Christian Youth Camp provides the opportunity for those outside of Christ to meditate on their relationship with God at greater length during the week than the singing of 3 verses of an invitation song.

5. A Christian Youth Camp allows kids to "celebrate" Christ and His church in a more enthusiastic style of worship than they usually experience.

6. A Christian Youth Camp frequently is twice as long, and a third of the price when compared financially to many of the other camps for sport and school. **And there is no comparison** to the return on your financial investment in their spiritual lives!

7. A Christian Youth Camp is a place of decision-making about the future [morals, mates, colleges & careers] where the spiritual perspective is considered.

No doubt, if we were to ask the kids who have been exposed to Christian Youth Camps, they would come up with many more observations than these regarding their value. We need to do everything in our power to help our kids know the life and love of Jesus Christ. Our Christian Youth Camps can provide that experience! Today's church, and those who will lead us in the next century, need exactly what a Christian Youth Camp can offer. Let's encourage and help them to take advantage of it!

Ed Beeson, Findlay, OH

North Western Ohio Christian Youth Camp

Visit the NACC  
Booth at the  
Tulsa Workshop  
March 24—26

**When asked: "Why do you spend time, energy, and money to attend the National Christian Camping Workshop?" attendees responded...**

*"It is almost guaranteed we will return, having been educated in new techniques for managing a Christian camp. We were inspired by the efforts of others and encouraged by the heartfelt desire in others to share with us."*

*"The workshop helps to remind us of our focus and why we do what we do. Spending time with people in the same ministry and exchanging ideas has helped us grow and be better at what we do. Visiting camps around the country has been great — it's one thing to talk about it but seeing how things are done is really helpful."*

*Continued on page 4*

# National Christian Camping Workshop

April 5 — 8, 2005

Copper Basin Bible Camp, Prescott, Arizona

THEME: The Integrity of Christian Camping

Y'all come to the annual National Christian Camping Workshop at Copper Basin Bible Camp, Prescott, AZ. You can get here by plane, train, a walkin or drivin, there ain't enough water to float yur boat, so forget that mode. Come early, stay late, we can make arrangements for ya here at CBBC. Prescott (that's pronounced "Prescut" by the old timers) is pert nye in the middle of the Grand Canyon State, mak'in it a good place to make side trips from. Give Old Wendell a yell or e-mail with what you'd like to do or see, or git some ideers! The same goes for driving directions. We'll also make arrangements to pick ya up at the airport (Phoenix) or train station (Flagstaff) if ya want. Rental cars are available in Phoenix, Flagstaff, and Prescott. Driving time from Pheonix or Flagstaff is about 2 hours. We have a small number of semi-private accommodations for couples that will be assigned on a first come (registered) basis. Other wise it'll be boys with boys and girls with girls. Thursday night is skit/talent/hootenanny night, so come prepared to share your gift or talent with us! Don't forget the silent auction to benefit NACC. Until then, don't squat on yur spurs.

Wendell Gist  
 2525 W. Belmont Av.  
 Pheonix AZ 85051  
 602-995-4712 ~ gh\_wendell@yahoo.com

*Continued from page 2*

**Mentoring.** Camp is a special time of show and tell-- a time to show Christianity in action. It is a place to display how Christianity works. While in the midst of God's beautiful creation, kids behold the beauty of Jesus displayed in the Christians serving them. Though they are serenaded with the sound of crickets, the songs and tales of joyful Christians will win them. Here, Christian love, not just the water of the stream, splashes onto their lives.

**Personal.** It is during camp that your soul meditates on the Word with birds chirping in trees, smiling at laughing campers hiking a trail, and singing around a crackling campfire. All of this happens while you unselfishly share yourself and voluntarily wear yourself out for the campers. Camp is a part of who you are and what you do -- for Jesus.

A crow caws nearby and interrupts my musings. I have another sweet sip of Maxwell House warmth, and my body revives for another wonderful day of Christian camping.

*Continued from page 4*

*"I come for the fellowship and encouragement. To glean new ideas and hints for successful camps. To see and enjoy another camp's natural beauty setting."*

*"To meet with others who do what we do. To see what other camps look like, what their sessions are, how they operate and staff their camp. For encouragement."*

*"The fellowship is priceless!"*

*"-To be encouraged in my service to Christ  
 -To get ideas on how to improve Christian Camping  
 -To share my experience."*

*"To fellowship brethren. To be encouraged and inspired. To learn new ideas about Christian Camping."*

*"After leaving the Wisconsin Workshop we were so enthused. We brainstormed on the way home and came up with the idea of a Staff Workshop for our camp. We had our first one in May and was a success!"*



**QUESTION??. . . "What have you missed out on by not attending the National Christian Camping Workshop?"**

## 2005 Workshop Registration Form

National Christian Camping Workshop

April 5 — 8, 2005



Attendee Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Camp: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number / E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like us to confirm your registration by e-mail? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Semi-Private rooms available on a first come-first served basis.

Please list any special conditions (food allergies, diabetic, etc.) that we need to take into consideration in providing you a healthy and comfortable stay.

Workshop fee is \$45 per person. Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Checks to Copper Basin Bible Camp

Please mail this form with payment to:

Wendell Gist  
2525 West Belmont Ave  
Phoenix AZ. 85051



### *A Few Thoughts about the NACC*

An all volunteer organization

*"Dedicated to encouraging and equipping Christians in the ministry of Christian Camping"*

The National Association of Christian Camps (NACC) is a service organization dedicated to encouraging and equipping Christians in the ministry of Christian Camping. We seek to accomplish this mission by soliciting camp program ideas and concepts from active camp workers and share this information through our website, the annual National Christian Camping Workshop, and our newsletter, CAMPTALK

As we go into 2005 the NACC continues its mission to provide encouragement and resources to Christians involved in the ministry of Christian Camping. While there has not been extensive activity in the recent past, we do have goals and plans to further our mission and increase our activity. We take this opportunity to let you know of our plans and seek your prayer support and involvement.

#### **2005 Initiatives**

- ✍ Promotional Booth at the Tulsa Soul Winning Workshop – March 24-26
- ✍ Video taping of 2005 Christian Camping Workshop at Copper Basin Bible Camp in AZ and made available at low cost
- ✍ Quarterly issues of our newsletter CAMPTALK with articles contributed by you the reader
- ✍ Converting past workshop audio taped sessions to digital and text formats for posting to our website

*Accomplishing these initiatives will come about only by the voluntary efforts of Christians involved in this ministry who will step forward and share the successes of their camps !*

# CAMPTALK

1102 East Tyler  
Washington IA 52353

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Clinton, Iowa  
Permit No. 164

*Address Correction Requested*

## 2005 National Christian Camping Workshop at Camp Yamhill, Oregon Tape Order Form

	Speaker	Subject	How Many
Tape 1	Bill Coleman Jim Williams	Welcome The Theme ~ Stop Looking For Easy Side 1 only	
Tape 2	Kevin Wood	Ministry to the Next Generation #1 Side 1 & 2	
Tape 3	Kevin Wood	Ministry to the Next Generation #2 Side 1 & 2	
Tape 4	Jay Settles	Christian Outdoor School Program Side 1 only	
Tape 5	Andy Williams	Web Design and Ideas Side 1 & 2	
Tape 6	Dean Catlett	Promises To Keep Side 1 & 2	
Tape 7	Dale Smith	X Marks the Center of Camp Side 1 & 2	
Tape 8	Norm Brinkley	Brand Recognition Side 1 & 2	
Tape 9	Dan Frost	Discipline at Camp Side 1 only	
Tape 10	Greg Woods	Developing Innovative Camp Sessions Side 1 only	
Tape 12	David Ward	Evaluating Your Camp Side 1 & 2	
Tape 13		Singing – from 3 different sessions Side 1 only	
Tape 14	Greg Woods	Faith Quest Side 1 & 2	
Tape 15	Jeff Hicks	The Measure of a Man Side 1 only	
Tape 16	Bonnie Miller—Lois Maxwell	Camp Crafts Side 1 & 2	
Tape 17		NACC Annual Meeting Side 1 & 2	
			Total number of tapes

Total number of tapes ordered \_\_\_\_\_ x \$2 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Cost includes shipping ~ Checks to NACC

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Side 1 only tapes  
can be combined  
into 1 tape

Mail this order form to:  
National Association of Christian Camps  
1102 East Tyler  
Washington, IA 52353