



**COWBOY'S REST
CHRISTIAN CAMP**

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Semi-annual Newsletter

November 2011

*"Return to your rest, O my soul, for the LORD has dealt bountifully with thee."
Psalm 116:7*



DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

by Bob Burrows

*"I am the LORD, I change not."
Malachi 3:6*

I am so thankful that amidst all the changes we see happening in our world today that our God is the constant that changes not. The world races to build faster computers, and we can hardly wait to get our hands on them!

Even here at Cowboy's Rest things are changing. The summer theme changes each year. The menu and attractions are always being fine tuned, which is great!

However, after twelve summers of camps at Cowboy's Rest, amidst all the changes Chris and I have seen, I praise God that our mission has not (nor ever will) change: that of teaching the Biblical gospel and loving the campers God sends our way.

Please continue to pray for Cowboy's Rest as we strive to follow the Lord's leading for the upcoming year. Thank you all for all the support and encouragement you have given Cowboy's Rest and may the Lord bless you as well.

2011 by the Numbers

- 13,925** meals served
- 1,365** guests from **31** towns and **7** states
- 138** volunteers
- 39** campers recommitting their lives to Christ
- 31** first-time commitments to Christ
- 29** maximum staff members per week
- 23** campers able to attend camp because of your scholarship donations
- 2** destroyed go-karts
- 1** go-kart resurrected from their parts
- 1** trip to the E.R.

PRAYER CORNER

by Chris Burrows

*At the end of every camp season, Bob and I are always able look back and marvel that God was again faithful to provide for every need we had. We know He especially blessed the prayers of our email prayer team and those who requested prayer cards and interceded for each of our staff members. **This year, we are especially thankful for...***

- a great **summer staff**, which every year is an answer to prayer.
- the **increasing numbers of campers**, especially unchurched children, the Lord sent our way. We saw Him work in many lives as only He can.
- the **many volunteers** who took a week or more out of their summers to help us run this program. We couldn't do it without them.
- **no major accidents or injuries.** *God's guardian angels work overtime at CR!*
- **perfect weather** this summer: not cold and rainy, but not too hot. It was so conducive to the campers enjoying themselves and hearing the Word.
- an **abundance of water** and green grass because of the very wet spring. *(Are we actually saying we're thankful for mud?)*
- **fall retreats:** it was such a blessing to host 3 mens' retreats and one ladies' retreat this fall, to reunite with old friends and make some new ones.

*As we look, we are reminded that the Lord tells us to pray specifically and persistently, and with thanksgiving. **Some of our requests are for...***

- our **Board of Directors:** wisdom, discernment, and unity for our November meeting, and for God possibly raising up new board members to share the vision.
- the **price of diesel fuel** to drop to an affordable amount.
- **alternative power sources.** *(There are many, including the five prayer warriors at MOM'S IN TOUCH, who have been praying and aren't giving up!)*
- the Lord to touch the heart of whosoever He wills to **support** this ministry, and we thank Him for the many that do.
- **our full-time staff:** for **Steve**, that God will give him direction, creativity, and diligence as he works on curriculum for the summer program. For **Brian**, that God would keep him safe, as he continues to maintain and winterize and build the camp. For **their families**, grace, peace, guidance, and lack of stir-craziness this winter!
- **equipment:** that the generators would keep running, and that the water won't freeze up.

Thank you so much for your prayers!

If you would like to join our email prayer team, please drop us a note at: cowboysrest@hotmail.com



Notice anything different?

Beginning with this issue, we've considerably shortened and simplified our newsletter design. We've also given you the option of receiving your copy via email rather than traditional post. The rationale behind these changes is simple: we desire to be better stewards of the resources with which the Lord has blessed us. Many of you give so faithfully to this ministry, and we are very grateful for your generosity. We want to ensure that your financial gifts are being used for the furtherance of the gospel, not just for stacks of ink cartridges and reams of paper.

Of course, it remains one of our top priorities to keep you informed about what's going on out here at the Rest. Hopefully, this new, one-page format will accomplish both ends: to provide you with the information you deserve as a supporter of this ministry while helping us keep our printing and postage costs as low as possible. Thank you for your understanding!

To receive future newsletters on-line, please just [email us](#). To view full-color pictures from camp, you can always visit our new page on [Facebook!](#)

A CORNUCOPIA OF CANDY

... AND GRATITUDE!

First-Ever "Family Harvest Festival" Exceeds All Expectations

When we first discussed hosting a harvest festival at Cowboy's Rest, we figured perhaps a couple dozen families would attend as long as the weather was nice. When 200 people RSVP'ed in the week leading up to the event, we began to get a little nervous. And when nearly 400 guests drove through our gates on Saturday, October 29th, we pretty much freaked!

But this overwhelming response didn't take God by surprise at all. He'd already provided everything we needed for the occasion: perfect, sunny weather; several activity ideas along with materials; and enough food to ensure that everyone got *something* to eat. Most vital of all, the Lord brought just enough volunteers our way to ensure that the festival could actually happen. These wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ gave of their time and energy to lead carnival style games, organize craft projects, serve food, wash dishes and keep the candy circulating. And that's another area where God's provision was so bountiful. We could definitely say that our candy bags "runneth over", which was a very good thing since the vast majority of our guests were under the age of twelve.

As we focused on gratitude during the packed-out evening chapel session, all of us on-staff at Cowboy's Rest certainly understood just how much we had to be grateful for. In fact, we're still praising the Lord for providing so many guests, so many selfless volunteers, and so much sugary sweetness.

All in all, the Family Harvest Festival was a wonderful day in which the good news of Jesus was clearly shared and families were encouraged in His Word. It also happens to be the highest attended Cowboy's Rest function to date ... a record that we anticipate it will hold right up until next year's festival. Hmm. Maybe between now and then the Lord will provide a corporate sponsorship from the Hershey Company!



NOW BOOKING: WINTER CAMPS...

This coming December, January and February, Cowboy's Rest will be opening its doors for churches to run their own weekend winter retreats here at the camp. You provide the teaching and program; we'll take care of the cooking and cleaning. Plus, we'll facilitate all your favorite winter activities: sledding, inner-tubing, ice-skating, hockey, cross-country skiing, and even paintball in the snow!

These winter weekends are ideal for youth groups. Teenagers enjoy both the crazy outdoor activities and time just to "hang" with friends and youth leaders in our cozy Lodge. However, winter camps aren't just for the kids anymore. For the first time ever, Cowboy's Rest is now booking both men's and women's retreats during the snowy months. Time and time again, we have witnessed the Lord's moving through the smaller, more intimate group sizes that winter weather necessitates (45 guests or fewer). Therefore, while we will not be offering our own winter camps this year, we sincerely hope that area churches will make the most of our facility during this serenely beautiful season.

... AND SPRING RETREATS

As the snow flurries begin to yield to sunshine in April and May, it's the perfect time to book an event for your church's men's or women's ministry. In fact, why not schedule a mother-daughter or father-son retreat? We've hosted everything from weekend getaways for couples to week-long Spring Break camps for youth groups during these months. The possibilities are nearly endless.

One of the best things about spring retreats at Cowboy's Rest is the peace and quiet. No crowds, no crazy schedules, no frenzied activity. Just you, your closest brothers or sisters in Christ, and lots of time in the Word of God. Spring is, of course, a period of rebirth and regeneration in the natural realm. It's always so thrilling when it becomes a season of spiritual renewal in the lives of our guests as well.

So, what are you waiting for? Call or email us to book your event today. As the Lord wills, it would be our privilege to serve you and your church family here at Cowboy's Rest.

ON THE CALENDAR...

DECEMBER

30-31 Youth Retreat (*Greater Life Church*)

JANUARY

13-16 Youth Retreat (*Hilltop Community Church, Parkside Bible Fellowship*)

FEBRUARY

1 Registration opens for CR summer camps

MARCH

15 Summer Staff applications due

MAY

4-6 Marriage Retreat (*sponsored by CR*)

26 Volunteer Day (*sponsored by CR*)

JUNE

7-17 Staff Training

18-23 High School Camp 1 (*sponsored by CR*)

25-30 High School Camp 2 (*sponsored by CR*)

JULY

2-6 Junior High Camp 1 (*sponsored by CR*)

9-13 Kids' Camp 1 (*sponsored by CR*)

16-20 Junior High Camp 2 (*sponsored by CR*)

23-27 Junior High Camp 3 (*sponsored by CR*)

30-Aug 3 Kids' Camp 2 (*sponsored by CR*)

AUGUST

10-12 Family Roundup (*sponsored by CR*)

SEPTEMBER

14-16 Koinonia Rendezvous Men's Retreat (*sponsored by CR*)

21-23 Ladies' Retreat (*Greater Life Church*)

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