



Monthly Newsletter – February 2018

BACKSTAGE IN 2018

Along with fresh expectations which accompany a new year is the reminder of significant anniversaries past. A year ago, ten, twenty-five, even a half century ago are significant events, like cairns, which point to the fact that the new year does not stand alone, but on the shoulders of what has gone before.

Fifty years ago, in 1968, events occurred which have shaped the western world today. A series of surprise attacks during the Vietnamese's New Year, Tet, brought tactical response from American and South Vietnamese troops which while successful, preceded one of the greatest moral failures of that most unpopular war. Second Lieutenant William Calley led a massacre of civilians, tarnishing American respect around the world and fueling social unrest at home, and a growing distrust of the political system. Also in Asia, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi introduced a handful of American pop icons to the "enlightenment" of Transcendental Meditation (TM). Religious practices and culture surrounding that philosophy began to fill a growing spiritual void in a nation increasingly in denial of its creator. TM eventually became rooted in the soil of Iowa as a former Presbyterian college campus become home to the international university bearing the Maharishi's name. For those who lived through that pivotal year, the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King marked a massive shift from peaceful protest and work for civil rights to a much more aggressive approach as the nation became much more polarized. In another sphere, a Stanford entomologist, published a book, "The Population Bomb", predicting catastrophic results from the effects of an exploding world population. Naturally, those predictions led to renewed efforts at population control and the devaluing of human life which often accompanies it. As 1968 drew to a close, the crew of Apollo 8 on Christmas Eve contributed an almost other worldly perspective as they watched our little blue planet rise over the moon's horizon.

Fifty more years have passed and many events from that most tumultuous year have fueled great changes in the culture. While populations have grown, the planet has become smaller, more connected and in many ways more dangerous. Two thirteen year old boys in 1968, Bill Gates and Steve Jobs, grew up to mastermind entrepreneurial endeavors leading to the compounding of information and strengthening of global communication. Are these just events that happened, or is there something more? Maybe there is something beyond the little blue planet.

Standing at the threshold of 2018, the staff at Camp Appanoose is poised to affirm the truth that there is something beyond the little blue planet. Behind all that happens here is an infinite universe, a spiritual one, governed by the sovereign God. This coming summer, we plan to pull back the curtain and take a look "backstage". It will not be the first time that has been done, because what is perhaps the oldest book in the Bible did just that when a good man, Job, became the target of a spiritual conflict. The Biblical writer showed that behind the scenes there is a real spiritual world which affects all that happens on our little planet, yes, even in 2018.

Every day this summer campers will be challenged to consider the tools God has given in Ephesians six to meet the challenges of a spiritual world as it affects them. Pray with us that God will greatly use our staff this summer to pull back the curtains and expose the God who is there, has spoken, and has provided salvation to all who call on Him. May the seeds planted in 2018, our thirtieth year, impact young persons for decades to come.

MOVING FORWARD...

By unanimous vote of the board of directors, Camp Appanoose, Inc. became Appanoose Ministries, Inc., to accommodate the broadening vision of this ministry to serve the needs of young people. Current programs will continue under the familiar name, Camp Appanoose (dba), as plans for more intensive year

around ministry continue to develop. Appanoose Ministries' board of directors is actively pursuing more stable long-term funding opportunities as we move ahead.

Many of you know that the past year has been a challenge financially, and continues to be. We want to assure that the vision and commitment of this ministry continues to move forward. Recently an anonymous donor provided for an advertising firm to work with Appanoose Ministries in sharpening our message and outreach. While most of us here at camp have strong Bible and ministry backgrounds, we realize the need to better convey our message and program opportunities. We so much appreciate this investment in the work of Camp Appanoose.

ON THE GROUNDS PROJECTS FOR VOLUNTEERS

- New infirmary, camp store remodel: This project, begun a year ago, should be completed soon. A gift came in recently to complete the ceilings and lighting in the new infirmary and handicap accessible restroom. A team of volunteers could install the new suspended ceiling!
- Soda Shed – Some may remember the soda shed at camp. Recently the construction of a new one was begun. Next to it will be an old phone booth (contributed by our own Terry & Sherri!) which will have information available to our visitors. We could use some volunteer help in completing this project.
- Coyote Bunkhouse – Oops, the electricity was off when the freeze came. Some broken pipes, damaged sheetrock and a few other problems will require some major repairs and some refurbishing. This project needs to move forward in the near future.
- Trees, trees, and more trees. Diseases sweeping the Midwest continue to take a toll on trees here at camp. Volunteers to cut and trim trees are an ongoing need. Firewood for summer programs is also needed. If your crew would be interested in volunteering some time, it will be most appreciated. The other half of this project will be the ongoing project of replanting this spring...
- Please visit our website, update us with your email address and possibly register for a prize!

SPRING 2018 CALENDAR

- **SURF Club every Saturday** for teens, 6:00-8:00 p.m. (visit www.campappanoose.org for specifics)
- **GO Team Meeting**, first Tuesday of each month, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
- **FOCAS**, third Tuesday of each month, 9:00 – (lunch provided)
- **VOLUNTEER RETREAT – April 20-21**, Friday at 9:00 a.m. – Saturday at 4:00 (meals provided, lodging on first come, first serve basis) 'An opportunity for the whole family!
- **SPRING CAMP – April 27-29**, for 10-16 year olds! Register your 10-16 year old on line – www.campappanoose.org.

OUR CONDOLENCES to the family of Margaret Guthrie, a long-time, faithful volunteer. Margaret is with our Lord today and we are grateful for her years of serving along with the team of men and women who prepare and send Camp Appanoose bulk mailings. Also, to the family of Don Phillips, another long-time friend and supporter of the ministry here. We are sad to have our loved ones leave us, but rejoice to know that both Margaret and Don are with Christ (enjoying their eternal reward!)

CONSIDER! Planning a church or family reunion in the camp's RV village.

THANK YOU FOR REMEMBERING CAMP APPANOOSE IN YOUR WILL. Contact the camp office, 641.649.2491 or cabar@campappanoose.org for information and suggested wording in doing so.

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www.CampAppanoose.org