

Riverside Reader

... a biblically-based, cost-compassionate, small-camp experience

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COVID-19 Update: How is Riverside Responding?

By Darrie Nelson

With the safer-at-home order in place due to COVID-19, many of our spring events were canceled or delayed. Here is an update on what we are presently planning for our future events.

Riverside Servanthood Institute (RSI) – May 29-31st

Riverside plans to host an RSI training weekend on May 29th-31st. In an effort to provide options for our critical teen staff and their families, an online training will be available and actually attending RSI Training Weekend will not be required.

However, we would love to have you still attend if your family is comfortable. We will have in place any recommended social distancing guidelines throughout our facilitates and activities and will limit attendance to the legally permissible number with priority given to those that have never attended RSI in the past.

Should your family be uncomfortable with their child attending RSI in person, online training sessions will be available. To gain access to online videos, please register for RSI Training and select the Online Participant tier. Those who register for online training will be notified when the videos are available. If you have any further questions, please contact us.

If RSI Training weekend is canceled or attendance reduced and your child is unable to attend, the lodging portion of your registration will be refunded.

Summer Camps

Riverside is planning for and anticipating that all summer camps will occur as scheduled. We may cap attendance at lower levels in keeping with state-mandated guidelines and to ensure suggested distancing measures can be maintained in sleeping quarters, at meal times, and during group sessions at our day camp and overnight camp sessions.

Camps are filling fast, so PLEASE REGISTER SOON IF YOUR CHILD PLANS TO ATTEND RIVERSIDE THIS SUMMER.

Any deposits and fees paid will be refunded for any canceled sessions as a result of COVID-19 restrictions.

If Riverside is forced to cancel summer programming, we would love to have you consider donating your camp fee to help ensure Riverside's financial future.

Summer Family Camp

We plan to hold Summer Family Camp as scheduled August 21st-23rd. Please register soon via our website. ■

COVID-19 Matching Gift Relief Fund

To subsidize the loss of guest group income over the last three months, a matching gift of \$10,000 has been made available to Riverside. Riverside relies on guest group rentals to help fund some of our operating costs. If you would like to help replace this loss of income, any gifts up to \$10,000 given before June 30th will be matched.

Summer Camp Theme: EPIC

By Breanna Plank

To be continued... It is always so exasperating to hear or see those words in a tv show or book, especially when there is a cliffhanger that affects the entire plot line. The balance of tension and intrigue fosters an addictive blend of anticipation laced with dread and excitement for the unknown. A good story has the power to captivate and engage in a way that few things can.

We see this in real life, too. When driving by an accident on the highway, passengers look out the window to try to catch a glimpse of the scene. The driver asks what happened, curious to understand what appears to have unfolded. A couple gets engaged to be married, and everyone is eager to know how he asked. Videos are shared on social media of military dads reunited with their families, children reacting to the gift of a new puppy or Disneyland tickets, and grandparents holding their grandchildren for the first time. Stories fill our days through conversations, news articles, and personal experience. They remind us of the rawness of humanity.

I am a person who does not believe in coincidences. Rather, I presume that if it seems as though events “happened” to collide in such a way that it caused something to work out perfectly, it was planned. Therefore, if it looks as though a bunch of things are suddenly falling into place, I often find myself looking up and praying “God, what are you up to?” God is the perfect coordinator of everything in history. Everything has a purpose in pointing us to him to see His glory. In this historic time of uncertainty, where things seem to change from week to week, it is comforting to know that God knows everything and remains in control.

As Riverside looks ahead to the summer with tentative optimism, we are preparing our programs on the theme of “epic.” The word *epic* is often used to describe something awe-inspiring and captivating, but it is also used when referring to a story of legendary capacity. We felt it was a perfect word for our summer camp theme as we will be discussing God’s amazing plan for all our lives.

Most people make a decision to follow Christ when they are young. Summer camp is a great opportunity for children to understand what plans God has in store for them as they learn more about Him. We are eager to focus this summer on understanding our epic God and His epic story. ■

Family Farm Update

By Breanna Plank

We are very excited to share that the farm has welcomed three new mini horses (Daisy, Mama, and Zoro) who will be joining Belle in our pasture. One horse is cart-trained and they are all rideable, so we look forward to having these horses as a part of our farm visits.

We managed to sell all our pigs that were born last summer. We had seven pigs and were able to take them all to be processed the beginning of May. They were grass-fed starting in the summer with some high-quality grain supplemented from a local mill. In the three years that Adam Nelson, our farm coordinator, has been on staff, he said this is the best pork we have had yet. We hope to have more pigs to sell in the future. If you are interested in ordering pigs, please keep an eye out for updates.

Riverside will have chickens to sell at the end of the summer. They are raised on River Hills Farm and are free range. Our chickens are humanely processed and freezer-sealed with shrink wrap to prevent freezer burn. If you would like to put a deposit down for chickens, please let us know. ■



Haiti Trip Update

By Breanna Plank

We had a team of six people travel to Haiti in March for a mission trip. We set out to help Beauvoir Deshommes and his ministry, which includes an orphanage, school, and involvement in the local churches. It was a very encouraging time for the people we served, and we were also blessed to connect with them as well.

Before our trip began, we had some concerns as one member of our team was suddenly unable to make the trip with us. With this last-minute snag in our plans, our team met the Thursday before we were set to depart, faced with the question of how to prepare and adjust our plans to make the different aspects work together. The day of our meeting, just three days before our departure, as we were finishing up the last of the packing, we were able to find another person willing and able to join us on our trip.

We departed on Sunday the 1st to fly out the next morning. After spending the night in Chicago, we woke up at 3:00 am to head out on our journey. We met our director Darrie in Fort Lauderdale and flew out to Haiti together. The whole day went smoothly for the most part. Leaving the city of Port au Prince took the longest due to rush hour. The same distance that took over an hour to travel was a 10-minute drive on the day of our return. Our team arrived around 9:30 pm, enjoyed a late dinner, and walked a little to stretch our legs before turning in for the night.

Quite often, our daily routine was fairly similar. We would start the morning with Pat running a widow's Bible study, and the rest of our team walked around the neighborhood to visit the other people who lived nearby and pray for them. In the afternoon, we held a VBS for the orphans as well as the children in the surrounding area. Spare time was spent connecting with the children and meeting the people who work and serve in Beauvoir's ministry.

We did have a couple special occasions where we were able to venture beyond the compound and see more of the country. One day we visited the beach in Cap-Haitien and enjoyed the beautiful mountains



as we drove. We visited a couple churches in the area as well and sat in on a four-hour service teeming with choir groups celebrating the 25th anniversary of the church. We had another day where a couple members of our team were able to visit the local market to buy rice for the orphans.

A main intention of our trip was to be an encouragement to those involved in the ministry. The day before we left, we distributed bags of rice, toiletries, and chocolate to the widows after their study. In the afternoon, we wanted to honor the teachers working at Beauvoir's school. We presented ties for the men and jewelry for the women, as well as thank you cards with a small financial gift. We also prepared a spaghetti dinner for the teachers and their families with cake (from the market) for dessert. We also revealed the donations of school supplies we brought and allowed the teachers to take some things for their classrooms as well. We unpacked many of the donations we had brought. There was peanut butter and beans, plus rice we had bought for the orphans. A laptop was presented to the school so exams could be created. Other items donated included sewing machines and notions, sports equipment, and clothing including pillowcase dresses.

Multiple times during the week, we heard Beauvoir talk about how happy and inspired he was as a result of our coming. Beauvoir and his family and ministry faced a lot of heartache and struggle over the last year, and so everything we planned was done in the hope that we could help and support everyone in the ministry. We were able to return home without any problems just before the restrictions due to the pandemic were put into place. ■



LIFT Team 2020

By Breanna Plank



This summer we are planning on having our LIFT summer staff out at camp as usual. With summer programming set as scheduled, we presently have 8 young people to provide our team additional support over the summer. Included in our staff is Shaylana Nelson as our RSI Coordinator and Tessa Olson as Farm Tech. Our LIFT team also includes Luke Brenner, Hailey Cooper, Ashley Elmhorst, Molly McGinn, Gabriel Smith and Lucero Wonnacott. Please be in prayer for our LIFT summer staff as they prepare for the summer and during the

time that they are working at Riverside. Please pray that God is glorified through their service and that each of our staff is encouraged and grows in their faith over the summer as well. Although this summer may look different than past summers due to the state of our country, God still has the power to use Riverside in the lives of many. In the (unlikely) event that we are unable to have summer camps, the LIFT program will still continue as anticipated but may focus more on work projects and preparing camp for other events in the year. ■



Summer camp isn't just for kids...

SUMMER FAMILY CAMP



Date: August 21st - 23rd, 2020

Arrival: 4:00pm

Departure: 1:00pm

Register online

www.riversidebiblecamp.org

Cost:

- \$65 - Single
- \$125 - Couple
- \$165 - Family of three or more
- Family = one family unit
- Registration Deposit - \$25

Sustaining Riverside Financial Report: 2020-2021

	YEAR TO DATE	BUDGET
General Fund Income	\$13,000	\$130,000
General Fund Expense	\$15,690	\$130,000
Current Deficit	(\$2,690)	

Please remember you can support Riverside quickly and efficiently through our website at www.riversidebiblecamp.org.



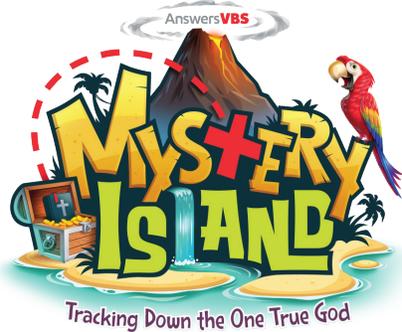
Family Farm Building Project Update

By Darrie Nelson

Praise the Lord, as over \$17,000 has been given to our project fund since the beginning of the year, bringing our project total to \$75,000. We are closing in on the completion of the staff housing portion of the project fund with only about \$10,000 needed to finish the septic insulation, exterior siding, and windows. Please consider helping us finish the project with a gift today to the 2020 project fund. ■



You're invited to...

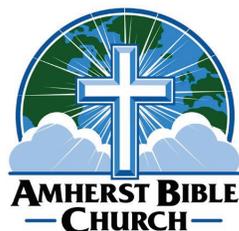


Vacation Bible School and Day Camp June 8th-12th, 2020

For students entering kindergarten
through completed 6th grade

VBS/Day Camp
Mon-Thurs, 9am-3pm
Fri, 9am-Noon
End of the week program
for parents at noon

Bring a sack lunch for our break and
then enjoy an afternoon packed full of
fun summer camp activities! Invite
your friends to a morning of VBS and
then stay for an afternoon of
Day Camp fun!



2020 VBS & Day Camp Registration Form

Mail to: Riverside Bible Camp 6355 County Road DD, Amherst, WI 54406
Registration Deadline: June 3rd

Child's Name: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

DOB: _____ AGE: _____ GRADE (Just Completed): _____

*Students entering kindergarten through completed 6th grade are welcome.

I was invited to Day Camp by _____

Health Information:

Emergency Contact (other than parent):

Name: _____

Relationship to Child: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Cell: (_____) _____

Any food allergies/special conditions or medication to administer?

I hereby give my permission to Riverside Bible Camp to provide routine, non-surgical, medical care, and to secure emergency medical treatment for the attendee named above for the duration of the time at Riverside, if necessary.

Parent/Guardian Signature (required): _____

Parent/Guardian Printed Name: _____

By registering your child it is understood that still and video photography may be utilized in future promotional mediums.

Bus Transportation: Due to COVID-19 concerns, we will not have bus transportation available this year.

COVID-19 related info will be emailed out prior to the start of this event from office@riversidebiblecamp.org.

EVENTS

Mark your calendars!

Work Day.....	May 16, 2020 (contact our office)
Spring Open House and Pancake Breakfast.....	CANCELLED
RSI Training Camp.....	May 29-31 st , 2020
VBS and Day Camp.....	June 8-12 th , 2020
Family Fun Night.....	June 12 th , 2020
Senior High Camp.....	June 21-27 th , 2020
Adventure Camp.....	June 29-July 1 st , 2020
Junior Camp.....	July 5-10 th , 2020
Junior High Camp.....	July 12-17 th , 2020
Summer Family Camp.....	August 21-23 rd , 2020
Harvest Family Camp.....	October 2-4 th , 2020
Fellowship Supper and Celebration Service.....	October 3 rd , 2020
Lumberjack Day.....	October 17 th , 2020
Craft Camp.....	October 16-18 th , 2020
GRIT Men's Retreat.....	October 30-31 st , 2020
Christmas Open House.....	December 3 rd , 2020
New Year's Eve Party.....	December 31 st , 2020
LIFT Winter Retreat.....	January 15-17 th , 2021
Riverside in Haiti.....	TBA
Infuse.....	February 12-14 th , 2021



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Amherst, WI 54406
riversidebiblecamp.org
715.824.3198

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Riverside Reader



WANTED

Over the years, many in-kind donations have been given to Riverside. These gifts are a wonderful blessing to the ministry and provide needed resources. Please check out our list of current needs, and if you can help with an item or provide funds to purchase it, let us know.

- Pool sticks
- John Deere small square baler 336, 332, 328, or 348
- 1,000-gallon LP tank
- PTO driven generator (35,000 Watt)
- Tire balancer
- Corn Hole Game
- Chisel and Punch set
- 15-20' chain
- Woodcutting bandsaw
- 60" flat tv
- Gas leaf blower
- Grate for fireplace