

Fall 2014

Pine Valley Camp

A LEGACY OF LIFE CHANGE



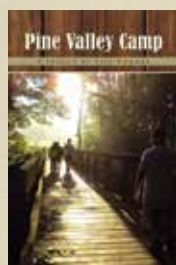
Pine Valley Camp

A LEGACY OF LIFE CHANGE

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On our Cover:
Campers hike on one of our trails to a local park, enjoying the summer evening.

3 Great ways to give!



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(see back cover)




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 PineValleyCamp

Thank you for investing in the ministry of Pine Valley. Please consider continuing to support Pine Valley towards our summer expenses and our on going year round ministry.

For 19 summers now we have seen incredible life-change and growth in our campers and staff who serve them!



Wow, we can't believe it has been 20 YEARS

Throughout the next year we will be looking forward to our 20th Summer of ministry with some special events ahead. Mark your calendars if you have ever served on staff in the past 20 years. On **Saturday July 18, 2015** we are planning an exciting all-staff reunion, an all day event for you and your family to gather for food, fellowship, and Pine Valley memories!



The camp directors first home, 1995.



Our first summer, 1995.



Mr. Matt, 15 years ago!



They Caught My Heart

Our new Office Manager, Lori Woodbridge and a little of why she is here.

It was Light of the City that caught my attention. It was

the love in this place that caught my heart. I first became aware of Pine Valley Camp when the LOC came to Grace Church of Harmony. These kids were so happy, singing of the love of Jesus. I was told they come from broken homes. Parentless homes. Loveless homes. Yet these 40 or so kids sang with a voice that comes from a place in their heart that only Jesus can fill. It is because of the Pine Valley mission that they found that place. That they found their heart for Jesus. That they these children want to bless others with this love.

With the position of Office Manager available, God was calling me here to serve. God was calling me to make a difference. God was calling me to help. You see, I was once one of these kids, growing up without a father. My parents divorced when I was 12 and my father choose not to be a part of my life. I grew up with the same hurts and losses these kids are going through right now. I can feel their pain and I wanted to help them know it doesn't always have to be this way. I am proof of that.

After just finishing my first summer here, I know I can help to make a difference. We served over 600 kids this summer. Between campers, staff and volunteers, this

place was a flurry of activity. There was food to cook, games to play, water to swim in, flowers to plant, lessons and love to be shared. You may not realize it, but it takes hundreds of people to make this place run, especially in the summer. I didn't. I didn't realize just how many hearts need to be involved to help better the world for these kids. I saw people's hearts grow. The

hearts. Everyone who stepped foot onto Pine Valley soil was affected by the love in this place.

After finishing up my first summer here, I was affected more than I ever thought I would be. I was affected by the love of those who poured their hearts out. I was affected by the campers. I was affected by my own childhood. I am confident when we all come together with a God-purposed com-

mon agenda we can make the world of hurting children better. No, it doesn't always have to be this way. I am so excited to see what God has in store for Pine Valley in the future! With the dedication still going strong of Mr. Matt and Miss Susan,

so many lives will be better for having been a part of this mission. God called me here for a purpose. Is He calling you too?

See back cover for Light of the City dates.

I can feel their pain and I wanted to help them know it doesn't always have to be this way. I am proof of that.

love counselors gave to all these kids. The volunteers who sacrificed of their time and gave of their talents and gave of their donations and gave of their





Where Are They Now?

Pine Valley has the privilege of serving alongside some incredible young men and women who have gone on to do some incredible things. Join us each quarter as we highlight what God is doing in and through the lives of the Pine Valley Family as we discover “where they are now.”

Meet Seth and Jess Lyon:

Jess Lyon is currently a k-7th grade music teacher on the Northside of Pittsburgh. Jess works hard long hours and gets paid very little and yet Jess is currently giving Pine Valley her weeks also to love our campers through a ministry of music. Seth Lyon teaches 7th and 8th grade math on the northside of Pittsburgh. Seth is also a volunteer coach for Urban Impact and he is a key volunteer in helping us pull off our Light of the City productions each month. Seth and Jess are more than teachers, they do not clock in and clock out, they don't tolerate children for a paycheck, and they don't view Pittsburgh schools as a stepping

stone to better jobs in the suburbs. Seth and Jess love the children they serve, they know their students, they know their students' families and they serve whole heartedly.

What brought you to Pine Valley in the first place?

Jess: Mr. Matt came to my education class at Grove City College in 2006. He was a little bit weird but his vision for the ministry was appealing to me. Once I experienced the campers, their stories, and the life change that happened in the campers, I was locked in.

Seth: My initial appeal was in a very

pretty blonde haired girl (Jess) who ran Light of the City. Once I came to Pine Valley, I saw 10 year olds praising Jesus and I was impressed by the way the other staff served the kids.

How has Pine Valley impacted your family and faith?

Jess: My walk with the Lord became very real as I served at camp. I had a real desire to grow closer to the Lord, to grow in the Word and to share my faith with others.

Seth: At Pine Valley, we had a chance to serve together and it gave us a purpose bigger than ourselves. Now our marriage is not just about us, it is about glorifying the Lord. We met at Pine Valley. We started dating at Pine Valley. We got engaged at Pine Valley. We got married at Pine Valley.



How has Pine Valley impacted what you do today?

Seth: I have learned way more as a counselor at Pine Valley than I did at six years at college. Things as simple as the importance of being in the Word daily as well as Pine Valley principles like “gripes go up” and “put a crown over a child's head and watch them grow into it”.

Jess: Without Pine Valley I never would have known God gifted me with the ability to work with kids. I do not study how to capture a child's attention, God just gave me that ability. I love music but I love kids a lot more. Music is my avenue to reach kids. It is so cool to be doing what I love and what God made me to do.



“we had a chance to serve together and it gave us a purpose bigger than ourselves”

no one who cooks cooks alone



The statement above is never more true than in the kitchen at Pine Valley. Most women know that when you are cooking in your kitchen at home, it is rarely a lonely place. At camp our “family” exceeds 150 people each week and our kitchen is always a hub of activity from which flow the aromas of food, love and laughter.

Many of you have never met the two women, who over the last 14 years, have filled the tummies and touched the hearts of thousands of children, teens and adults alike. Shari and Lisa have served here with all their heart and soul, not only sweating it out in a very inadequate and sweltering kitchen, but by serving the children with incredible confidence, grace and love, as well as unforgettable humor!

These two women come Monday through Friday all summer, not only cooking and ordering food, but building relationships with the teens that work under them. They had a unique style, running a “tight ship”, all the while endearing themselves to all who entered the kitchen.

We learned this summer that because of exciting new opportunities for them this was our last summer with these two wonderful ladies, and it couldn't be more bittersweet for all of us. There are so many sweet memories of our time together and so much gratitude in our hearts for their service to us. However, this now leaves a huge gap in our summer ministry team and we will be prayerfully searching for someone who would, out of a love for cooking and for people, desire to bring their own style of loving leadership into our kitchen.

One thing is for sure, no one who cooks in the Pine Valley kitchen, cooks alone!



If this opportunity appeals to you, “simmer” on it a while and contact the Pine Valley Office.

You could be our next cook!



Teen Update



Ladies Tea Party:

For most of the week, male and female campers experienced the same activities, lessons, and opportunities together. But, this year, for one day, genders were separate! Introducing Guys and Girls Night this summer meant that while Mark worked to plan a “guy”

event, Kate dove into uncharted waters to develop curriculum specifically for girls. The result was a day devoted to becoming aware of what God says about our worth and identity as women in Christ. As the ladies shared testimonies and personal stories at an elegant tea party, we discovered that the world often tells us the opposite of God's truth about our worth. Even when others tell us that we are disposable and unimportant, we know that God made us to be cherished, unique, and precious like beautiful tea cups. And the campers weren't the only ones learning. Even though leading this event was out of Kate's comfort zone, she found God using her willing heart to bring truth to hurting girls. As campers learned how valuable they are to Christ, Kate also learned that God had called her to share her story and equipped her with the words and ability to share it well.

2013 Crossroads Campers as 2014 Staff

It was a great joy to see many teen campers from last year return as staff members this year! They were hard-working, joyful, and exemplary as they performed their duties. It was encouraging to see these young leaders apply principles they learned as campers to their daily responsibilities and



relationships as staff members. We are incredibly proud of Asante, Aiyana, and Kimon, and we pray they continue honoring God and others with their words and actions! This past summer 10% of staff members were former campers themselves.



Camper Profile:

Meet Maggie: She is a 15 year-old camper we've had the privilege of getting to know over the past two years. She attended Crossroads and C.I.T. camp last summer and served at Light of the City weekends in the fall and spring. Maggie always shows a level of responsibility equal to or even surpassing her counselors. This year, following C.I.T. week, she became one of 8 campers to earn a Pine Valley employment contract for the summer of 2015!

We Bow Down

by Miss Susan

Eight little girls bend down around one little girl's broken flip flop and, in a rare and surprising moment, they served her. They entered into one girl's broken situation and offered hope and a solution in the form of duct tape that bonded them together and touched the heart of a weary counselor.

With a cabin full of kids many needs arise and our counselors rise to the occasion by literally offering the sweatshirts on their backs, or the shoes on their feet. Sometimes it includes giving up a sleeping bag or pillow in the middle of the night. This summer's theme was "Honor One Another Above Yourselfes". One of our counselors, after unknowingly modeling this in front of her girls, stood amazed when a girl broke her flip flop and before she could remove her shoes, another camper stepped up and offered her shoes to her new friend. Soon the entire cabin saw the need and caught the mission and they spent their rest hour time actively strategizing the fixing of the shoes.

Ironically we do stock flip flops for kids who may need them but before they knew

that, the girls had the privilege and joy of serving someone in need. Maybe this is a picture of why the Lord sometime delays...so that we can engage as servants to one another for our good and His glory.

I recently read an article on serving in a women's magazine about living a surrendered life by Katie Davis. Ms. Davis is a young woman living in Uganda who adopted 13 kids and is living the life of a true servant. The article inspired me as she talked about living life "Bent Low".

This got me thinking about this past summer and how I watched our staff bend low. We bow down here at camp. Not in the official "bow to a King" style of bowing, but in the ways we get to serve many times a day.

We bow to pick up children.

We bow to fix scraped knees and splinters.

We bow to stir large pots of food.

We bow to push kids on a swing.

We bow to lift kids on a horse, or to clip a life vest, or to strap on a climbing harness.

We bow to catch crayfish, or to dive in and swim.

We bow to sweep crumbs, pick up trash and clean potties.

We bow to play gaga!

We bow to touch bugs or smell flowers and build sand castles.

We bow to build fires.

We bow over God's word to search for truth.

...At the end of the day we bow to tuck kids in bed. We bow to wipe away tears. And most importantly we bow to pray.

After long days of bowing down we are weary but also refreshed. Serving is living life bowed down and bent low. This helps us to better know the heart of our Saviour who became a servant...Jesus who bowed low for us.

In the end of Katie's article she challenged us to "bend down low today for whomever is in front of you, and Jesus will meet you there".

After the hardest part of an intense summer at Pine Valley, it is exciting to be reminded once again how serving transforms both children and those who serve them.

We are thankful for the joy of bowing down.

*Serving is living
life bowed down
and bent low.
This helps us
to better know
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d

Did you know...

Meet Miss Elle!

A girl without a home! She is stepping out in faith...joining our team as a missionary for the coming year.

We have an urgent need for volunteers who would enjoy dry walling and hanging cabinets to finish a small basement apartment at our home so that we can offer her a place for study and solitude.

Who would love to bless this young woman who is coming to pour her life into the program and development work at Pine Valley?

While Elle is preparing to return to Africa next year by learning a new language and taking Bible classes, she saw a window of opportunity to also serve here in a place so dear to her heart. Elle has served here in almost every capacity for over 8 summers and would be a real power house in her passion and gift set. Elle is a graduate of Grove City College, a dynamic teacher with an obvious love for people and a heart for Jesus. She has been and will continue to be a great blessing to all who encounter her!



Community Day 2014

Over 500 people attended Pine Valley Community Day this past July. What a great time of fun, food and fellowship! Mark your calendars for July 19, 2015 for another fun, filled Community Day. We hope to see you there.



Thank you Mission Vision for helping over 70 children get much needed glasses. We are grateful for your support!

The First Great Ride

In May Pine Valley held our first annual "Ride for Hope, Healing and a Future. It was a success raising over \$10,000 toward our mission to rebuild broken lives. We hope you can Join us next year for this great event!

Riders	75
Sponsors	46
Volunteers	35
Kids meet Jesus	600
	=Priceless



Noodles & Sauce

We don't just believe "Every Kid Should Go To Camp" but every kid should GROW at camp. That is why we are committed to our campers beyond summer. Every September we launch our Light of the City children's choir, which happens one weekend a month for seven months. This is where exemplary campers return to camp to stay connected to staff, grow in the Gospel, and bless others with their voices and smiles.

As we nourish our campers spiritually and relationally, can you help us nourish them physically? Every Light of the City weekend we feed over 70 people for free. Will you help offset our cost by donating NOODLES AND SAUCE for our Saturday great spaghetti dinner? These are the food items needed:

- 5 - #10 cans of spaghetti sauce
- 12 pounds of spaghetti noodles
- 2 - 8 oz. containers of Grated Parmesan Cheese
- 2 - #10 cans of peaches

If you or your group feels led to help us out with this need, donations can be dropped off at the camp during regular business hours Monday thru Friday, 8 AM to 5 PM. Please contact the Pine Valley Office with any questions at 724-752-1661.





WELL DONE

by Mr. Matt

Do you know that feeling you have when you just graduated from school or you just married off one of your kids or your team just finished a winning season, you just watched your kids recital? You have that deep feeling of satisfaction, there is a celebration in your heart, a feeling of accomplishment, or a sense of completion, you're so proud of your kids and the excellent job they did! And there's a grateful feeling of ending well, of "A Job Well Done!" Well...that's how I'm feeling right now! I thank the Lord for another ministry season, 19 summers at Pine Valley, it's in the history books, no one can deny that Christ was honored, again! I thank the Lord for my staff! They have been faithful, intentional, highly relational and diligent. Because of them the campers know they are precious and loved. They've been given

hope, eyes have been opened, hearts are starting to heal, there is new revelation that there is a God who actually loves them and has a plan for their lives. Hope, Joy and Love have been poured extravagantly into their lives!

I thank the Lord for my Leaders, as I sit with satisfaction knowing these children, these hurting children, KNOW without a shadow of doubt that God loves them, Jesus died for them and they can have a different life, a better life. They've heard, seen and tasted this for themselves. My leaders and staff have poured themselves out completely, no stone was left unturned, no child who came here can claim ignorance of God's unconditional Love! Another summer with "A Job Well Done!"

And I Thank the Lord for you, for supporting us, praying for us, serving us, and just loving on our campers! It's

no surprise, expenses continue to rise just to maintain what has already been built and established. But as we grow so do our needs, please pray as we seek the Lord's leading! Our camp is full, we have no more room, we not only need new buildings to replace the old, we also need MORE, too! Please pray for wisdom for us as we plan and move forward, pray for more people and churches to "catch the vision" of providing hope to these otherwise hopeless kids. Pray as we address "38 buckets" that Matto had us identified in our 3 day summer debrief meeting that we can improve on for next summer. Pray as we will be cleaning up the avalanche of bills and expenses that always result from the summer, it will take the rest of the year

for us to catch up, but God has always provided, thanks for doing your part! Pray for our Rebuild Campaign as I gear back up to move this forward, I'm wait-

I thank the Lord for my staff! They have been faithful, intentional, highly relational and diligent. Because of them the campers know they are precious and loved.

ing for the Lord to move, I believe in my heart He will! Pray for the cabins, shelter and building projects that need to happen for next summer.

After all when all is said and done the only thing that matters in this life is what matters in light of eternity and ultimately the joy of hearing the words "Well Done" from our Lord.





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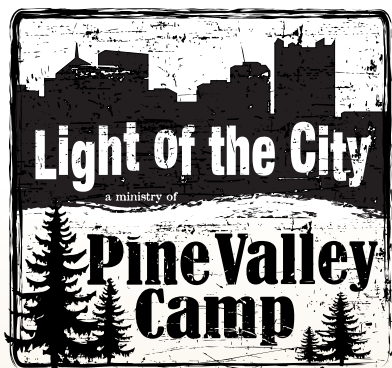
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"The Nehemiah Project at Pine Valley Bible Camp"

Pine Valley Camp

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November 23 @ 11:00AM
Crestview Community Church
210 Kline Ave., Callery, PA 16024

January 18 @ 8:30, 9:50, 11:15 AM
& 12:35 PM
Allegheny Center Alliance Church
250 East Ohio St, Pittsburgh 15212

February 15 @ 8:00AM & 10:45AM
Grace Church of Harmony
538 Main St., Harmony PA 16037

March 8 @ 9:45 AM 11:15 AM
Grace Community Church
9160 Marshall Rd.,
Cranberry Township, PA 16066

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