

Spring 2015

Pine Valley Camp

A LEGACY OF LIFE CHANGE



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Everyone wants to know-
THANK YOU to Beth Beiter, of
Beiter Design for redesigning
our newsletter!
beth@beiterdesign.com

3 Great ways to give!



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scan to visit our
support page

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!



504 Chapel Drive
Ellwood City, PA 16117
724-752-1661
info@pinevalleycamp.org
www.pinevalleycamp.org



Follow us:
Pine Valley Camp



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PineValleyCamp



Alumni Staff Save the Date Saturday July 18th Noon 'til 6:00 pm

Do you ever wake up on a summer morning and wish you could see this face again? And then ... hear the words

"IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY AT PINE VALLEEEEEEEEEEEY!"

Now You Can!

Join us for a sweet time to reconnect, reminisce, tell stories, and, of course, enjoy FOOD and FUN. All camp activities will be open for your pleasure.

– Light lunch and dinner provided for you and your family!

We would love to have you here and anyone else you can think of who has ever worked at Pine Valley. We need you all to spread the news and help us gather contact information!

Lets help Mr. Matt, Miss Susan,
Matto and all the staff here
celebrate 20 YEARS!

RSVP:

Please RSVP with your name and number of people attending by calling the office at 724-752-1661 OR

Tweet, Gram, or Facebook with
#PVAIIPresent to @PineValley_Camp
www.facebook.com/PVCamp
[instagram.com/pinevalleycamp](https://www.instagram.com/pinevalleycamp)



He would not let go!

by Mr. Matt

I remember last summer at the end of one of our camps, I experienced a sight that still stands out to me. The “Hug Line” is something Miss Susan does each week after she finishes our closing song, “Bind us Together, Lord”. In the middle of our field, she has all the staff make a straight line. Campers race to line up to say their goodbyes and to hug each of the staff who has been caring for them. There can be 80 – 100 children to hug. Miss Susan and I are sure to be their last hug!

It was at this moment that I saw a sight that will forever stick in my mind. We had been continuously hugging children, when suddenly a significant gap appeared from the middle of our Hug Line to me at the end. A little 8 year old boy camper was holding up the works, hugging his counselor, Mr. T, with all his might, for what seemed like an eternity! He would not let go!

Of course in my sensitive fashion I started yelling, "Hey, let's get this line moving!" There were still a lot of kids to hug, it was Friday night, camp was over, I was tired and anxious to wrap-up. I was thinking to myself, "I want to go out with my wife!" I was irritated even though I know love never hurries. I was later humbled in September when I read Mr. T's camper story about that particular boy who "Wouldn't Let Go!"

At the beginning of the camp week a little boy, who was quite disruptive, when lovingly corrected, would shout to his counselor, "Nobody loves Me!" and "Adults always say they'll be there, but they're just lying!" That same camper had an ongoing problem with wetting his bed. Everyday Mr. T washed his sheets and returned them to his bed so no one would know. At the end of the week, Mr. T noticed all his clothes smelled so he washed them all, and returned them to his suitcase. Without a word Mr. T had demonstrated, in a sim-

ple but powerful way, the unconditional love of Jesus Christ by covering and cleaning up after our little camper. But at the end of the week this was the same little boy who wouldn't let go of Mr. T. This little camper had finally found an adult who meant what he said.

In this situation, like many that go on here every day, Mr. T was the sacrificial "Jesus" to this camper. He covered when others would expose, he cleaned up when others would run, and he acted towards this little boy like any loving father would.

When I see these things happen it inspires me to "never let go" of helping

One caring adult, who they can see, will give them a glimpse of a caring, loving Savior, who they can't see.

hurting children! We must be faithful and we must reach more! That's why we do what we do, right??? Your participating with us helps us demonstrate Christ's love to kids who otherwise would go through life thinking, "Nobody Cares!" One caring adult, who they can see, will give them a glimpse of a caring, loving Savior, who they can't see. Jesus is the only One who truly "Covers and Cleans up" all of our sins.



Where Are They Now?

by Matto

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.”

I was at a conference recently and I ran into a former Pine Valley staffer. Since her time at Pine Valley this godly girl has resided on three continents; has had three different drivers licenses from different countries at the same time; has lead worship in a large international church with 70 different nationalities; has been teaching children for the past 13 years all over the world; and, she is now excited about what God has planned for her next in Ethiopia. Join me as I sat down with Rachel Wilson to discover “where she is now”.

Rachel interviewed with Mr. Matt in 1997 fresh off a trip from Mexico where God had confirmed her call to missions. Pine Valley was her first ministry assignment after God confirmed the call on her heart. Rachel graduated from Geneva in 2000 with a dual degree in elementary education and special education. Rachel did her student teaching in Paraguay and has been teaching in different countries and capacities ever since. Rachel is currently in Ethiopia, where she has been teaching in the classroom but is currently

transitioning to a new position where she will be traveling all over the country providing educational and relational support to missionary families.

Question: What are some favorite PV memories?

Answer: At camp I got to put into practice the art of serving others. The summer I served as a camp counselor was my most exciting summer and my most exhausting summer. I remember great staff dynamics, having great conversations with campers and getting to be wild and crazy for God. Camp taught me to let go of my fears, like



riding a horse, and this past year I fell off a horse while riding in Ethiopia but it was no big deal because I overcame that fear at Pine Valley. Now I ask myself, are you letting fear control you or faith control you? I have come to believe that you are the safest when you are in the center of God's will. God uses everything to get us ready for the next thing. I can see how God used Pine Valley to get me ready for serving in areas outside of my comfort zone. I have this motto I live by and that's if I am comfortable I am not growing.

Question: Here in the west we tend to think we have got it all figured out. What are some values you have discovered in other cultures and how have they impacted you?

Answer: I was driving into the camp and I saw the sign on your beautiful gazebo and it said "Life is Relationships" and that is something I have learned, that other cultures take time for people. In Paraguay, we would sit around and drink tea and just talk about life. In Ethiopia, we drink coffee and we talk. It's all about relationship. People take time for each other. In the states we get so caught up doing, I am learning the art of just being, and I believe that's really how we evangelize through building relationships.

Question: With so much ministry over the years what have been some favorite moments for you?

Answer: Meeting God's people all over the world. It's so encouraging to realize we have brothers and sisters everywhere. I have the opportunity to lead worship in a large multinational congregation and it is such a gift to lead people before the throne of God. As I look out during worship and see the beautiful diversity

of 70 plus nationalities worshipping God, it is so powerful, I think it is a small taste of what heaven will be like.

Question: What do you say to someone who always wanted to go into missions?

Answer: GO! Don't make excuses. You can always find excuses not to serve God. Don't let those excuses stop you and don't let fear stop you. Are you letting fear control you or faith control you? You are the safest when you are in the center of God's will.

"At camp I got to put into practice the art of serving others. The summer I served as a camp counselor was my most exciting summer and my most exhausting summer."

Question: How can your Pine Valley family pray for you?

Answer: That people would continue to give to keep me out in the field.

For wisdom as I minister to missionary families.

For safety as I travel all over Ethiopia to serve families.

Help as I study and learn the native language.

It was good to see Rachel after so many years. It is always humbling and inspiring to talk with those who risk everything for the sake of Jesus Christ. Please pray for Rachel as she advances the hope of the gospel in Ethiopia. Like Rachel in response to our precious Savior ask yourself, is fear controlling you, or is your faith controlling you?

Contact Rachel: rachel.wilson@sim.org

Learn more about SIM at www.simusa.org



Issac, Christina, Benj & Ellie Kragt

Next Steps of Faithful Service by Matto

Irreplaceable, faithful, humble, and servant. These are just a few adjectives I think of when I think of Benj. Benj is one of the hardest working guys I know who has faithfully served our staff and campers as our Facilities Director for the past 5 years. I am so thankful Benj answered the call to come serve in our little valley. I cannot begin to list all the ways he has improved our ministry, how he has improved our facilities, and how he invested in so many lives. We have always known that Benj's and Christina's dream was to one day serve full time as missionaries in Uganda and their dream is now becoming a reality. We are excited for Benj and we know the people of Uganda will be tremendously blessed by his humble service. But we will also be mourning his loss. Benj is highly valued,

and while we are excited to see Benj take a next step towards God's calling, selfishly, we don't want to see him go. Please pray for Benj as he works through his last summer at camp, trains the next facilities director, and prepares to take his family overseas.

Pray that God would send us the next Facilities Director who hears the call to serve at Pine Valley. This summer will be Benj's last summer serving with us so we would love to discover who God has called to Pine Valley next. Our hope is to hire someone this spring to work alongside Benj over the summer for some on-the-job-training and to make the transition as smooth as possible. If you know someone who loves people, loves ministry and who is skilled with their hands, have them send a resume to info@pinevalleycamp.org

Capturing Camp



Do you have a digital point and shoot camera you don't use anymore? Repurpose it and give it to camp! We can use

your old digital cameras to capture the beauty and power of camp. Did you just upgrade your DSLR camera, lenses, flashes or lights? We are praying for a DSLR camera for our Story Harvest Ministry at Pine Valley. Story Harvest is our ministry that captures photos and video footage

to share with campers, parents and supporters. If you have a passion for photography and videography and believe a picture is worth a thousand words, make our Story Harvest Ministry possible and donate today!

We are currently looking to hire a "Creative Media Specialist" to join our summer ministry team. You can apply online at pinevalleycamp.org



Now Hiring Full Time:

- Facilities Director

HELP WANTED

Seasonal (summer):

- Cook
- Nurse
- Creative Media Specialist
- Counselors
- High School Support Staff
- Lifeguards

Engage Pine Valley by Miss Ellie

A single mom who is working three different jobs, yet offers to volunteer in any way possible in her free time. A member of our Light of the City choir who verbalized "I will be here any time the camp is open". A staffer who comes back to serve summer after summer for little to no pay. A ministry leader who brings their children to camp for a week and stays to experience it for themselves. What is it about Pine Valley that is so contagious, so fully engaging?

Through the grace of God and endeavors of our leaders, I believe Pine Valley creates a culture of love—for staff, campers, and families alike. Pine Valley becomes family; Pine Valley becomes home. It is hard to describe the thrill of driving down the lane towards our broken down (yet precious place of memories) lodge, knowing that a week of camp is about to begin. I know there will be laughter and fun and more laughter and perhaps a few tears; but more importantly, lives will be changed.

In the moments that I choose to love and serve someone else, I know at least one life will be changed—my own. I am so tempted to hide and ignore pain, much like those pictures of ostriches with their heads buried in the sand. It is so easy to get wrapped up in the busyness of life—grocery shopping, laundry, daily cleaning, children, chauffeuring, etc—that I sometimes find myself on autopilot. When I shake out of my reverie, I find that I had been wandering

around the aisles of my local grocery store for over 20 minutes. I don't know about you, but I do not want to autopilot through life. I want to live passionately and meaningfully, connected to the heartbeat of my Jesus.

He chose to stop amidst the throngs of people to see that one person who needed him most. To help in that one way only He could.

Ten years ago, I met Mr. Matt and his daughter Hannah in my Foundations of Education course. He was wielding a sword. Her eyes were shouting of the stories of life change. I had a choice. I chose to engage. To help in the way that I could. And I have never regretted one second of it. I am changed because of it.

I never would have had that opportunity if they had not come and offered it to me. So I offer it to you now; engage Pine Valley. Come to Summer Serve. Give of your time in the office on a weekly or monthly basis. Bring a group to help maintain our facilities. Get involved in our Rebuild Campaign (help us make new memories and show the kids they are worthy of nice facilities). Pray for us. Help bring kids to camp with your finances.

We are his hands and feet. Let's turn off autopilot and SEE. We will never be the same again.





Thanks to CEF for enabling our campers to keep studying the Bible all throughout the year.

Why? by Mr. Jim

Sometimes it is really good to ask the question... why? Why do we create programs, organize games, inflate balls, set up tables and chairs, clean dishes, cook hot meals, make phone calls, and drive vans to Pittsburgh in sub-zero temperatures? We actually did all of these things for our Light of the City weekend this February. It is a lot of work for a very short window of time. So, why do we do it? I like the answer found in the Westminster Shorter Catechism. Question: "What is the chief end of man?" Answer: "Man's chief end is to glorify God, and enjoy him forever." This is easy to say, but not always easy to apply. How does all of our activity planning, preparation, and implementation bring glory to God? My answer is: "We make the gospel known to children." To make the gospel known requires more than just a verbal declaration. Children need more than a knowledge of the gospel—they need an example as well. All of the effort that it takes to make camp possible is done so that kids will know the gospel of Jesus Christ. For me, it makes all the effort completely worth it.

Thank you for supporting our endeavor to bring the gospel to children through camp!

Like Mother, Like Son - A Loving Legacy

by Miss Susan

He was only eight years old and he came down our lane this summer with his mommy, which is a rare sight here actually.

He had a beaming smile and he already had camp songs about Jesus on his heart. He giggled and squirmed as he lined up to sign up for camp for the first time.

He was only eight years old and he came down our lane this summer with his mommy, which is a rare sight here actually. He had a beaming smile and he already had camp songs about Jesus on his heart. He giggled and squirmed as he lined up to sign up for camp for the first time.

Before his mommy left, we observed that she paused to make up his bed, which is another fairly rare sight around here. She

so tragic to me, but she wore the same beaming smile that her little son now has. We would soon find out that her smiles and laughter were masking hurt born out of deep pain. Her mom was addicted to drugs and as a result her home was chaotic...exposing her to the worst kind of abuse, neglect, and rejection.

While she did laugh and play at camp, we cried together a lot too. When her mom was asked to choose between



kissed him and said "You are gonna love it here! This is where Mommy went to camp."

This little boy's mommy was one of the first campers years ago at Pine Valley to steal our hearts. Her story at home was

the boyfriend (drug supplier and child abuser) and her child, she often chose the boyfriend (and drugs) leading to this precious little girl bouncing in and out of her home to foster homes and separated from siblings. She was a camper here and

became an extended part of our personal family for all these years. She referred to us as Mom and Dad and she dove into our hearts and lives.

Now here she was, signing up her son for camp!

From the beginning of our time here at Pine Valley our hope has been that as kids meet Jesus here in this place set apart and experience His love lived out that they will be changed by it and will transfer that when they are parents.

Everything we do at camp is geared to give them a glimpse of their heavenly Father who loves them and to model that love before them -so they will pursue the only One who has the power to change them. What assurance is there that these kids will not do to their kids what has been done to them?

Here is a measurable result. Here is an immeasurable celebration! This young mommy who sings with her son, teaches him Bible stories and makes his bed for him when he comes to camp...

For our campers, not only is this the place where they might swim for the first time or canoe, or ride a horse, but it may be the first place they sit around a dinner table for meaningful conversation, or open the Bible with a loving adult, or share about their secret pain, or sit by a campfire singing songs and gazing at the stars.

But some of my favorite moments we create at camp are the moments leading up to when we tuck them in at night. Once they settle in their bunks, we tell bedtime stories of God's goodness. It is a time for sweet songs sung to them or prayers whispered beside their bed and precious

talks about a God who loves them.

They can fall off to sleep with happy and hopeful thoughts snuggled down in a safe place. Some of them have never been tucked in

There is such sweet joy in knowing that at least for this week we can create an environment and instill memories that will remain with them of a place where they had no fear in their minds and a song on their heart. Psalm 4:8 says "I will lie down in peace and sleep for you alone Lord make me dwell in safety."

People often ask us "What measurable results do you see in the lives of your campers?" Here is a measurable result. Here in an immeasurable celebration! This young mommy who sings with her son, teaches him Bible stories and makes his bed for him when he comes to camp,

she is not a perfect mom, but she is a far better mom than her mom was.

Not a worse mom,

Not the same...

But a far better mom!

Talk about breaking the cycle. That wasn't

just a break. Jesus shattered what Satan attempted to accomplish in her!

When we started Pine Valley I always used to say "one day you will not only see our campers in your churches but you will see them in your pulpits". I think I should start saying that again! Who knows? Maybe this little eight-year-old year old camper will become a preacher boy! All because Jesus entered his mommy's heart, a little girl who was tucked in bed at camp. But for right now, he is a little boy whose mommy tucks him in at night and tells him about Jesus. Knowing that is enough for me!

Did you know...

Servants of God by Miss Lori



As I sit here, I'm reflecting on days when this place is bustling with Servants of God. There are many days when the parking lot is filled with cars and the office is filled with laughter. Boy that makes my mind sing and my heart smile! There are many Servants of God that come to Pine Valley, and we need each and everyone one of you. It might be easy to see the

opportunities during the summer. People are always asking about Pine Valley's need for driving kids to camp or Summer Serve. Many people I talk to do not realize there are opportunities to share their gifts during the "off season" as well. Pine Valley truly exists on the generosity and gifts of others. For instance, it takes a lot of hands to get this newsletter into your hands – maybe you have a few extra hours to help us accomplish that task? It takes a lot of love to beautify Pine Valley for the summer season – maybe you'd like to get your hands dirty? Maybe you have a few hours a week to help me accomplish various tasks in the office – I can guarantee a lot of fun and laughter!



People ask me why I choose Pine Valley. I've come to find out there is great joy in working alongside those who choose to pour themselves out for the kids Pine Valley serves. It is these Servants of God who bring this place to life, making a difference in the world of Pine Valley. Some of the biggest impacts come in everyday life. God doesn't ask about our ability, but honors our availability. In serving those who serve the children, I serve God. God is doing a changing work in ALL those lives who come down the lane at Pine Valley. God takes our ordinary efforts and does something extraordinary. Come and join us! There's plenty of room and plenty of laughter!



Thank You

THANK YOU to Mr. Aaron for hosting a spaghetti dinner for his Senior Project. It's great to have you on our team! Did you know? We have many opportunities to help you fulfill your requirements for an Eagle/Boy Scout Badge or your Community or Senior Projects. Let us know how we can help.





Get your bikes ready and bring a friend to our 2nd Annual Ride for Hope, Healing and a Future! We raised over \$10,000 for Pine Valley Camp at last year's ride! Join us again for another scenic ride and delicious dinner. Cost: \$25/driver and \$10/passenger. Registration 9-10:30 a.m. Ride begins at 11 a.m.



Fan the Flame

Fan the Flame of Fellowship with FIRE FOOD!

Flames are dancing...Hot Dogs are sizzling...Smores are melting...

But the real magic is in the campfire fellowship. Every summer Pine Valley campers gather with staff around the warm glow of a fire, sharing conversation and food.

Something magical happens under the starry sky and around the flames. We provide the flames, you provide the food.

Needed Each Week:

300 Hot Dogs

6 - #10 Cans of Beans

15 Large Potato Chip Bags

50 Chocolate Bars

150 Graham Crackers

150 Marshmallows

Ketchup

Mustard

Charcoal

****any leftover food from these donations will roll into our next ministry season with campers.**



Thank you!! We are overwhelmed with your response to our need for Noodles & Sauce! Our Light of the City children had warm hearts and very full tummies. We received over 163 pounds of noodles, 30 jars of cheese, 47 cans of spaghetti sauce and 20 cans of peaches!



FRONT PERSPECTIVE

The Rebuild

BY MR. MATT

AS WE COME INTO THIS YEAR WE ARE CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF MINISTRY AT PINE VALLEY. WHEN SUSAN AND I FIRST CAME HERE IN MAY 1995 WITH OUR FIVE CHILDREN, WE CAME IN FAITH, BELIEVING THE LORD SPECIFICALLY CALLED US HERE TO START THIS CAMPING MINISTRY FOR AT-RISK YOUTH. WE HAVE NOT BEEN DISAPPOINTED, EACH YEAR CONTINUES TO IMPROVE, AND WE CONTINUE TO GROW. BY GOD'S GLORY AND GRACE, AND ONLY BECAUSE OF HIS GRACE, WE HAVE SURVIVED THE TEST OF TIME! I BELIEVE THE LORD GIVES TO US, IN ORDER TO GIVE THROUGH US. I REJOICE IN ANTICIPATION OF WHAT HE'S YET TO DO!

As we grow, it's apparent that we must replace our current Dining Hall. We are also still at work replacing what was lost in the Creekside Lodge fire. I hope to see the Lord accomplish in the next 5 years what took us 20 years to do before!

What we call "The Pine Valley Way" means using a combination of donated material, funds, and labor along with the

buying of some material and labor to get the job done. Traditionally, this can take 1-4 years to complete any given building project. It is slow but when done we have a new building and NO Debt!

"Turn-key" is a term used in the construction world which means you give money to a contractor and when done he gives you the "keys"! I would



SIDE & BACK PERSPECTIVE

love to do that from this point forward but this has not been “The Pine Valley Way”. Our first priority is to raise funds to ensure 600+ kids can come to camp each year. The rebuild comes after that. We continue walking in dependent trust and with our hearts driven towards obeying the Lord. I celebrate how the Lord provides each year for both our ministry budget and our capital budget needs!!! God’s way is our priority whether we accomplish this Turn-Key or The Pine Valley Way.

for the day that the Lord will provide this funding. We have broken ground for our Duplex Girls Cabin which will replace the current cabins in our old dining hall. You can help us build this! We also want to break ground this year for the Shelter with attached Boys Bathhouse using donated gymnasium materials. This will replace the bathhouse lost in the fire. It will also give us a shelter for rainy days and a temporary dining hall to use while we build the new one.

CURRENT REBUILD STRATEGY

With over \$400,000 raised, the most we’ve ever raised towards any one project, I continue to pray and work in faith and hope of the Lord sending the \$2 million needed in funds or material. Meanwhile, we have plenty to do in preparation





SHELTER WITH
ATTACHED
BOYS BATH-
HOUSE USING
DONATED GYM
MATERIALS

MY INVITATION

You are invited to join us in this ongoing endeavor. Thank-you to those who have already given! We are in God's waiting room, the Lord has been preparing us for this next step! I have grown so much since we started the rebuild campaign 2½ years ago!!! Delays are God's ways of preparing us for His good gifts! I believe that with my whole heart! Thank-you to my Prayer Team who has been faithfully praying every Tuesday morning at 7:15 a.m. for the past 2½ years!!! God IS working behind the scenes!

Call me, I'd love to chat! (724) 752-1661

In Faith & Hope, Mr. Matt



FUTURE LOCATION OF DUPLEX GIRLS CABIN



We have other capital improvement needs that aren't part of the rebuild projects. These funds and donations are raised separately. For instance, we've started a project for Matto and his family by replacing a leaking, deteriorating roof. With material donations we received from a torn down house, we were able to start to add a couple of bedrooms for his ever growing family. We could use your help on this one too! There is still roofing, siding and interior finish work to be done. Come, join in the fun!



BUILD SOMETHING!

WE CONTINUE TO REBUILD AT
PINE VALLEY, YOU CAN TOO BY BRINGING
A GROUP OUT OR USE YOUR INDIVIDUAL
SKILLS AS YOU TAKE PART IN KINGDOM

BUILDING!
724-758-1661
INFO@PINEVALLEYCAMP.ORG



Pine Valley Camp

Office 724-752-1661

Fax 724-752-1662

www.pinevalleycamp.org

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"The Nehemiah Project at Pine
Valley Bible Camp"



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save the date

April 12

Light of the City

Clenmore Presbyterian Church,
New Castle

May 30

Motorcycle Ride for Hope

Rain Date May 31

July 18

Alumni Staff Reunion

see page 3

July 19

Community Day



504 Chapel Dr.,
Ellwood City, PA 16117

Return Service Requested