

ICTHUS NEWS

SUMMER 2007

Greetings in the name of our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ! Summer is winding down, so I wanted to give you a quick update of what we've been up to & how you can pray for us. I am just getting my computer back on line, so forgive me for being out of the loop these last few weeks. I'd appreciate your response if you're interested in continuing to receive our newsletter. We have DSL now, so I'm trying to learn to "drive" again. Please bear with me in the coming weeks as this techno illiterate learns a new tool!

People, Places, & Things

So far this year we've hosted 16 groups from as far away as Brighton, MI to the north and Port Orange, FL to the south, and from as close as our own back yard. This is very good news as we only had 17 groups all last year! Many of the 400+ youth & adults that have visited us so far this year have made commitments to walk closer to Jesus and go deeper in their devotion to Him! It makes all the late nights/early mornings well worth the effort. After each group leaves, Lonnie, Pat, & I spend some time praying for & discussing what we saw God do over the course of their visit with us. The consensus is that each week God kicks it up another notch! It seems that the more we proclaim God's word, give testimony to what HE has done & is doing, and acknowledge HIM in all our ways, the more HE shows up! I want more of HIM, how about you?

Pray for those that have made decisions this summer to continue to pursue a deeper relationship with HIM as they return to their homes.

Changing Seasons

Summer is not the only season that is changing at Icthus. The Lord has without a doubt used what I've called "God's postage stamp", our current facility, over the last 17 years. I suspect, however, that this will be our last year in the old retreat center. We are talking with others about the possibility of selling the current facility to another ministry, taking a year off to build, and moving everything down to the Haven. On the positive side, the sale will provide seed money for foundation work and construction materials. It will also allow us to focus solely on getting the new center built. On the down side, we won't have the opportunity to minister to any outside groups until the new place is completed.

Please pray for people, finances, and materials to finish the project in a timely manner. I am especially asking the Lord to raise up a project manager and for favor with the grant committee at the Janirive Foundation.

Lonnie Grimes will be leaving us in a few weeks to get married, move to Redding, CA, and start school at Bethel Church School of Ministry. For the last year he has been a dear brother, co-laborer, and fellow servant in the Lord. We will miss him greatly and bless him as he begins this new season in his life!

Pray for perfection, protection, and provision for Lonnie & Nikki as they begin this journey of following Jesus as husband & wife.

Pat Kelly has also blessed us in many ways since his arrival last March, and we bless him for his desire to serve others. Groups consistently comment on his willingness to help in any way, whether hanging out with the kids, cleaning up, or taking someone to the ER... again!

Pray for God's direction for Pat as we close out the season and determine staff needs/opportunities for the future.

The Dingles

Edith continues the task of growing flowers, vegetables, and a human! Our little boy is due October 4. Over all she is doing well except for a persistent skin issue and pressure on the veins in her legs. She is prettier than ever as are Emma, Reah, & Lydia. The girls are growing up fast... on August 14 we will officially be known as the 6, 4, 2, 0 (the children's ages) family. There seems to be a pattern developing here! The milestones for the girls this summer have been Emma's & Reah's first camp out (two nights in a tent w/Daddy), Emma learning to ride her bike w/o training wheels, and Lydia trying her best to say and do everything her big sisters are doing!

Pray for Edith to experience total healing in her legs and with this skin disorder TODAY! Pray that I would love my wife as Christ loves the church, laying down HIS life for her. Pray for us to have great wisdom and discernment in training our children up in the way that they should go so that when they are old, they will not depart from it.

The Calendar

We still have some openings for late summer & the fall if your group or someone you know is looking for a place to come apart & meet with God, give us a call or drop us a line! Blessings!!!!!!

Trusting JESUS,

Bill Dingle

Prov.3:5-6

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