

2013 Icthus News

Happy New Year from the Dingle Tribe! I hope that you all had a blessed time with your family and friends. We spent Christmas with Edith's family in Phenix City and enjoyed some much needed R&R. Here are some highlights of the ministry at Icthus and our family during 2012.



We hosted 22 groups - 551 people, for a total of 104 days at the retreat center this year. The groups came from NC, SC, AL, and FL. One of the main themes we discussed with our staff and with youth was taking dominion over the areas God has put under your control. When we are faithful stewards in all areas, no matter the size or importance, God is honored. We also learn many wonderful truths about the Kingdom, such as perseverance.



We hosted approximately 60 people for about 80 days at the Haven House. Most of these guests were in our home for at least one meal and/or ministry. We had the pleasure of hosting an Air Force fighter pilot and his family. This was right before he was deployed to Korea for a year, without his family. What an honor to serve fellow believers who are protecting us and our freedom. It was also an honor to serve a family of complete strangers. A mother and five children were hiking on the A.T. for an extended period when they contracted Giardia. We housed them in the Haven House for four days until the father could come for them. We pray that good seeds were planted in the "soil" of their hearts.

Icthus hosted approximately 900 people at our recreation field and pavilion through one day events, such as weddings, the Praise Festival, B-day parties and team practices (softball, baseball & soccer). Many community residents also stop by regularly to use the basketball courts and other facilities.



Our Needs

- 1) Prayer- especially for God's presence, protection, provision, & direction.
- 2) Help- full time & part time. We are tired most of the time & often overwhelmed. We need a mechanic, plumber, carpenter, laborers, etc.
- 3) Finances- our personal support is currently more than last year, and we are grateful for our Father's faithfulness to provide for our every need.

Our Plans

Our desire is to share Jesus every chance we get. We still have the dream to build a 100 bed lodge on the Haven. I am also continuing to pray for about 100 acres so that the youth who come can be loud any time they want, without disturbing the neighbors. We rejoice that God continues to enable us and the ministry to live debt free.

We hope to renovate our old house on Mason Branch and sell it as soon as possible. It would be a relief to have that responsibility off of our minds.

We are in the process of trying to sell the bunkhouse/truck on e-bay, since it has not been useful to us. Please pray that God will provide the right buyer.

I plan to do a few less contract jobs, such as yard maintenance for several Alarka residents, in order to simplify ministry here as much as possible. We have really been focusing more time in the Word lately, and we know God will bless this. He will also provide the lost income from these jobs, since the decision was an effort to better honor Him and His calling on our lives.

We also hope to clear more pasture land at the Haven, and continue to finish the work on the Maintenance shed. These two things, however, are contingent upon the skilled help we may have.

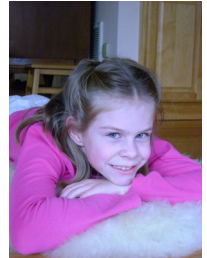


The Dingle Family

Emma is eleven years old. She loves reading, playing her new clarinet, swimming in the summertime, and cooking in her mom's kitchen!



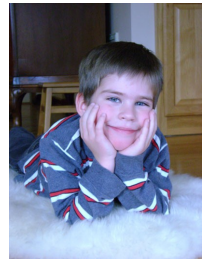
Reah is nine years old. She enjoys playing softball, getting together with her friends, playing the piano, and pretending to be a nineteenth-century, prairie girl.



Lydia is seven years old. God has gifted her in many ways, particularly in art and in caring for farm animals. She is concluding the first grade, and is reading well after much practice.



David is five years old. He loves to get up early and go out with his dad to check the varmint traps. He is a helper to the core, a country boy at heart, and a joy to be with!



Elijah is three years old. He likes "Thomas the Train," and "Lightning McQueen." Like his siblings he enjoys being outside. Many times he makes us laugh, and sometimes we are keenly aware that he is a prophet.



Bill still loves working hard in God's wondrous creation. Beekeeping is a new hobby of his, and he enjoys eating his first crop of "Haven Honey!"



Edith is a "Mama" to all around her, including the ten chickens and Lydia's beta fish. It's a good thing she enjoys cooking and baking, because she has to do a lot of it!

God has blessed the Dingle family with so much of Himself - which means so much love, joy, peace, abundance, ingenuity, wisdom, strength, perseverance, and a thousand other characteristics of our Faithful Father!

Be blessed in 2013!