



THE KNOTTY PINE POST WINTER 2009

Megan Borton
Camp Barakel
PO Box 159
Fairview, MI 48621-0159
www.campbarakel.org

“For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the GLORY forever! Amen.” Romans 11:36

Ski boots are being packed away, HIS-ability Camp registrations have come in, and spring cleaning has begun. The Lord gave us another successful winter retreat season, and as always we have much for which to thank Him.

Here’s a look back at what this winter held for me...

Christmastime



←The Linsleys (I’m holding their daughter Tylee) took me into town to experience a Fairview tradition-the hardware store’s VIP sale. A majority of staff families, including super shoppers Dave and Daniel Douglas (w/ me in the pic), came out looking for bargains and hoping to win some of the door prizes.



Immanuel Bible Church in Saginaw, one of our member churches, →

chose the Barakel staff as their Christmas gift project. They invited us to attend a service and have dinner with them afterwards, and then blessed our socks off with their generosity! My mom spent her teen years at the church, so it was an added blessing for me to meet some friends of my grandparents.

The Barakel Bash-the annual reunion for those who’ve been on summer staff.



It was great being home with my family for Christmas!

Winter Retreats



We are all encouraged to see that our numbers were up from the past few winters, and are praying this trend continues into the coming seasons. We even made a little “Barakel history” the last weekend by having our first all-camp combined Jr/Sr High teen retreat, with everyone from both sides of camp meeting for chapel on the East Side.



The Lord blessed us with lots of snow for most of the retreat season. We were again able to have tubing open every weekend, and skiing all but two.

My parents (below) came up several times to work in the kitchen and spend time with me. We couldn’t run retreats without the many wonderful people like them who volunteer their weekends to help us! At right Luke Cyrus, who spent 3 weeks with us doing music and program, helps a skier.



One Saturday we had 80 skiers, the most in one weekend since I started in 2005!! We had to improvise in laying the boots out to dry! →



Keeping The Tubing Hill Open 101... (thanks to Mike, Lee, Noah, Jeremy, Jon and Calvin!)



1. Snowblow or shovel snow into the back of a pick-up and drive it to the tubing hill...

2. Shovel snow out of truck onto a tarp at the top of the hill



3. Drag tarp with snow, down the hill to the bare spots.

4. Shovel snow onto bare spots and pack it down to form a solid base.



Good Times...

Alisha Krystyn Calvin



Luke

With Good Friends!



Kaytlyn

One of the biggest encouragements the past few months has been having four of my friends on seasonal staff: Alisha (here Jan-Aug for the 3rd year!), and three of the Bradley siblings—Calvin, Kaytlyn and Krystyn. We were also blessed to have Luke join us for a few weeks as a guest musician for weekends and an extra pair of hands during the week. These five people provided so much fellowship and many, many laughs. Above left: my birthday dinner with the seasonal staff and Becky at Browns'. Above right: seasonal staff steak night at my house.

A group of us ladies took a trip down to the IKEA store in Canton to buy supplies for summer handcraft projects. Our 5 full shopping carts drew quite a few strange looks and even a few questions from people who wondered what in the world we were doing!

Looking Ahead at the Camp Schedule...

March-April: lots of spring cleaning, maintenance, and prep for summer; traveling to see friends, family and supporters

May:

1-2 Co-Labor Challenge
8-9 Co-Labor Challenge
15-17 Mother/Daughter & Men's Retreats
22-25 Memorial Day Family Camp

If you're at all interested in lending a hand during the Co-Labor weekends, or attending one of our retreats, drop me an e-mail and I'll get you the right information, or check out our website at www.campbarakel.org! I'd love the opportunity to introduce you to our Barakel staff family and ministry!



Praise & Prayer

~**Praise** for another great winter camping season! We've heard some exciting stories about things God has done this winter in the hearts and lives of campers!

~**Praise** for safety in traveling the times I had to drive through really bad snowstorms this winter

~**Praise** for the small group of staff ladies who I meet with every Tuesday evening for fellowship and spiritual growth.

~**Pray** that I'll continue to fall more in love with Christ

~**Pray** that the Lord will give me wisdom and creativity as I put together presentations and promotion for our '09 summer mission project

~**Pray** for the Lord to provide the needed staff for this summer. We are in great need of nurses! If you're interested in possibly serving as a nurse, please call camp at 989-848-2279.