



The Northern Reporter



CAMP BARAKEL

News and Notes from the Shaws

November 2011

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A Season for Remembering and Giving Thanks

We were the new 'kids' on the trails around camp. In fact, the trails were covered with snow—lots of it. (Enough for Elaine to keep getting stuck in!) It was the first week of November 40 years ago, when we joined Barakel staff the first time around. Little did we know that 20 years later we would be returning to staff after a 15 year interim in Lansing. The staff family was considerably smaller then, still made up of families, couples and singles. Looking back, we're **thankful** for last-
ing lessons and precious memories here at camp when we were...

Newly married, young and energetic, eager and flexible.

Learning for the first time together to trust God to meet our needs.

Growing in our faith by leaps and bounds as we experienced amazing answers with His direct supply.

Living with 'critters', telephone party lines, sharing rides to Alpena, and loving it. (*Uh, just some of the critters!*)

Driving a bus to Lansing and back on Monday, then becoming a counselor the week, beginning Monday night.

Leading Canadian wilderness trips, and taking trips to 'Base Camp' in Canada with the Staff men.

Hearing seasoned missionaries and speakers down in Chapel communicate the realities of knowing God well.

Playing the piano for Chapel sessions (even deaf camp!) and learning to 'play' words from a heart of conviction.

Discovering the joy of serving God while seeing others experience God's truth and grace.

Fast Forward to 2011

Many things change in life; some things never do. How **thankful** we are to know for sure that we can count on our Father in heaven remaining the same.

"I, the Lord, change not." Malachi 3:6

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever." Hebrews 13:8

We **give thanks** for the people that have come our way in various roles this year, winter through fall —

☛ Camper-wise, over 7,300 campers of all ages joined us, including 78 physically and mentally impaired adults who enjoyed a week of summer camp with lots of 'Tender Loving Care' from staff and volunteers.

☛ Two-thousand positions were filled by volunteers (teens through adults). God ministered among and through them!

☛ Several international campers were scattered between the camping events, some just gaining fluency in English.

*Time after time, God's Word was proclaimed and understood through hearts of faith. **Thanks** be to God for lives transformed!*

Elaine recently met a mom who remembered putting her young son on one of the Barakel buses in Lansing around 20 years ago. She shared, full of **thanks** to God, that he learned much here at camp year after year, never let it go, and now is serving God as a pastor. No doubt, the Lord sent others on home turf to encourage him on his way. **Thanks** is our response for this life-story too, and for each servant of God with whom we share the privilege of lifting up Jesus as Lord.

Thank you for your part in our lives. Between now and January we look forward to more time with family and friends both near and far. We're **thankful** for more time to be in circulation since there are no camping events scheduled these last two months of the year. Blessings to you during the entire holiday season. May the Lord fill you with His peace, joy and love!

