

The Northern Reporter

News and Notes from the Shaws

CAMP BARAKEL

July 2010

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It's been a long time since you have received an update from the Shaws. Many of you have faithfully persevered in prayer, watching for God on our behalf. We are humbled and grateful for your love and interest in our lives. We have waited to be able to share what we hoped would be good news, in the midst of 'life'.

The good news is that Terry is feeling much better. He has been working steadily at one place or another each day, gaining relief from back and leg pain since June. No bus driving this year though. That was a tough adjustment for him – he's been driving every summer for 23 years! Here's a word straight from Terry:

Mid-July brings as anniversary for me, one that I really won't celebrate. It has been nearly one year since I slipped on wet steps on the "Wolf Bus".

The road to recovery has been up and down, winding around set backs, but progressing toward good health. After several MRI's, x-rays, a bone scan, physical therapy, pain shots, and hundreds of miles, I am experiencing much better improvement.

The current path involves Chiropractic care, traction therapy, massage therapy and nutritional counseling.

I'm very grateful for your prayers, notes of encouragement, and financial assistance, as we continue to travel this road together.

Ephesians 3:14-19 is the passage I've memorized and meditated on all summer.

"For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge — that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

I hope that blesses and encourages you as much as it's helped sustain me these past months.

One of the greatest joys around camp are those Spirit-directed conversations that 'just happen' to meet mutual needs. For me, those conversations sometimes take place when —

Someone stops by my office to chat

The phone rings, and heart-to-heart communication results

Walking on a path or even riding my golf cart

In Dining Hall in a meal line, while eating around a table, or even when delivering the mail!

On a One-on-One appointment with someone

Or on Friday nights when the Part Time Staff gather around a campfire in RV Park

It's not hard to find common ground when we are grounded in Christ!

Phil and Marie Starks are faithful servants of Christ wherever they go, it seems, and have prayed much for us through the ups and downs of the past year. Our friendship began when Phil worked on a construction project with Terry one summer. He is an avid fisherman and has used his skills in catching fish to bless us with meals of delicious bluegill, perch and pike from the packages he fillets and freezes for us. Marie serves with a smile in one of the kitchens while Phil works construction.



At one of our Part Time Staff campfires, Phil favored us with a vocal solo. With his rich baritone voice, he put to music in a song entitled, *This Time*, what many of us experience through trials:

There were the little hills that seemed so hard to climb,
There were even times I thought I'd lose my mind,
But I didn't know that just around the bend
Stood the greatest hill that life could ever send.
And this time you gave me a mountain dear Lord,
A mountain I'm too weak to climb.
And this time I need you like never before.
Hold my hand. Guide my feet.
Help me climb this mountain steep.

Through the pouring rain the path I cannot see,
And the falling leaves say that winter's soon to be,
Yet in my heart I know your way is best for me,
For these very trials have brought me to my knees.
And this time you gave me a mountain dear Lord,
A mountain I'm too weak to climb.
And this time I need you like never before.
Hold my hand. Guide my feet.
Help me climb this mountain steep.

As recorded on a CD entitled Empty Fields, by Joe Pearles

Alongside the trials has been the evidence of God's faithfulness, once again:

- ✚ Wise counsel that led us to pursue the current healthcare plan
- ✚ Our family doctor who is all for us in this pursuit.
- ✚ Financial provision to make it possible
- ✚ Peace, patience and perseverance in making life-style changes.
- ✚ Ministry in the midst (both giving and receiving)

Summer Camp does require the major focus of our attention, it's true. We thank our God each day for the privilege of serving Him. In fact, I was just listening to some CD's on Saturday that I had loaded onto my iPod. I think this one might have been Mom and Dad Murphy's. I recognized the tune as "The Longer I Serve Him," and my heart sang along. "The longer we serve Him, the sweeter He grows. The more that we love Him, more love He bestows..."

How thankful we are for the peace of knowing that Mom and Dad Murphy are with Jesus. We think of them often, sensing that they would cheer us on toward eternal goals, especially since they are **experiencing** eternity. Mom and Dad Shaw are persevering through difficult days with Mom's health needs, but continue to receive tender attention from Terry's two brothers, their wives and their families downstate. They too go before us by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

As you pray for us, please pray that we will live out each day content to follow the Spirit's lead rather than our own agendas, focused on Christ far more than on self.

Pray that many more will understand and embrace the Gospel personally during the summer ministry. Many have claimed Jesus as Lord, and now are on home turf. Pray that God will send a mentor to each one.

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."

Ephesians 3:20,21

With Love,

Terry and Elaine