



Spring Update 2018

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Summer 2018: Rooted

May has arrived. The countdown is on until the summer 2018 camp season begins. Deans are actively preparing camp schedules, recruiting faculty, writing lessons, & praying for campers who will be at their sessions. We are thankful for & amazed by our 40+ volunteer deans & 300+ additional faculty who will give their time, love, & energy to over 1,000 young people this summer. Register a camper or sign up to volunteer at a session by clicking on any "Register Now" button on our website.



Guest Groups

Wow! What a fun & busy time of year this is, as we transition from guest group season to summer camping season. This past weekend we had a full house with both of our main camp facilities booked for Jr. High Youth events. Our block cabins are being opened this week (Thanks Krogstie family) in preparation for the Memorial Day Campout & summer campers.

A ministry highlight this time of year is serving local school groups that come to THE ARK for day events. We love the opportunity for kids to get a glimpse of Jesus. Please join us in praying for those students. Pray that a school event here would open the door for a relationship with Our Creator.

Coming Up

Camp Clean Up Day: 8 am—2 pm	May 19
Memorial Day Campout	May 25-28
Camp Open House: 2—5 pm	May 27
Summer Camp Sessions	June 2—August 2
Legacy Day, 9 am—2:45 pm	August 7
Ladies Retreat	September 14-15

Please RSVP for these events online or by phone: 765-395-3638, www.thearkcm.org

Thanks to our Volunteers

This spring several groups have given of their time and talents to help improve and cleanup facilities and grounds. We are extremely thankful!



Logan Wuethrich, former Programming Director at THE ARK and Craig Beatty, former ARK staff & Missionary to Puerto Rico, brought a group from their church in Chesterton, IN. This group spent their spring break chopping wood & cleaning up the grounds in preparation for summer camp sessions.

Youth & sponsors from Pisgah Christian Church also spent part of their spring break working at THE ARK.



In April, Bachelor Creek Church of Christ brought this amazing work group. Amongst other things, they chopped and stacked firewood that'll be used for summer campfires.

Intern Update: Jacob



Jacob & Sifelani

Jacob, a two-year Intern at THE ARK, recently returned from spending 6 months with a missionary partner in Zimbabwe.

“For those who don't know me, I like to dance. Now I don't mean waltz, salsa, or break dance. I mean listening to music and moving to the mood and how it connects to the way I feel—just a simple dance that anyone can do. While in Zimbabwe, we had a revival or what we would probably call today a church conference. As we were worshiping and giving God praise, I was next to the Associate Pastor, whose name was Pastor Magumise. He and I put our arms across each other's shoulders and danced our hearts out to God. I can't describe the feeling of having a brother who seemed so different in every way that was so essentially similar in really the only thing that mattered: praising and loving God. We danced all night. Sometimes, he took the lead and I would follow. Then, I'd take the lead, and he would follow. I was overcome with the Holy Spirit and could picture in my head God and Jesus smiling down on us as we were dancing our hearts out—sweating like crazy to give glory to God that night in the moonlight within The Great Zimbabwe.”

Welcome Tim, Dan, Rosie & Terry

We're thrilled to introduce Tim Hayes as our new “Volunteer, Volunteer Maintenance Coordinator.” The end of April, Tim retired and decided to share his experience & expertise by organizing and caring for our maintenance shop and supplies. In addition, we welcome Terry & Rosie Renbarger back for their second summer of living onsite in their 5th wheel & volunteering in the areas of maintenance & office work.



Tim Hayes

Last, but not least, we're thankful for Dan Morris, a familiar face at THE ARK, who's parking a camper in our RV Park and volunteering to help keep our grounds mowed & ready for campers. These folks, & many more, are the backbone of this ministry.

Intern Update: Troy

Troy, also a two-year Intern, spent his overseas time with a ministry in Japan.

“Hobbies are a serious endeavor in Japan. The general expectation is that everyone has one or maybe two hobbies and most of an individual's spare time and money will be committed to that hobby. The more passionate, the better.”

I remember my surprise the first time I walked into the local arcade at Aeon Mall. For a while, I watched as a group of



Japanese played the latest Final Fantasy game at a set of four linked booths. These games are centered around telling long stories and slowly leveling up characters - I never expected to see something like that with an “Insert Coin” screen! However, I learned that for many Japanese people, games like this may be their chosen hobby. They gather a few times each week at the arcade to play in groups, or individually to improve their skills for their next meet-up.

One day I went with some others to visit a nearby woodworking expo. More than one hundred carpenters competed for the finest, thinnest wood shave with a planer. There was no prize and no admission price, only carpenters and craftsman demonstrating their skill and discussing their hobby. On the way back we visited a pizza parlor where the owner offered us some of his own handmade leather elephant charms. He noticed the fading in my leather wallet and offered to polish it for me, and also instructed me on how to properly maintain it in the future.

This culture of community passion is fertile ground for growth in the Japanese church, but a high barrier to foreign-born missionaries. Japanese culture is a collection of these separate communities who love to discuss their passions with one another. When an insider displays their personal passion for Christ, the gospel can spread quickly within that community. But an outsider's beliefs—no matter how novel or appealing—are rarely entertained on a personal level.”