



# 2023 Summer Review

*If Anyone is in Christ, he is a New Creation...*

### How Did I Become A Missionary?

by Jill Shaw, 2023 Summer Missionary in Residence

Of all the questions I received this summer, and there were many as I spoke with each camp group several times, my favorites must be, "How did you become a missionary?" and "How do I become a missionary?"

Answering this in very practical steps was easy: **Know God. Know the Bible. Know your world. Serve locally. Gather a team.**

Answering the heart of the question was more challenging for me and my listeners. Becoming a missionary is taking the Lordship of Jesus Christ seriously, actually doing what Jesus expects of us.

In the summer missions experiences, we simulated refugees fleeing for their lives, reminded that our Lord was a baby refugee who fled to Africa. We used chairs in role-play, practicing 1 Corinthians 9:22, "seeking common ground with everyone." We discussed ensuring people with disabilities fully participated and belonged in our congregations.

Exploring this with the campers clarified the mission, the all-important for eternity mission at the core of the Church, of this camp, and every Christian.

How did I become a missionary? Significantly through the ministry of this camp 50 years ago. Where do missionaries come from anyway?

### Summer Numbers

932 Campers Attended  
31 Camp Sessions

375+ Volunteers  
Kitchen, Office, Grounds,  
Maintenance, & Faculty

41 Campers Accepted Christ  
& were Baptized at THE ARK

\$14,454 Given in  
Missions Offering

### 75 Years and Counting

On August 6, we celebrated 75 years of ministry by throwing a birthday party open house. Here are two photos from that fun afternoon. Thank you to so many of you who've given your time, talents, and treasure over these 75 years to share the gospel of Jesus and your lives with students.

We can't wait to see what God has in store for the next 75 years!







## Your Gifts of Time & Treasure Make Camp Sessions Happen by Bruce Cameron, Executive Director

It was mid-May. The pool contractor walked off the job. We knew we were behind. Even if he had stayed, there was no way the pool would be operational by the first week of June when camp started.

So, Larry York (Facilities Manager) and I talked, and our whole team prayed. We started making calls and were quickly blown away! We have always said, "Volunteers are the heart of THE ARK." This summer proved it! Mick & Blair Chaplin, Ted Nichols, Steve Mechling, Levi Biggs, and countless others helped us run water lines, pour concrete, mount plumbing fixtures, put up lights, and even hang the water fountain.

Due to state regulations, the new pool slide (generously donated) took much work to install. But, with persistence and the expert work of ARK board member Joey Schlatter, it was operational on the first day of camp.

Andrew King had his crew install a new fence around the pool, which is also required for safety. The local fire department hauled water for three days to fill the pool!

One dedicated volunteer came to see where we were on the project and stood and shook his head. It had been two weeks, and he was blown away that we were operational. He said, "I didn't think you would get this done till the middle of summer."

Once again, we cooperate to do together what none of us could do on our own!

## Church & Business Donors

We are thankful for all of the churches, businesses & foundations that give. Here are those who gave \$1,000+ between January - July 2023:

- Arcadia Christian Church
- Bachelor Creek Church of Christ
- Chaplain and Sons Construction
- Church of Christ at Treaty
- Cicero Christian Church
- Connect Christian Camp & Retreat Center
- Cross Lane Community Church
- East Union Christian Church
- Faith Church of Christ
- First Christian Church of Francesville
- Fortville Christian Church
- Frankton Christian Church
- Harvest Community Christian Church
- Hickory Grove Church
- JD Levy & Associates
- Jerome Christian Church
- Ladybug Cleaners
- Macy Christian Church
- Main Street Christian Church
- McKillip Machinery
- Omega Christian Church
- Pisgah Christian Church
- Refuge Christian Church
- University Christian Church
- Upper Deer Creek Church
- Walton Christian Church

## Giving to THE ARK

Mail your check to THE ARK in the provided envelope.

Give online at [www.thearkcm.org](http://www.thearkcm.org) and click on any donate button.

Give by Bill Pay or EFT - contact your bank or our office.



*Thanks for giving to grow the Kingdom!*

## Hallowed Be His Name by Josh Winrotte, Dean

"It's time to give back." That thought crossed my mind in the fall of 2022 when Mande, my wife, started working at THE ARK. Rainbow (as I cannot help but call the camp at times) and the Cameron family had done so much to help me discover who I was. I wanted to give back in a way that would help someone else be deeply impacted. So I listened to that small Voice and asked the staff to find a place for me to give back to the place that helped shape the man I am today.

Boy, did they ever find a spot: Middle School Thai Huts at the end of July! Middle School Thai huts in the middle of a snake-filled swamp. Middle School Thai Huts during the hottest week of the year so far. Middle School Thai Huts when I had never led a week of camp before. Most of all, Middle School Thai Huts with a group of kids and faculty that reminded me why camp is vital, not just for kids but the adults who listen to the Voice that says, "It's time to give back!"

Our focus for the summer was the phrase, "Hallowed be Thy Name." It was dedicated to the names and identities of Jesus. We spent a week talking about who Jesus is and who we are in Him. We spent a week laughing, crying, muddy, smelly, worshiping, arguing, cooking, and committed to doing all those things together. If you ask the kids their favorite memory of the week, it might be the mudslide, the zipline, the giant swing, the nighttime snacks, the worship, or any number of things. If you ask the adults, it wasn't the bathrooms, the hammocks, or even the mosquitos, but it was the chance to hear worship sung by voices who know Who is their King. It was the chance to be in small groups as kids acknowledged their Savior who died for each of them. It was the quiet of the morning when two kids were heard talking about what having Jesus as their friend meant to them. You see, I didn't give back this summer as a Dean. I didn't provide an epiphany for the youth at Thai Huts. Instead, the reminder of why Camp matters was given back to me, a father, a son, an elder, a teacher, but most of all, a Child of the One True King, Hallowed Be His Name!

