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We are thankful for the heroes of the past who built the foundation that we stand on today, impacting more people in more powerful ways than they ever dreamed. THE ARK is positioned to grow in the coming years. It is primed to reach more school-aged children than ever before. Children who need to hear about God's love for them and grow in relationship with him. But **THE ARK needs new heroes to make this happen. It needs you.** Because you understand the value of its ministry and the difference it makes here on Earth and in Heaven. It needs you as a hero to meet the challenges it faces and join in, being part of the solution to create a ministry that impacts generations to come.



Dick Maple, Charlie Runkle, Jim Chaplin, Sterline Bickle, Rod Cameron, Bob Oswalt at Cave Ground Breaking
August 1979

What is the challenge? Summer time, our prime time to host camps and conduct our ministry, has been shorted by the balanced school calendar. To ensure that THE ARK can offer Bible-Based, Christ-Centered, and Mission-Minded camping experiences to children across northern-Indiana **we must extend our camp offerings beyond the shortened summer.** To do so calls for constructing new winterized housing, securing staffing, and meeting budget needs for operation throughout the entire year.

The building of the conference center was a part of that answer. However, what we have discovered is that our camp simply does not have enough overnight sleeping space for the size of groups that we can program for in the non-summer months. **While the camp has enough room to program, it doesn't have enough heated sleeping space.**

Our camp also does not have enough staff. This isn't summer vacation when college-age young people are on break. **Our camp needs personnel to run after school programs, school day groups, weekend retreats, and week-long events with schools and churches that are on Fall, Christmas, or Spring breaks.**

Lastly, **our camp needs the monthly committed support needed to ensure its year-round operation.** It costs \$50,000 monthly to keep this ministry operating. That's \$50,000 to ensure THE ARK is making a difference for God's Kingdom each and every day.

What is the solution? The solution is three fold.

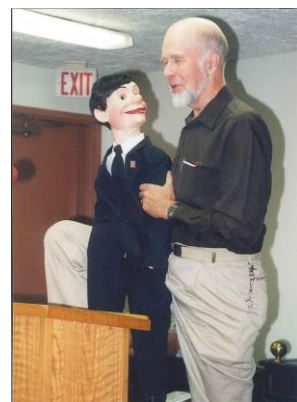
- 1) To offer camping opportunities at THE ARK all year long by increasing heated bed space through the construction of a new lake-side lodge building designed for year-round use. The first building is intended for use by the summer of 2017. Cost is \$150,000. It will sleep 40.
- 2) To enhance the capacity of THE ARK's staffing by increasing the internship program to 20 interns by 2020.
- 3) Securing \$50,000 in **monthly** committed support from alumni, parents, grandparents, and believers in THE ARK's vision by coming together to do what none of us could do by ourselves and ensure the future of THE ARK.

What can you do to help? In order to achieve these goals, THE ARK must realize \$50,000 in committed monthly support plus \$150,000 additional funds to start construction of one new lakeside lodge by Fall 2016. This can only happen through your partnership. **Will you join us in prayer for the future of THE ARK Christian Ministries? Will you become a modern day hero and invest in the future of THE ARK and all the lives it will impact by making a special gift at this time to the construction of the new lake-side lodge? Will you become a Hero of Faith by making a committed monthly gift that will make a difference in all generations to come?**

Please join us in honoring our Heroes of Faith from years past and become a hero today as you secure the future ministry of THE ARK as we make disciples of young people in reaching the world with the love of Jesus. Please complete and return the enclosed card and send it to the camp today with your prayerful support both in regular giving and in a special gift at this time.

May God's Kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven,

Bruce R Cameron
Executive Director



Rod Cameron & Gabby

PS. – Consider a memorial gift to honor one of our heroes of the past. We will be posting plaques in the North Hallway of the Conference Center in a Hall of Faith to honor those who faithfully served in the past.

Jim Chaplin (Grandpa Jim to many of us) who gave years of his life in building the buildings on this holy ground. He and his family sweat and worked in many ways to provide the facilities that we currently enjoy. **Rod Cameron** who endowed this place with a Bible Based, Christ Centered, and Mission Minded vision. **Ed Crouch** who consistently made sure that all the children from his congregation got to attend camp. His daughter and her husband continue that tradition even though the personal financial cost to them is great. **John Leinbaugh** who volunteered here in many ways and engaged the people of Bachelor Creek in this ministry to young people. **Larry Manning** who served for 800 years as our treasurer... maybe not that long. **Jim Snapp I** who helped lead 3rd grade camps for years. He always entertained with his magic/sleight of hand and taught the kids Bible lessons through it. **Dick Maple** who chaired the board and in his hardheaded ways made sure something was happening leading the board in the construction of the first year round retreat facility (the cave). **Bob Oswalt** who helped in much of the initial construction in the move of the camp from the river and whose handiwork I see every day in the cabinets he built in the house that I live in. **Larry Sausaman** who loved wilderness and Jungle Huts and to whom a cooking hut is dedicated as "Larry's Kitchen". And **Russel Sroufe** whose vision helped found this place and whose family landscaped the cave. Each of them with their own story that is now our story because they gave and served so sacrificially.

Business Plan behind this Fund Raising Strategy

Why \$50,000? Well, if you figure that we bring in \$250,000 for camper fees and \$80,000 for rental fees, that leaves \$570,000 still to support the ministry (\$900,000 annual budget). We often are forced into firemen mode simply rushing around dealing with things that are broken. And that because we don't have the money to replace or repair what is broken. This past summer was a good example with heat pumps, sewer lift pumps, water heaters and such that had to be repaired. In August we sent out an appeal which you answered in a large way and caught us up financially. But this was after the fact.... we need a business plan:

1. **Funded Depreciation.** Every asset has an expiration date. We need to lay back funds to help with the replacement of carpets, heat pumps, paint, roofs, vehicles, and the other things which to date have been handled as a crisis when they break down. By having our costs covered monthly we can begin to build this Funded Depreciation Account for use when the needs arise. This develops our sustainability.
2. **6 Month Cash Reserve.** This is solid budgeting practice. We need to have 6 months of operation cash in the bank for emergencies. Again, just good business practices.
3. **Early Mortgage Repayment.** Anything extra we pay goes against the principle and lowers our overall interest we have on the loan. A \$50,000 payment now would save us \$50,000 over the life of the loan. In other words, what we pay in now works like a 100% match. It is completely doubled.
4. **Budgeting realistically** for items that currently get left out of the budget because of cash flow. These are items like building improvements, some bigger repairs that are more cosmetic rather than operational, painting in a timely manner, kitchen equipment replacement, technology like phone system and computers and infrastructure.
5. **Developing an aggressive scholarship plan** to actively scholarship everyone who attends a week of camp. Currently 80% of everyone who attends receives financial help from somewhere.

So, to net it out, raising \$50,000 monthly committed support allows us to act less like firemen and more like ministers.



Dick Maple, Paul Bacon, Bev Cameron, Sterling Bickle at Board Meeting shaping the future of THE ARK Christian Ministries.



Brett Howard, Jill Upchurch, Rod Cameron, Doug Roberts



Old Mill at Pearson's Mill/Rainbow



Andy Hudelson, Rod Cameron, Larry Brandon, Larry Sausaman



Grandpa Jim Chaplin, Terry Chaplin, ?? Keith Cramer, Dick Moser, Todd Moser



Baptisms at Old Swimming Pool



??, Jodie Edwards, Mike Vinopal, Jed Tudor, ??, Joan Manning, Larry Manning



Rod Cameron & Bob Simpson by the Dome donated by Terry Durkes