

Riverside Reader

...a Biblically-based, cost-compassionate, small-camp experience

IN THIS ISSUE

Main Article	1
Director's Letter ELEVATE	2
IGNITE INFUSE	3
Haiti	4-5
Stewardship	6
Calendar Most Wanted	7

Summer Camp 2024

by Lucero Olson, Program Director

Riverside is a place where people of all ages come to know Jesus and all He has done for us. It's a place where anyone can learn something new about God and grow in their faith and relationship with Him. It's a place where staff, volunteers, and campers alike have the opportunity to share their knowledge and love of Christ with someone who doesn't have a relationship with Him.

This summer at Riverside, we are focusing on being "One." One in mind, body, spirit, faith, and God. This idea comes from Ephesians 4:4-6 which says,

"There is one body and one Spirit — just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call — one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

In the preceding verses, Paul urges the people he is writing to in Ephesus to "... walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called ... eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (Eph. 4:1-3)

This summer we will urge staff, volunteers and campers to walk in a manner worthy of their calling. God calls each person to serve

Him in different ways, but all believers are called to follow Jesus and, therefore, live like Him. Practically, staff and volunteers will be equipped and encouraged to build up the body of Christ by teaching, leading, and caring for the campers. Campers will hear the truth of who God is, and who we can be and are to be because of what Jesus did on the cross; and we will look to Jesus, who will make this body of Christ grow and be built up in love. It is as Paul says in verses 15 and 16,

"Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love."

As we are focusing on this theme of "One," please pray that we can be united in peace with one another, that God will use this scripture and the teaching that comes from it to bring children and adults to a saving knowledge of Jesus, and that we will all build each other up in love as Christ continues to make us grow. ■

CELEBRATING
90
YEARS

In November, Riverside kicked off its "\$90K for 90 years" campaign to fund the construction of Zarephath, and you all answered the call in a big way! As of March 1st, over \$58K has been raised! What an amazing way to start Riverside's 90th anniversary! Work on Zarephath has been on-going through the winter and we are excited about the progress being made. If you'd like to be a part of its funding, it's not too late! Please include "\$90K for 90 years" on the memo line of your gift.



Letter from the Director



Darrie Nelson
Executive Director

This Place We Call Riverside

You may not be aware, but a milestone is fast approaching here at Riverside. This significant event in the ministry life at Riverside reminds us of the significance of what has come before and should invigorate us into the future. More significantly, recognizing this achievement should cause us to rejoice in the Lord and His amazing provision.

Riverside's milestone is one that a few of us may have already achieved, many of us may never reach, but hopefully all of us can appreciate. **Riverside is turning 90 years old this year.** Ninety years ago this August, a small group of Christ followers gathered on the banks of the Tomorrow River. They desired a place for families, especially children, to gather and come to know, grow in, and then be able to share the wonderful truths about our Savior.

The amazing thing is that now, ninety years later, that continues to occur at this little spot on the banks of the Tomorrow River. Praise the Lord! It has always been my prayer and heart's desire to be a part of seeing the ministry that occurs at Riverside continue until the glorious return of our Lord. I may not be around when He does return, but I pray Riverside is standing strong on that day.

To ensure Riverside continues to be a place of spiritual new beginnings, we are embarking on a revitalization of the physical structures that enable ministry to happen at Riverside. Some of you are already a part of that process with the Zarephath project, so, thank you. There will be much more to come, so stay tuned for more ways you can be a part of ensuring that "this place we call Riverside" is standing strong ninety years from now. ■

ELEVATE

By Molly McGinn, Assistant Program Director

What a weekend! Our 2024 Elevate retreat was a huge success with 21 young adults in attendance. Even though the weather was on the warmer side, we made the best of it! Many of the young adults enjoyed playing board games, getting to know one another on a deeper level, exploring the not-so-snowy trails, and a handful of the group decided to take advantage of the icy cold river and did a polar plunge!

Every year, this retreat allows young adults to take a break from the craziness of life to rest and build deeper relationships with each other and, most importantly, with Christ. A super special moment from the weekend was when a couple got engaged Saturday afternoon on the bridge by the cabin of David! It was so sweet to celebrate with them as they stepped into the next stage of their lives. This year, our sessions were broken up between a morning Bible study that focused more on reflection and group discussion, and then a more traditional evening session with worship and a message. Our speaker, Ray Haas, focused on how to live the Christian life and what that looks like in our own lives. It was awesome to see where each person was at with their faith and how they planned to apply what they learned as they went home. This retreat was such a special time to bask in the goodness of our God and a great reminder that true rest comes from Him and Him alone. ■



IGNITE

by Lucero Olson, Programming Director

This year, God chose to challenge us with what we would consider to be less than ideal conditions for our winter camps. No snow for sledding, and no ice for broomball. Regardless, Ignite was a blast with 25 Junior High campers attending, and about 20 volunteers filling different roles from cabin leaders and cooks to our RSI students. We enjoyed the beautiful weather by playing some more traditional camp games involving more running and exploring. One challenge was a team photo scavenger hunt, and another was a very high-octane version of rock-paper-scissors!

Campers heard from our speaker, Angel Coronado, about a few people in the Bible that tried to run away from God. Angel shared how these people tried to run away, but God ultimately brought them back to Himself and met them with forgiveness and salvation. Campers heard how they can also always come back to God and be met with forgiveness if they desire it. It was a great weekend of worship, growth, and fun! ■



INFUSE

by Molly McGinn, Assistant Program Director

We had a full house for our 2024 Infuse winter retreat, with 58 Highschool students and 13 young adult cabin leaders! Our speaker, Josh Guerrero, has been involved in the ministry at Riverside for many years, but this was his first time speaking to the students. He was incredibly relatable and met the kids where they were at by presenting the Gospel in a way that brought fresh perspective on how to take our faith to the next level. Breakout sessions allowed the campers to dive deeper and apply what Josh spoke on to their daily lives. For a winter

ANNUAL ASSOCIATION WEEKEND Friday & Saturday April 19th & 20th, 2024

All Riverside Bible Conference Association Members and spouses are encouraged to attend. Friday night lodging is available.

Weekend Schedule

6pm Friday - Celebration Supper & Service
9am Saturday Morning - "This is our Eden"
12pm - Lunch is served
1:30pm - Annual Business Meeting

Interested in joining the Association and being a part of the governing body of Riverside?

Contact Mickey at
mickey@riversidebiblecamp.org
or 630-235-1948

Why should I join the Association?

- I believe in the ministry of Riverside.
- I want to use my skills to serve the Lord.
- I want to be a part of Riverside's future plans.

retreat, it felt more like spring, and we had to get creative with new activities to replace the typical broomball and sledding. The kids enjoyed games like giant tic-tac-toe, a new take on rock paper scissors, and a photo scavenger hunt. Campers had a lot of fun getting creative with the photo prompts and our program director, Lucero, made a slideshow out of the goofy photos to show everyone during one session. As always, it was such a joy to watch the students be silly and have a good time while also growing deeper in their relationship with Christ. ■



Being the Church by Building the Church

by Darrie Nelson, Executive Director



Pignon, Haiti



WARNING: The following account of Riverside's Mission to Haiti contains some graphic material that readers might find upsetting.

“

*...they put a gun in her mouth and pulled the trigger, killing my cousin...
We fled our home with nothing three weeks ago because it's not safe...
we have felt such terror and seen so many awful things, I cannot talk about them.”*

”

This is the heart wrenching testimony from a mother of three who now cares for her cousin's 5-month-old orphan as well. It is just one of the stories our team encountered on our recent trip to Haiti. The sights and sounds of a people existing, in many cases, in extreme poverty has left a lasting imprint on the hearts and minds of the seven individuals from Riverside and Faith Community Church who answered the call to serve in Haiti.

During January of this year, this small group of mission-minded people traveled to Pignon, Haiti. It was our goal to be an encouragement to a people living with challenges that we, in America, seldom think of and have probably never encountered. As the leader of a number of Riverside-sponsored mission trips over the past several years, this most recent trip stands out. Violence and kidnappings have been plaguing its capital, Port-au-Prince, since July of 2021 leaving over 300,000 people homeless. We encountered a number of those families on our trip and experienced firsthand the suffering left in the wake of close to 5,000 murders and over 2,500 kidnappings in just the last 12 months.

Pastor Desi - along with his wife, mother, and 2 children - is another example of how lawless gang warfare has ravaged a city and its people. Gang members entered Pastor Desi's church in Port-au-Prince and ordered that he shut down immediately and leave the area or his family and congregants would be killed. The church building was "needed" by the gangs, so Pastor Desi took his family and a small group from his congregation and fled the only homes they knew. They ended up in the area of Pignon where the mission team from Riverside served for the week.

Pignon, Haiti, as well as other rural parts of the country, is a welcome and relatively safe respite from the ravages of this undeclared war on the Haitian population. Haiti is the most impoverished nation in the Western Hemisphere with only 24% of the population living in a completed home.* Our team had the honor of visiting over 40 of these homes during our time in Haiti and delivered necessary school supplies and needed food items. The team was thankful and extremely blessed by the opportunities we had to encourage, provide supplies, and pray with a seemingly forgotten people in dire need.

You might wonder, with all of the violence and uncertainty, why would we go to Haiti?

In the months leading up to our trip, I asked Beauvoir (*the founder of Providence School and Church, where the mission team served*) if we should cancel our trip, and just send them the money we would save. After all, that would be much safer. His answer was an emphatic, "NO!" He assured us that Pignon was safe and that what his people needed the most was the encouragement they would receive from us going to the expense and trouble of traveling to Haiti when very few still are. As the political and social turmoil continues to tear this country apart during its descent into ever increasing poverty, we encountered the people of Providence Church faithfully believing that God has a plan and that He will provide for them. ■

*Poverty in Haiti - statistics & facts | Statista

Since writing this article in February, the political situation in Haiti has deteriorated significantly. The Prime Minister has been forced to resign and been denied re-entry into the country, the airports have been closed, shipping ports seized, and violent gangs retain control of the Capital.



The mission team on the plane from Miami to Haiti, flown by Missionary Flights International.



Darrie with Beauvoir Deshommes, founder of the Providence School, church, and orphanage.



Classrooms of the Christian School of Providence.



Delivering food & supplies to students' homes.



Anne & Darrie witnessing to the local witch doctor.



Distributing rice to the school families and community.



Laying a concrete floor for the church.

While in Haiti, we:

- distributed hundreds of pounds of rice and supplies.
- visited the homes of over 40 different families.
- employed 34 Haitians, supplied the funds for construction, and helped with the building of a church.
- witnessed to a Witch Doctor.
- participated in class sessions throughout the week at Providence Christian School.
- gathered daily with over 40 widows to "share" Jesus' love.
- immersed ourselves in the lives of 22 orphanage children to "show" Jesus' love.
- worshipped 5 consecutive nights and a Sunday morning with a resilient people that show an amazing commitment to Jesus in spite of their circumstances.

Stewardship

Sustaining Riverside Financial Report Fiscal Year: May 1, 2023 - April 30, 2024

	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>
General Fund Income:	\$ 193,047.93	\$ 150,000
General Fund Expense:	\$ 192,941.60	\$ 150,000
Current Surplus/(Deficit): <small>as of Feb. 27th, 2024</small>	\$ 106.33	



“Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely, who conduct their affairs with justice.”
Psalms 112:5

How to Give

Mail a Check

Text “riverside” to 40101

Use the MyWell Giving App

Visit the “Donate” Tab on our Website

List Riverside in Your Will or Estate Planning

Give Equipment or Property (Gift-in-Kind)

Volunteer

Join our Prayer Team

Scholarship Fund

Last year, 19 students were able to attend summer camps at Riverside because of the faithful donors who contributed to the Scholarship Fund. At Riverside, our desire is to never turn away a child due to financial limitations. The Scholarship Fund makes this possible. If you'd like to give a gift to the Scholarship Fund this year, please designate it in the memo line.



God is the Provider

by Mickey Kaufman, Director of Stewardship Ministries

In the Old Testament, when David gathered from the people of Israel all the materials needed for the building of the Temple of God, where did the supplies come from? Note David's words in his prayer recorded in I Chron. 29 – “Who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You and of Your own we have given You...O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have prepared to build You a house for Your holy name is from Your hand, and is all Your own.” Paul says, “My God shall supply all your needs...” God owns it all, and He gives us all we need to fulfill His purposes. Do you believe this? ■

What does God say?

Reflect on I Chron. 29:10-19, Phil. 4:19,
& Matt. 6:25-34



PhilanthroCorp

Have you thought about the lasting impact your life will have after you're gone? Riverside has partnered with PhilanthroCorp, a nationwide, Christian estate-planning service, to ensure that the legacy you leave reflects your values and your personal desires. PhilanthroCorp has helped thousands of families create estate plans that meet their goals, save taxes, and support the family members and ministries they care about. Starting with a simple phone call, PhilanthroCorp will work with you to assist in creating a plan just for you.

And the best part? As a friend of Riverside, PhilanthroCorp's planning services are provided at absolutely no cost to you! So, what are you waiting for? It doesn't matter if your assets are few or many. Ensure that your legacy is one that you believe in. Enjoy the peace of mind that comes from knowing that your affairs are in order.

Visit the "Donate" tab on our website to learn how to get started!

riversidebiblecamp.org/donate

TOP 10 most wanted

In-kind donations are a wonderful blessing to Riverside's ministry. Please let us know if you would like to donate an item listed below or if you would like to provide the funds needed to purchase it.

- DVD Player
- 2-4 Seat UTV
- Riding Lawn Mower
- Air Hockey Table
- Measuring Wheel
- Wooden Bench Swings
- 6ft Plastic Tables (Folding Legs)
- Soccer Cones
- Passenger Tire Tubes
- 500-1000 gal. LP Tanks

2024 Calendar

MARCH

26
Marriage Café

APRIL

19-20
Association Weekend

23
Marriage Café

27
Pioneer Women's Day

MAY

3-5
RSI Training Weekend

11
Work Day

25
Spring Open House

JUNE

10-14
VBS - Day Camp

14
Family Fun Night

18-20
Adventure Camp

23-29
Senior High Camp

JULY

7-12
Junior High Camp

14-19
Junior Camp

27-2
TREK - Teen (14-18)

AUGUST

5-11
Homecoming Camp

9-13
TREK - Young Adult

16-18
Summer Family Camp



Looking for more information about one of our events?
Go to riversidebiblecamp.org/programs



RSI Training Weekend | May 3-5, 2024

Mark your calendars! Riverside Servanthood Institute is our teen volunteer program. If your high school student would like to serve at Riverside this summer, then they must attend RSI Training Weekend. During the weekend, students will complete an application to serve, and receive training for the various roles and responsibilities they may have throughout the year. That's right, there are opportunities to serve all year long! Due to the flexibility of the program, students may choose to serve for as many or as few weeks of summer camp as they are able. Summer jobs and family vacations are still possible with the RSI program. Don't wait, register today for RSI Training weekend at riversidebiblecamp.org/programs/rsi.

**Completion of application does not guarantee acceptance to the RSI program. Applicants are interviewed and applications carefully reviewed before an invitation to serve is extended. Students not accepted to the RSI program are encouraged to reapply in following years.*

Pancakes, Wagon Rides, Animals, Farm Games. And that's just a few of the things your family has to look forward to at the Open House!



6355 Cty Rd DD | Amherst, WI | 54406
715.824.3198 | riversidebiblecamp.org

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Amherst, WI
Permit #3

WoRd ScRaMbLe

The Spring Open House & Pancake
Breakfast is coming up soon! Unscramble
the words below to discover what you have
to look forward to on Saturday, May 25th!



cknaePas _ _ _ _ _
gWano edRsi _ _ _ _ _
mAnsila _ _ _ _ _
Fmra mseGa _ _ _ _ _

Find the answer on the bottom of page 7!



Connect With Us!



facebook.com/
riversidebiblecamp.org



riversidebiblecamp



office@riversidebiblecamp.org



riversidebiblecamp.org



(715) 824-3198