

Riverside Reader

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

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"Frank"

by Darrie Nelson, Executive Director

As I entered the upper barn on that frigid December night, I glanced to my right and saw our farm cat, Cleo, perched forlornly on the edge of a bale of hay. It had dropped below zero the night before and something in the cat's demeanor said, "come over here." She quickly led me up and over a stack of hay bales, and I immediately learned the reason for her earnestness. Wedged five bales down, lay two nearly frozen kittens. Kittens that I didn't know were there.

Sadly, one was no longer breathing, and I could tell that the other was barely alive. Twenty-four hours after I brought this seemingly lifeless kitten in from the cold, and after Maria's motherly instinct cared for it throughout the night, "Frank" began to show signs of life.

Twelve weeks later, that little kitten had the spirit of a fighter, and the older cats didn't dare mess with him. Also, twelve weeks later, I wondered at the reasons I even paid attention to a cat on that freezing winter day. Cats are not my favorite animal. I'm extremely allergic to them, and they usually have serious attitude. Sorry, cat lovers, but their main purpose on the farm is to keep the mouse population at bay; however, they are thoroughly enjoyed by most of our little farm visitors.

This experience caused me to marvel at God's creation. That little mama cat couldn't save her tiny kitten on her own, but she found a way to let me know help was needed. The small variety of animals we have at River Hills Farm all display God's design in their own special ways. Zoro, our friendly little pony, displayed an uncanny ability to escape the pasture fencing for many weeks last fall. The other pony, Daisy, and Bell, the horse, were content inside the fence, but not Zoro. Ember, our gentle Red Wattle mamma pig, loves to interact with all visitors and will allow anyone to pet her; that is, up until she has her piglets. Then she morphs into a protective mama who makes you think twice before approaching. We added two Holstein steers to our ranks over the winter who not only look different from each other, but also respond differently when you interact with them.



Frank, March 2023

If the Creator took time to create variety, even in all of the beasts of the field, think about how much more care He took in creating those He made in His own image. We should be completely amazed that of the over seven billion people that now inhabit the earth, there are no two created exactly the same. Why should all of this matter? Colossians 1:15-23 tells us why... I urge you to take a moment now to read this great passage of scripture on creation to see what.... "has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven..." (vs 23).

Now, just wait till you hear the end of "Frank's" story as it confirms God's love and compassion for His creation. When "Frank" was ready to move on to his furever home, Maria posted online to the local homeschool group that we were looking for a loving home for a kitten. She was immediately contacted by a sweet family who had recently lost their cat and had prayed the night before for a new kitten. "Frank" has now moved on from River Hills Farm to his furever family. God cares about His creation, even feisty little kittens, and you can be assured that He cares for YOU.

As you prepare to send your children and grandchildren to camp, please join us in prayer for them. They will be learning what it means to "draw near" to God and we pray they will leave camp with a renewed sense of purpose and a closer relationship with their Savior.

If you would like to fill any of our volunteer needs this summer season, please visit the "Serve" tab on our website for the current list of opportunities. ■

Riverside in Haiti

In April, a small team from Riverside was blessed with the opportunity to serve at the orphanage/school we help support in Haiti. It was a week well spent and you can read all about it inside this issue!



Haiti | Marriage Café

Haiti

by Darrie Nelson, Executive Director

After a three year break, Riverside was finally able to return to Haiti during the first week of April. We are grateful for the opportunity, once again, to go down and see what the Lord is doing in Lejene, Haiti through Riverside and people in our local community. During our visit, we were able to see the new girls' dorm that was constructed with the over \$3,000 that our VBS kids raised last summer. We were also able to see a new little cooking area that provides food for the 120 kids that now attend the school.

Five people traveled down to Haiti despite the current political situation. We felt very safe out in the countryside as all the violence was still restricted to the capital, Port Au Prince, area. Beauvoir Deshommes runs the orphanage and school, and he and his family are doing well. There are currently 22 kids in the orphanage and over 120 kids enrolled in the school. What a blessing to see how the Lord has provided.

For the first time in five trips, we were also able to experience electricity all night long as several individuals helped supply a whole solar panel system to the grounds. So, we are grateful for that new addition. Barring any further deterioration of the current political situation, we are planning another trip for January of 2024 in hopes that we will assist with the construction of a church building on the property.

Thank you to all who have been praying, especially for this last trip, and who continue to be supportive and prayerful of this effort in Haiti. It's our little effort here at Riverside to pay it forward to people who find themselves in dire situations. ■



Marriage Café

by Elyse Erdahl, Administrative Assistant

When we are immersed in the busyness and chaos of the work/school week, it's understandably difficult to press pause and focus on our marriage. But, when we give our marriage the priority status it deserves, God's blessings abound.

Today's culture doesn't always hold the marriage relationship in the highest esteem. One Tuesday a month, February through April, Riverside provides an opportunity for couples to spend a couple of hours together in a café-style environment. A married couple shares their experience and wisdom, and couples are encouraged in their relationship and their faith.

In April, attendees were blessed to be able to hear from David and Jacquelyn Guerrero of Rekindle the Flame Ministries. Having

counseled countless couples themselves, David and Jacquelyn were able to share God's wisdom as it relates to marriage. They stressed the importance of taking time to pray with your spouse daily. This seemingly simple act has the power to bring you closer to your spouse and to your Savior. Couples crafted love letters to their spouses using MadLib templates and the results were hysterical. At the end of the evening, delicious, homemade desserts were served during a Q & A session with the Guerreros.

Our hope is that every couple attending a Marriage Café leaves feeling rejuvenated, encouraged, and closer to both each other and the Lord. ■

Many Hands Make Light Work

by Lucero Olson, Program Director

Work Day was a beautiful day for service and fellowship at Riverside! It was great to see just over 30 volunteers come out and get camp ready for the summer season. We all spent the morning planting, potting, and mulching all the gardens around camp. We went with a different, darker mulch this year that really makes the flowers and plants pop! After a delicious, filling lunch of soup, spaghetti, homemade bread, and cheesecake, we took on a few more tasks that needed done. One crew spent the afternoon splitting, hauling, and stacking firewood so that we have an ample, dry supply of fuel ready for the next winter season.

Another crew, composed of teenage volunteers and a couple of staff members, spent the afternoon hanging up the nets at the paintball courses. These nets are very important in ensuring the safety of campers who are watching and participating in paintball. That task takes a lot of manpower, so we're very grateful that we could get it all accomplished on Work Day.

Volunteers and staff ended the day knowing that Riverside is a large step closer to being ready for the summer season. Thank you to everyone that came and served with us! ■



Pioneer Women's Day

by Elyse Erdahl, Administrative Assistant

Have you ever wanted to learn how to cook with and care for cast iron? Or maybe you've been curious about making maple syrup for a while now. You might even wish you could process your own deer this season instead of sending it out to the butcher.

If any of that sounds interesting to you and if you enjoy fellowshiping with other women, then we hope you'll join us for Pioneer Women's Day 2024.

On April 29th, we hosted over 60 women for a day filled with workshops, worship, key note sessions, great food, and wonderful fellowship. Our workshop leaders provided an incredible variety of topics from automotive maintenance and

chicken keeping to brush lettering and baking. Whether participants liked to sew or grow, there truly was a workshop for everyone.

This event has garnered so much interest in our community (and beyond) that we added an additional workshop this year on Friday evening for those who wanted to learn, hands-on, how to process their own deer. Participants in Friday's workshop were walked through the task, step by step, and went home with bellies full of venison chili and vacuum-sealed venison for their freezers.

What types of workshops would you like to see offered next year? Beekeeping? Family Meal Planning? Let us know and make plans to be here! ■



Sustaining Riverside Financial Report: 2023-2024

	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>
General Fund Income:	\$ 14,602	\$ 150,000
General Fund Expense:	\$ 25,746	\$ 150,000
Current Surplus/(Deficit): <small>as of May 17th, 2023</small>	(\$ 11,144)	

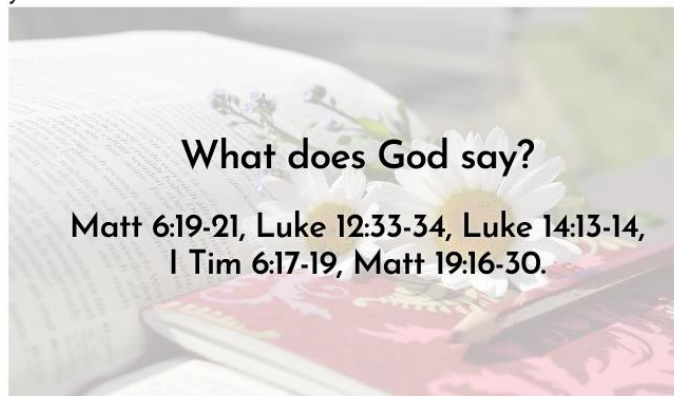


*"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."
Hebrews 13:16*

Treasures in Heaven

by Mickey Kaufman, Director of Stewardship Ministries

In Matthew 6, Jesus tells us, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven...." We understand about laying up treasures on earth – bank accounts, investments, IRAs, houses and other possessions; but how do we lay up treasures in heaven? What did Jesus mean? And what about the next verse – "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"? ■



What does God say?

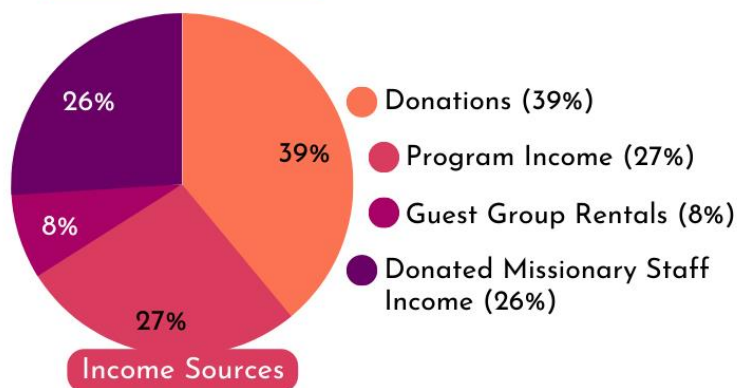
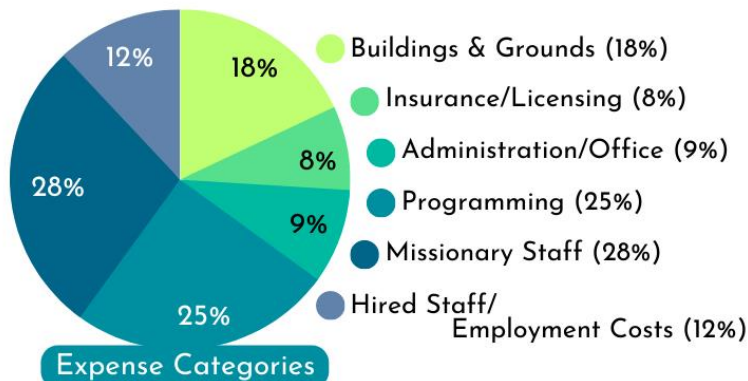
**Matt 6:19-21, Luke 12:33-34, Luke 14:13-14,
I Tim 6:17-19, Matt 19:16-30.**

Where does my giving go?

When you designate your donation to a Riverside project, 100% of your gift goes to that project.

All followers of Jesus are called to be good stewards of everything that God gives us - our time, relationships, the world around us, our personal resources. Your investment in the work through your financial support is an indication of your desire to be a part of the ministry here. Riverside's Board and staff take that investment very seriously. You can be assured that your gift is being used wisely and efficiently - for the glory of God, for the salvation of the lost, and for building up the Body of Christ. We are, as Paul says, "workers together" in the work of the Lord here in Central Wisconsin. Thanks for your partnership. If you have any questions about your giving or stewardship, please ask. ■

Did you know that you can receive the Riverside Reader by email? If you'd prefer that our newsletter be delivered to your inbox instead of your mailbox, let us know!



PhilanthroCorp

Have you thought about the lasting impact your life will have after you are no longer here? 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 you 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!

www.riversidebiblecamp.org/donate

RSI Training

by Tessa Olson, RSI Coordinator & Digital Marketing Coordinator

RSI Training Camp was held in April, with about 30 highschool students attending the in-person training. We had great feedback from the students about the weekend and are so excited to work with them this summer!

To help prepare them for their time serving here, throughout the weekend, we had 6 different sessions that went through important details about the summer. From rules and expectations, emergency procedures, how to have a quiet time, and how to be a quality co-cabin leader, we talked about it all! We

acted out possible scenarios that might happen during camp, and the students were able to jump in and handle the situations. We did this as a whole group and broke down what was happening, how they should have reacted, and things to remember if it ever happened in-person. The students loved this activity and were able to ask questions they might not have thought of otherwise. We are so thankful for each of these students and their desire to serve here at camp. We continue to pray for them as the summer approaches; please join us in prayer! ■



How to Give

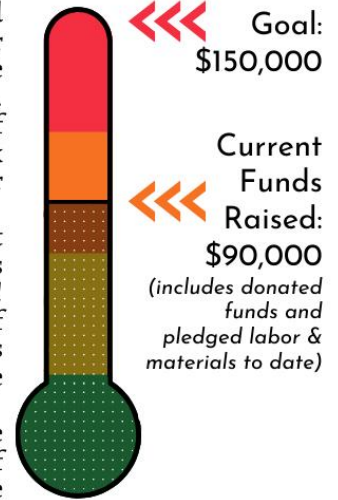
- mail a check
- text "riverside" to 40101
- use MyWell giving app
- visit the "donate" tab on our website
- list Riverside in your Will or Estate Planning
- give equipment or property (gift-in-kind)
- volunteer

Zarephath Fundraising Progress

Exciting things are happening at Riverside! After years of slowed progress, regulatory hurdles, and talks of flood plains, we have a location and footprint approved for Zarephath. As you may know, Riverside owns the 40-acre parcel on the north side of the road, just across from camp. Currently, that land is filled with walking trails, a disc golf course, and the sledding hill. It's also home to our hammock garden every summer and the launching place for our "Rapids Run" tubing adventure.

After reviewing all of our options, it's been decided that the optimal location for the new Zarephath building is within those 40 acres. And we couldn't be more excited! Zarephath will fill the great need we have for summer staff housing and will be the first major structure added across the road for Programming. The land is being cleared for the proposed structure and we hope to break ground soon!

We've got a great start with our fundraising efforts and are so thankful for the generosity of our financial partners. If you would like to give toward the Zarephath project, write "Zarephath" on the memo line of your next donation. Thank you for being a part of Riverside's continued growth! ■



RBC Connections is on Facebook!

Stay up to date with Riverside's alumni group, RBC Connections. Scan the QR code to join their Facebook group. There, you will find all the latest info about upcoming RBC Connections events and Riverside news. Do you know someone who would love to be a part of our upcoming events? Please feel free to invite them! RBC Connections exists to connect Riverside's 'formers' with each other and with Riverside, so, the more the merrier!



Upcoming Events



STELLAR
SHINE JESUS' LIGHT

VBS DAY CAMP
June 12-16, 2023

Mon - Thurs:
9:00am-3:00pm

Fri: 9:00am-12:00pm

Cost: FREE

For students entering kindergarten through completed 6th grade



REGISTER NOW!

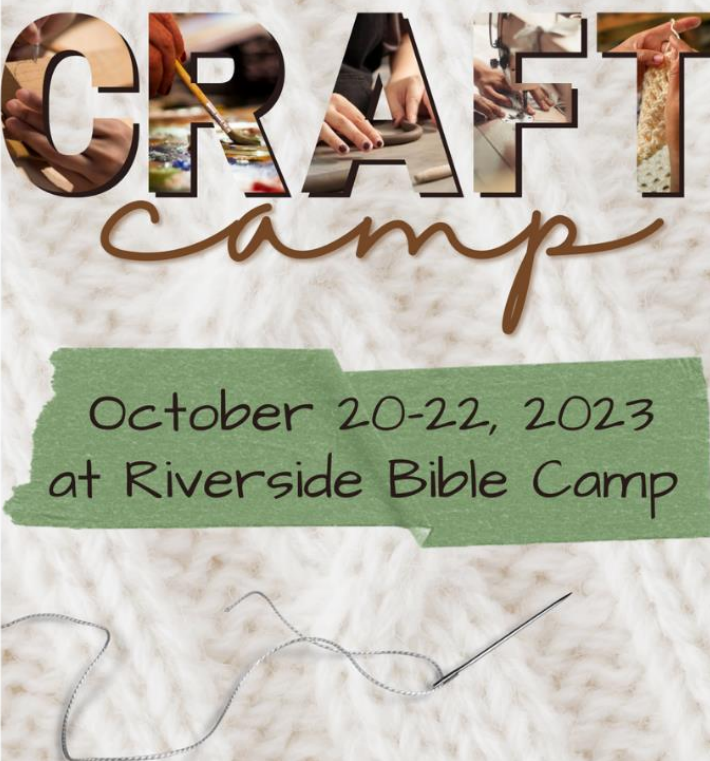
HARVEST FAMILY CAMP

OCTOBER 6-8, 2023




CRAFT
Camp

October 20-22, 2023
at Riverside Bible Camp



LUMBERJACK DAY October 21, 2023
9am-4pm

FREE LUNCH @ NOON



Calendar of Events

JUNE

- 12-16 VBS Day Camp
- 16 Family Fun Night
- 20-22 Adventure Camp
- 25-1 Senior High Camp

JULY

- 9-14 Junior Camp
- 16-21 Junior High Camp
- 25-30 TREK Adventure Program

AUGUST

- 18-20 Summer Family Camp **FULL**
- 29-3 Homecoming Camp

OCTOBER

- 6-8 Harvest Family Camp
- 7 Fellowship Supper
- 20-22 Craft Camp
- 21 Lumberjack Day

DECEMBER

- 7 Christmas Open House
- 31 New Year's Eve Party



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

Have a pool table that's taking up space but never gets used? Let Riverside take it off your hands! You can rest easy knowing it's going to a place where it will be greatly appreciated. Let us know if you have one that you'd like to see relocated.



Over the years, many in-kind donations have been made to Riverside. These gifts are a wonderful blessing to the ministry and provide needed resources. Please check our list of current needs, and if you can help with an item or provide funds to purchase it, let us know!

- 12-15 Passenger Van
- Measuring Spoons/Cups - Stainless Steel, full sets
- 1/2 inch Battery Impact Driver
- Funds for Archery Targets & Backstop Netting
- 2-4 Seat UTV
- Wooden Bench Swings
- Heavy Duty Planer
- Funds for Office Chairs
- Implement/Passenger Tire Tubes
- Pool Table



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All of Riverside's buildings have significant names found in the Bible. Some are people and some are places. How well do you know the Riverside campus? Do you know the Biblically inspired names of the:

- | Rec Center | Office Building | Nurse's Station |
|-------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| a) Gaza | a) Canaan | a) Jerusalem |
| b) Nazareth | b) Gilgal | b) Golgotha |
| c) Calvary | c) Antioch | c) Capernaum |
| d) Judah | d) The Upper Room | d) Galilee |

Find the answer on the bottom of page 7!

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