

Summer Program Update:

Great Oaks Camp has a rich history of being used by God to transform lives. Did you know that within the last four years God has used Great Oaks Camp to bring 268 inner city children into a deeper relationship with Him? This statistic is amazing especially when one considers that there are countless other lives impacted by God through Great Oaks Camp that we don't even know about. Imagine with me how many lives God has impacted through Great Oaks Camp since it was founded in 1972. It's an especially motivating thought as the summer comes around. Here are some thought from our Program Director Paul Tanner:

As the days get longer and the temperature climbs higher it can only mean one thing, summer is coming. And when summer arrives so does the opportunity for kids to come to summer camp. Great Oaks continues to minister to at-risk kids from the urban areas of Peoria. Most of the kids will be coming from tragic situations including broken homes, affected by violence, substance abuse, and the burden of poverty. Some kids will have never heard of the God who loves them and wishes to give them life, and others will need a reminder and encouragement to live out their faith. This summer as a staff we are focused on presenting the life of Jesus (our theme is the Jesus Chronicles) and how our campers can have life through a relationship with Jesus. Jesus' offer of abundant life, found in John 10:10, begins in the present and extends into eternity. Our goal at Great Oaks is for every kid who comes to camp experience some aspect of the abundant life whether that comes from the loving spirits and attitudes of the staff, the words sang or spoken at chapel, an exposure to God's creation or maybe experiencing a completed goal on the challenge course.



Program Director Paul

You can join in ministry with us through several prayer requests:

- Pray that God will continue preparing the hearts of the campers
- Pray for our summer counselors their attitudes, energy, and spiritual growth
- Pray that God will watch over the safety of all activities over the summer
- Pray for provision as we continue to provide free camp to those who most need it
- Pray for the full time staff as they work to make each part of camp a ministry experience

Building Project Update:

Currently at Great Oaks Camp, we have been extremely blessed. Not only do we have the privilege of being part of the ministry and programs described above, but we are also growing! God's ministry here is funded



through donations and our Guest Group rental ministry. Presently, we are raising funds to help us improve and add to our present facilities. We believe that all of these improvements and



facilities will serve to greatly impact the lives of the Urban Youth of Peoria. Want some more exciting news? God has already given us the ability to start building a staff house! Praise God for his Provision!