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Camp Victory exists to help young people experience the **victory** that comes from knowing the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and walking with Him. We do this by working alongside local churches in providing opportunities for Christian camping, Bible classes for local schools and Bible correspondence lessons.

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Camp Victory
CBM of South Alabama
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CampVictory Reflections

Winter 2012



With the Lord



Reverend Eugene Hedger, who served with CBM since 1944, went to be with the Lord on January 4, 2012. He was ninety-three.

For many years he was known as the “Bible Man” along the Florida panhandle. He would travel to public schools in his Model A Ford, using flannelgraph to teach Bible stories. In 1993, the Hedgers retired from active service with CBM and relocated to Greenville, South Carolina, where their daughter Judy lives with her family. Mr. Hedger’s wife Eleanor went to be with the Lord in October of 2005.

The Hedgers were among the original staff members when Camp Victory began in 1961. At Camp Victory Mr. Hedger taught Bible classes and led the boys’ craft time; but he was best known for being in charge of the boat dock at Lake Victory. For this, he earned the nickname “Admiral Hedger.” [That’s why the rooms behind first aid are known as “AQ” – Admiral’s Quarters, where he stayed many times!]

Mr. Hedger’s love for the Lord, faithful service, and joyful, energetic spirit were a testimony to all of us. As our staff has had opportunities to visit churches in northwest Florida in recent years, we have heard many testimonies of lives that were touched by the Lord through the Hedgers. What a legacy he has left in this area! Only eternity will show us the vast influence of this one man who faithfully served his Lord.

Please be in prayer for the Hedger family in this time of separation and adjustment.

Happenings...

- ** On the first Monday in November, we held the annual pancake supper with about 270 in attendance!
- ** Just after thanksgiving, a celebration was held at Dothan Community Church for Miss Bea Ames' 100th birthday. A slideshow can be viewed at www.youtube.com/campvictoryal.
- ** In December about 100 students attended the teen retreat, learning about the doctrine of the church.
- ** One project being worked on now is a new set of bathrooms beside the chapel – see picture below.

Calendar of Events

| | |
|---------------|--|
| January 27-29 | Missions Retreat |
| February 25 | Volleyball Tournament (for church youth groups) |
| March 3-4 | 2 nd -6 th Grade Retreat |
| March 6 & 7 | Home School Days |
| March 30-31 | Mother & Daughter Retreat |
| April 20-21 | Father & Son Campout |
| April 28 | Family Day |
| May 12 | Home School Graduation |

Registration information for each event will be posted on our website prior to the retreat. Please email or call the office for more information. Summer information will be mailed by February.

Lost but not forgotten...

We have lost contact with several alumni staff and we hope you will be able to help us reconnect with them. Here's a list of some of them:

Susan Palmer
Jacob Ray Nelson
Stefanie (Stotts) Kennedy
Carol (Bailey) Austin
Jennifer Spencer
Kevin Robinson
Tommi Reed
Nathan Landrum
Karen Markey
Mark Williams
Cole Zarahn
Doug Ballard
Hugh Vaughn, Jr.

If you have any leads for us on how to reach these poor lost souls, please let us know. (Some may have different last names due to marriages.)

WHERE MEMORIES ARE MADE

"On Monday morning of the first week of Camp Victory [in 1961], I and two other campers met Miss Ames and Miss Wells at their home in Dothan at 8 AM, then traveled to Camp Victory for the purpose of helping clean and get everything ready for the campers that afternoon.

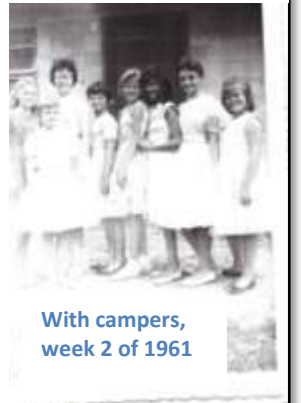
I was so fortunate to get to be a counselor for the three weeks of camp that year. I had three groups of very sweet girls those weeks and we had a wonderful time together. I was also honored when Miss Ames came to me and said she was one teacher short and asked if I would be willing to teach a class. It was such a joy to have been asked. I remember we learned the books of the Bible that week amongst other things.

My favorite parts of camp were the missionary hour each day and also on Friday nights after our banquets when we assembled down at the lake for singing and testimonies. It was sad on Saturday mornings when we had to part and go our separate ways.

Both of my children were campers at Camp Victory. The last time I was able to go was at the end of a week my daughter was there, a friend from our church and I surprised her on Friday night. The surprise was really mine when I got there and saw what great improvements had been made since I was there those first weeks of camp.

CBM Bible Camp was the highlight of my summer for several years. I thank God for all the wonderful blessings and memories I have from those years."

~ Addie Johnson Corbitt, former counselor



WHERE LIVES ARE CHANGED

"I guess my first hearing of Camp Victory was in 1964. The "Bible Men" named Mr. Jonas Miller and Mr. Yoder came to our classroom with a felt board and told our class about the people in the Bible and about Jesus. He told us about Camp Victory and that if we memorized Bible verses we would get rewards. The biggest rewards were a Bible and a trip for a week to Camp Victory for memorizing 300 Bible verses. My first verse was John 3:16.

I went to camp that summer not knowing anyone but the "Bible Man." I met so many people, Mrs. Ruth Miller, Miss Bea Ames, Mr. Mike Birkner, and William Thomas Harding. Polly Bell was my counselor. I noticed all the people in charge at Camp Victory were so helpful, smiling, talking about Jesus. I passed out the first day at lunch and I was treated with such compassion and love. Everyone cared!

Little did I know how Camp Victory would change my life! I accepted Jesus as my savior. It was so easy to pray and read my Bible at camp. We were allowed to have fun and still learn about God and what John 3:16 was all about. God loved me, Dale, enough that He gave His only Son for me. How amazing! Later on, I became a Jr. Counselor and then a Sr. Counselor. Mr. and Mrs. Miller remained my mentors until their deaths. Praise the Lord for Camp Victory. God is not through with the dream and vision He gave Mr. Jonas Miller way back then. Praise the Lord!"

~ Dale Cook Griffin, former camper and staff, nurse for two weeks in 2011



beginning construction of new bathrooms

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