

Ozark Mission Project
1200 Andy Drive
Conway, AR 72034

Difference Maker - Teresa Balloun

This summer's OMP theme is "Love Out Loud" and is based on Matthew 22:37, "Jesus replied, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'" During your week at OMP we will study some of the most well known Bible stories, but in a new way. Through the stories of Moses, Noah, the Good Samaritan and others our campers will begin to understand that God made each of us special and that he loves us very much, no matter what. Our prayer is that campers of all ages will learn what it means to love God more than anyone or anything else and share the love of God boldly wherever they go.

We've got some really exciting surprises this summer. We've brought back some of our favorite games from years past and have lots of great new games too. When you arrive at camp on Sunday you'll notice that the staff shirts are a brand new color- Carolina Blue! Our t-shirts for this summer are the same color as the new staff shirts and sport a speaker logo on the back that says "Love Out Loud" with a rock and roll flare. Don't miss out on our new OMP merchandise that is available at camp— OMP water bottles, windshield clings, and hats in three new colors.

Join us this summer as we transform lives!

Remember to check out our website at www.ozarkmissionproject.org.
There are terrific pictures from many of our camps.

Please share this newsletter!

Questions? Please contact Nancy Mulhearn at nmulhearn@conwaycorp.net or 501.339.4500

Your tax-deductible donations should be made payable to Ozark Mission Project; 1200 Andy Drive; Conway, AR 72034



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**To transform lives through worship, fellowship,
and hands-on mission.**

Welcome to Ozark Mission Project's Summer 2009 newsletter!

Our excitement level is HIGH!! The College Staff had a successful training. The Program Committee worked tirelessly preparing manuals, program boxes, gaming supplies, and more. The Tool and Construction Committee inventoried our Tool Trailers to get them out fitted for a busy summer. Our Food Services Committee planned delicious menus for our hard working campers. The first two weeks of camps are in the books!

Registration for Ozark Mission Project continues to grow. As of this writing we have 699 registered campers compared to 668 in 2008. We would like to welcome our first time churches: Trinity UMC in Fayetteville, Sylvan Hills UMC in Little Rock, Oak Grove UMC in Wilburn, and New Life Church in Conway, AR. Let's also offer a huge welcome back to returning College Staff Daniel Sharp from Van Buren and Zack Wuichet from Hot Springs.

We'd like to thank the wonderful congregations of FUMC Texarkana, FUMC Goddard, and FUMC Conway for opening their church doors as first time OMP camp locations. Campers eat and sleep at churches then shower in church members homes after a day on the job site. You are awesome!

OMP has a record number of volunteer staff this summer. Several camps have co-directors who were previous College Staff. We continue to seek people interested in volunteering to serve God through OMP. If you feel led to give of your time and talents to OMP, please contact us at 501-339-4500.

In closing, we thank you for your involvement and interest in Ozark Mission Project. We ask your continued prayers for our College & Volunteer Staffs, our hard working Campers, and our awesome Neighbors during the summer. We pray for safety, spiritual strengthening, new friends, and new experiences.

I hope our paths cross this summer as we LOVE OUT LOUD!

Grace and Peace,

Nancy Mulhearn
Executive Director



Transforming Lives - Hank Godwin

It was Sunday and it was the monthly Missions Committee meeting. I'm not much for church committee meetings. Thirty three years in the secular business world has sharpened my expectations of meetings to a razor's edge. They should be crisp, organized, efficient, and to the point. None of these descriptors are used when I talk about my experiences with church committees. However, the people on these committees are amazing and our Mission's team is more of the same. I do look forward to seeing these wonderful people.

This Sunday was a little different. I was preoccupied with helping organize the annual OMP Pancake Supper which started in two hours. It is our youth's way to raise money for going to camp. For me, it is a nervous time. It is youth with kitchen weapons, sizzling sausage grease, and hot griddles! Momma has entrusted me with their babies! I've also found through thirty years of working with youth that not everyone in my church is as flexible as me or others used to managing youthful chaos. There are actually people in this world that get upset if their pancake is 18 inches in diameter or looks a little bit like Albert Einstein. Isn't the "five second rule" universally understood? It still applies to church carpet doesn't it?

Back to the Mission's meeting. We had a guest speaker from "City Connections" who showed us an introductory video. Their mission is to bring all of the different agencies that help in our central Arkansas community together to be more efficient. One of the first talking heads of the video was the director of "Give Kids a Chance". I had never heard of her or her agency. However, she said something that snapped me back to focus on why I was there. She said, "There is not going to be a radical transformation of our city unless you have a spiritual change in the lives of this city". This one sentence immediately mentally catapulted me back to a profound incident that happened a month earlier.

My wife and I were listening to NPR while driving home from a game in Fayetteville. It was really kind of a boring program on the scientific evaluation by an Arizona college of seven popular diets. It was heavy with scientific and biological terms that my college biology major wife understood and I totally ignored. If I hadn't been driving, I would have fallen asleep. It was omega this and omega that with a sprinkling of HD and LD lipoproteins to excite somebody in this world. It was blah bah blah bah blah tedium! Then it came, that God moment, that serendipitous moment we live for because it connects the dots on all the theological questions we've had since vacation bible school. The moderator asked a final question on how a diet affects stress. The very boring lady professor from Arizona hesitated and said, "The most effective mechanism to affect stress is to care about someone or something more than oneself." Wow! Where did that come from?

People ask me all the time to describe OMP. Of course, I quote all the summer statistics about how many wheel chair ramps we build and houses we painted. It really isn't about that. The best descriptor is right there in our mission statement, "transforming lives". OMP gives youth and adults a template, a foundation, to build upon to care about something or someone more than oneself. It was the tsunami wave of an unexpected moment of clarity that I personally realized 11 years ago during my first camp. OMP teaches a balance of love for God, neighbor and self as Christ commanded. It is our OMP way to transform lives and to "Love Out Loud". It is the part OMP plays in radically transforming our global community.

2009 College Staff -Carness Vaughan

The Steering Committee is pleased to announce our college staff for summer 2009 camps. The Personnel Committee made its recommendations on the staff after extensive interviews and we are thrilled with the young men and women that God has sent us to serve Him this summer. They are listed below, along with their hometowns and colleges they are currently attending.

Daniel Sharp ▪ Van Buren, AR ▪ Arkansas Tech University
Zack Wuichet ▪ Hot Springs, AR ▪ Henderson State University
Aaron Wildschuetz ▪ Little Rock, AR ▪ University of Central Arkansas
Erica Hill ▪ Siloam Springs, AR ▪ Arkansas Tech University
Tyler Kemp ▪ Maumelle, AR ▪ University of Central Arkansas
Kat Marsh ▪ Hensley, AR ▪ Hendrix College
Steven Baker ▪ Little Rock, AR ▪ Tulane University New Orleans, LA
Patty Hill ▪ Fort Smith, AR ▪ Hendrix College



Please be in prayer for all these young men and women as they serve God in this powerful summer mission experience.

2009 Camps & Church Registrations

June 7-11

FUMC Texarkana - Jr. High Camp
 New Life
 FUMC Maumelle
 City Heights UMC
 FUMC Benton
 Oak Forest UMC



June 7-13

FUMC Star City
 Grand Avenue UMC
 Lakewood UMC
 Harmony Grove UMC
 Trinity UMC
 Oak Forest UMC

Lakewood UMC

Cabot UMC
 Henderson UMC
 FUMC Rogers
 Sequoah UMC
 Blytheville UMC
 Bee Branch



June 21-25

Goddard - Jr. High Camp
 FUMC Conway
 Oak Grove UMC
 Pulaski Heights UMC
 Central UMC
 Grace UMC
 FUMC Texarkana
 FUMC Hamburg
 FUMC Maumelle

June 21-27

West Memphis 1
 FUMC Conway
 Greer's Chapel
 FUMC Harrison
 Asbury UMC
 FUMC Farmersville, TX

Silver Hill

Lakewood UMC
 Fellowship Bible
 FUMC Hot Springs



July 12-18

West Memphis 2
 Pulaski Heights UMC
 FUMC El Dorado
 FUMC Benton
 Goddard UMC

FUMC El Dorado

FUMC Siloam Springs
 Asbury UMC
 FUMC Star City

Cornerstone UMC

FUMC Conway
 FUMC Little Rock
 Winfield UMC
 Oak Forest UMC
 FUMC Batesville

July 26-August 1

FUMC Conway
 Cabot UMC
 City Heights UMC
 FUMC Hamburg
 FUMC Maumelle
 Pulaski Heights UMC

FUMC Hamburg

Central UMC
 Salem UMC
 FUMC Texarkana

Bear Creek

FUMC Prescott
 FUMC Jonesboro
 Grace UMC
 Cornerstone UMC
 Sylvan Hills UMC
 Harmony Grove UMC

**Check the OMP website at the end of
 October for the 2010
 Youth Group Application!**

www.ozarkmissionproject.org