

FAIRBANKS RESCUE MISSION

Making a Difference One Life at a Time

SERVING GOD AND THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1974

APRIL 2011



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TWIN BEARS CAMP ~ by Michelle Harpole

Here's a happy summer thought ~ Twin Bear's Camp. Sitting on the porch of the dining hall, drinking that first cup of coffee. The morning sun warms you as you watch a duck family on the lake. It's quiet except for the robins. Soon your group will be up and ready for another day of activity or relaxation. The kitchen team will swing into action, churning out pancakes from the big grill. There's time for games and conversation and laughing and enjoying the great Alaskan outdoors.

So, what does Twin Bears Camp have to do with the Fairbanks Rescue Mission? Like our Recycling Center, our management of Twin Bear's Camp is a way for us to earn our own way, while we provide a service to our community.

Twin Bears Camp is a state park facility located at Mile 30, Chena Hot Springs Road, within the Chena River State Recreation Area. It is situated on a small lake that is stocked with fish; there are hiking trails available from the camp; and there is access nearby to ATV trails and the Chena River. There is a large grassy area that can be used for baseball, horseshoes or volleyball and the lake is available for canoeing and swimming as well as fishing.

The camp is ideal for group rentals and can accommodate up to 100 people with 13 rustic cabins providing bunks and mattresses. The recreation hall provides space for chapels, meetings or training. The kitchen/dining hall seats 50. The kitchen has

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Because You Gave

FEBRUARY NUMBERS

6,414 MEALS
were served

3,431 BED NIGHTS
were provided

2,178 for MEN
989 for WOMEN

264 for CHILDREN

31 BIBLE STUDIES
were held

28 CHAPEL
SERVICES
were held

Thanks to our
VOLUNTEERS
for 107
volunteer hours!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREETING FROM THE DESK OF RODNEY GASKINS



The Easter Holiday brings about thoughts of Christ and forgiveness and new beginnings and spring. Spring and its warmer days make me yearn for summer, because summer is “fishing season.”

Each of us has spent time on our knees asking God for forgiveness. We each may also have someone who wants us to continue feeling guilty for something in our past - even after God has forgiven us. I have encountered people who think they are too sinful to be forgiven by God. They show up at our doors dragging their bad decisions, broken relationships, past hurts, and unforgiveness on a stringer like a prize catch. We continually remind them and ourselves that Jesus doesn't see a guilty person when He looks into our sorrowful repentant eyes, but rather He sees someone He loves and died for.

I have heard that God casts our sins into the sea of forgetfulness. If this is so, why is it that we continue to go fishing there? The fact is, we not only fish for our forgotten sins but the sins of others as well. I was surprised when I searched the Bible for this particular passage, and found it wasn't there. The scripture that was closest to it was found in Micah 7:19: *“You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.”*

Although, I enjoy fishing with a rod and reel, I love dip netting! When I'm fishing for provisions I want to catch as many fish as fast as I can! Similarly, when I begin fishing for my forgiven sin, I take

a dip net. I begin to scoop out all the wrongs in my past and allow my mind to slide to, “God couldn't love a sinner like me.” Then Jesus steps into the scene like a Fish and Game Agent and tells me, “Throw it back...there's no fishing here.”

As we walk in the light of God's forgiveness we must allow that light to flow into us, through us, and out in forgiveness to those who have wronged us. If Christ, who endured the cross because of our sins, is so ready to forgive us, we ought to be as ready to forgive others.

Jesus' disciple Peter wanted to understand this forgiveness stuff, so he asked Jesus, *“Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”* Jesus answered, *“I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.”* (Matthew 18:21b-22) This



passage makes it clear that forgiveness is not easy for us and that it's sometimes not a one-time choice. Forgiveness often requires a lifetime of forgiving. We must continue forgiving until the matter is settled in our heart.

So, the next time the accuser comes knocking at the door to remind you of your past failures, remind him that Jesus died for your forgiveness. God can release us from the guilt of our past...if we let Him. So, when you find yourself fishing in the sea of forgetfulness, again, remember it's catch and release.

IT'S A RECYCLE-GANZA!

April 30th 11AM - 5PM

Celebrating

The Kick-Off For

- Plastic Recycling
- 24-hour Drop-off Bins

We're going to try to reach
25,000 lb. in one day!

Bring all your

- Paper
- Aluminum
- Cardboard
- Plastics (#1 and #2)
for the big weigh-in.

From 11:00 - 2:00 Only
Stuff for the Kids to Do
Tours of the Mission
Free Bags
Food

"TWIN BEARS CAMP" continued from Page 1



refrigeration and two large commercial gas ranges with ovens, one with a large grill top and the other with six burners. Basic cooking utensils, tableware, and silverware are provided.

In the summertime the kitchen and shower houses have hot and cold running water and our generator provides electricity.

We have been working hard at upgrading equipment, painting, and making the camp easier to manage and rent. We have had weddings, family reunions, work training sessions, church groups, youth groups, birthdays, and school classes at Twin Bears. Please consider using Twin Bears Camp this summer for **your** get together. You not only get a relaxing time in a beautiful location, you give to the Rescue Mission by renting Twin Bears. You can go online to www.twinbearscamp.org or call Michelle at the Mission at 452-5343 x109 for further information and date availability.

2011 Visitor Industry's Walk for Charity

The 2011 Walk for Charity starts at 6:00 Friday, May 13th at the Immaculate Conception Church parking lot.

Raise money for the **Fairbanks Rescue Mission** as you feast on fabulous food on this fun 4k walk! Adults must raise a minimum of \$25 and children \$15. (Avoid a late fee by registering by May 10th.)



Online registration will be available April 4.

MISSION NEEDS THIS MONTH

Kitchen Needs

Brown Sugar
Flour
Cooking Oil
Seasonings - Bulk Size
Eggs
Butter
Breakfast Meats
Beef Base
Chicken Base
Cold Cereal
Oatmeal
Grits

Vegetables - #10 cans or frozen
Egg Noodles
Instant Mashed Potatoes
Onions
Potatoes
Disposable cups - 8 or 12 oz.

Shelter Needs

Men's Underwear and Socks
Towels
Feminine Hygiene Products
Diapers - Sizes 3, 4, and 5
Baby Wipes

Disposable Razors
Deodorant, Men's
Deodorant, Women's
Baby Bottles and Sippy Cups
Coin King Laundry Tokens
Journals

Other Needs

URGENT - Twin Mattresses
8-1/2 x 11 Copy Paper
Kleenex
Paper Towels
Lysol Wipes

ROAD TO THE MISSION

The following comments were excerpted from a letter by a man who was featured in the September 2009 "Road to the Mission." Then, he was on the road to recovery, but that road has had some twists and turns. This letter was written from prison to his friends at the Mission.

I have learned so much about myself while I am here, and best of all grown spiritually. All of us have gone through and are going through trials and tribulations, but know that God will never put us through what we can't handle. I have surrendered my life to God fully and have taken many steps in my life to live for Him.

I just want to say to all of you, don't ever take the Rescue Mission for granted. The eight months I was there were some of the best times of my life and I took a lot for granted. . . Most of all I learned that no matter what background, race, or religion, the Rescue Mission will guide you, with the hand of God, through the highest mountain in your life you are climbing. Everything from the basics in living to salvation are there for you. You have a staff there that not only will help you with everyday life but will stand beside you through personal struggles and lead you to our number one Authority . . . God.

I might be locked within these walls but through God I am totally free. I have learned to not tell God how big my storm is, but to tell my storms how big my God is. Total surrender to our Savior is a hard step in someone's life but it is true salvation. I thank you all for the part you had in my life through my changes.

I will be returning to the Rescue Mission to not only give back what you all have given me, but to help people through their struggles. Stay strong, lean on God's understanding, and remember you all will be in my prayers.

Thank you and love in Christ, Randy McCoy



VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION, INCLUDING EMPLOYMENT AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:
WWW.FAIRBANKSRESCUEMISSION.ORG

REQUESTED

RETURN SERVICE

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