

## 2016 Summer Ministry Report

### *"This was Truly One Red-Hot Summer"*

Once again, God used our staff and hills to accomplish great things for His glory.

Please read below for details!



We sing a silly song here at camp called **"Red Hot"**. Someone starts it by yelling, *"Scioto Hills is what?"* The campers answer, *"Red Hot!"* After a few repeats, everyone shouts, *"Scioto Hills is E-D with a little bit of H-O-T, Oh baby, R-E-D Red H-O-T Red Hot, Red Hot, Red Hot!"* The words were never truer. This was by far, the "hottest" summer since my arrival in 2006. But the heat didn't stifle the Holy Spirit or the effectiveness of our ministry! By God's grace, exciting things happened...again.

1. Campers were in **"good hands"** with another wonderful summer staff. It still amazes me how God uses our training program and the intensity of summer camp to produce significant life-change in college and high school students. It really is a "ministry behind the ministry". While a little short-handed, (39 instead of the usual 45: hiring proved more difficult this year) our team still did a fantastic job!. To insure 2017 staffing needs are met, we will increase compensation and begin recruiting earlier. We will also hire more counselors in hopes accommodating the growing numbers and avoid the words "full camp" on our website.
2. **Numbers were up!** This is the first time since 2005 that we broke the 800 mark. In fact, we served 847 in a 5-week period. This is a 9% increase over 2015! The most significant growth was in Family Camp and Mini-Camp. These grew so much that we are adding a second week of Family Camp (July 4<sup>th</sup> week) and, if necessary, a second Mini-Camp option.
3. **Solid Spiritual decisions.** From our counselor surveys we believe 19 campers trusted Christ and an additional 113 major, non-salvation decisions were made. Of course, we will never know the actual number since informal decisions regarding faith and living are made daily but not reported. In addition, the deaf camp and CSU football team we partner with reported more than 30 salvation decisions as well.
4. Two quotes describe our summer: ***"Next to my birth, this has been the greatest week of my life!"*** Jr. Age Camper ***"It is obvious that Scioto Hills has taken camp ministry to another level!"*** Family Camp speaker and former staff member.
5. We host 9 different camps during a 5-week period, but with guest group camps we serve a total of 9 weeks. If we include the two weeks of staff training, we minister for 11 weeks in a row! So with campers, summer staff, 3 teen ministry teams (SEEKERS), speakers and worship teams, volunteers and guest groups we served 1600 different people during this time!
6. **2016 Projects Completed:** Because of the generosity of others we installed safe, locking doors on all the A-frames and three new waterslides with decks at the lakefront. In addition, road lights for safety, spray type insulation for the metal ceiling in the Dining Hall, new restroom stalls in the ARC,

lots of gutter work camp-wide, new carpet for staff housing and several small projects are also planned. Thank God for the gifts of our friends and churches.

7. In June **we purchased land** that provides direct access to State Rt. 140. This is huge! It completes the first element of phase One of our plans to develop a new entrance and construct an Adult-Family friendly Conference Center. Amazingly, God provided a donor who purchased the 18-acre parcel for us. Pray, as we are considering the purchase of adjacent property that would make the development of the new road more feasible. We are excited about our current ministry and future expansion plans. (Phase One includes a. purchasing land b. developing a new road c. building a 350 person worship center.)
8. **Three new team members:** We welcome Miss Kimmy Senerius as our new office manager. Kimmy has lived at the camp the past few years while finishing her communications degree at OU. She will provide a much-needed “full time” office presence. Jeff and Megan Kliewer (program/office) recently introduced our newest “camp kid” (our 10<sup>th</sup>!) Malcomb Timothy was born in August. TJ Shamburger, a recent CU graduate, and 2016 counselor will be living at camp this year and helping in on “Non-Paid” staff program. TJ is planning to be in full time youth ministry in the near future. These three are wonderful additions to our amazing camp family.

#### **UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:**

Sept. 9-11: Rejuvenate Ladies Retreat (Speaker: Margaret Edwards)  
Sept. 16-17: Rewind TP Night for Dads and their Kids  
Oct. 6: Seasoned Saints Luncheon with the Glory Way Quartet from Canton.  
Oct. 20-22: Rediscover Retreat for Homeschoolers (Our newest Event)  
Nov. 19: “Run for the Hills” 5K Race for Camper Scholarships  
Dec. 2 and 3: Christmas at Camp with ASCAP Songwriter Ben Glover

#### **PRAYER REQUESTS:**

1. Virgie Macedo (food service) is struggling with serious back issues affecting her ability to serve in the kitchen.
2. We believe it is time to develop our weekday outdoor education program. S.H.O.E.S (Scioto Hills Outdoor Education School) will be the official title as we introduce a more serious approach to OE. Our primary target will be the upper elementary students in Christian schools in the Tri-State area. Pray for Jade, Megan and Scott as they develop this new endeavor.
3. While we are so thankful for a stable and growing budget and the significant increase in giving by individuals, we have witnessed a decline in church support. This burdens us. In fact, in the past 10 years, we have only added 1 new church while 7 others, for a myriad of reasons, no longer support us. We are praying God will raise up many new giving partners from the increasing number of churches that benefit from our year round ministry.

What a blessing to serve our Savior in the hills of Southern Ohio. Thank you for your prayers, campers, guest groups, encouragement and generosity.

All by God’s grace and for His glory!

Scott Bruns  
Executive Director