



BRANCH ADVENTURES

Deeply Rooted and Reaching Out

John 15:5 (Jesus said) "I am the vine, you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

☞ A Warmhearted Merry Christmas and Happy New Year Greeting ☞ December 2009 ☞

2009 Boils Down to This

Horsemanship Camp **blazed** a new trail and was a great success. The week of Day Camp had to be the **hottest** week of the summer, but the best Day Camp yet. The S'morites (Adventure campers) had a "sweet" name and chant. They even moved us to tears with their skits. At the end of that week the whole camp played a **smoke'n** game of Capture the Crown. There was a **heated** battle of the bands during Worship Camp and the woods were alive with the sound of music.



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Campers on the Extreme U.P. trip worked up a **sweat** hiking the Porcupine Mountains and exploring underground mines. The **sizzling** summer season concluded with gigantic portions of fun at Family Camp. 2009 was a fantastic year and we hope these fond memories give you **warm** fuzzies during these chilly winter days.



Here's What We're Fired Up About for 2010

Next summer's **hot** topic is "Get Recycled". God is in the business of recycling people. He takes what's old or battered and broken in us, and transforms it into something new and useful. Christ takes out the "trash" - the garbage that is within us. No longer will we end up in a landfill; we will have a new life here and in heaven. God is Green!

Day and Adventure Camp will be learning about Moses, so join us to see how we fit the theme of recycling into this Bible classic. We will also be incorporating the theme into:

Horsemanship Camp

Worship Camp

Extreme U.P. Travel Camp
Family Camp



All who are interested in volunteering this summer please give us a call or e-mail us. Branch Adventures could not function without our precious volunteer staff. Thank you. Thank you.



This is a photo of a child from the Dominican Republic receiving his letter from a Branch Adventures camper.

As a service project, bracelets were made and letters were written to children sponsored by Hands of Grace. www.hgworldwide.org

On the Back Burner For Now

You may or may not know that the Saranac Youth Center is no longer functioning and their board would like to dissolve. We originally thought this would mean that Branch Adventures would have to create it's own 501C3 to remain tax deductible. We have been operating under the SYC as a "branch" of their organization. Thankfully for us the Lord connected us with good people and good information and we will not have to get our own 501C3. What we do need to do, however, is transfer the authority and responsibility of the SYC to B.A. To do that we will swear in a new board and swear out the old board. There are some pending assets and accounts that need to be cleared before that transfer happens so we are just waiting in the wings until that time. Our new board is in place and ready to serve when called. The members of our board are as follows:

Doug McPherson

Steve Rowan

Marsha Hubble

Nichole Hopkins

Caroline Dibaba

The new board represents several area churches and brings talented Christians together.

We have spent hours and hours this fall figuring out how to work this all out. God is SO Good.



Lori Raimer is our Horsemanship Program Director. She's a real cowgirl with the love of Christ.

Not Just Blowing Smoke

Branch Adventures offers a wholesome, affordable, creation experience for children and families in our community. Here are some of our fast facts and numbers from 2009. Last summer over 369 campers attended an event at Branch Adventures. God supplied 82 volunteers that gave their time and talents. \$1,778.00 was given out in scholarships to 198 kids. Branch Adventures took in approximately \$39,500.00 and \$39,100.00 went out toward operational expenses. We added two new youth camps and provided a new camp experience for more individuals than in any years prior. As you can see, the camp is growing and with that growth the need for more funds also grows. \$2,033.00 was spent on hooking up low amp electricity and water from the Grody's home out to the shelter. The water and electricity is a tremendous blessing but will not be sufficient to meet the needs of our growth. The shelter also needs concrete flooring and at this time none of the staff receive wages directly from B.A. We are excited about how the Lord is growing us and we are equally excited to see how He will provide.



Full Time Staff:

Caroline Dibaba—Director

Steve Grody—Property Manager

Kelly Grody—Administrator

Kim Paton—Program Director

Doris McPherson—Accounts Manager

Catch the Fever

Be a part of the ministry of Branch Adventures by:

- Praying for the staff, campers, families, direction, and means
- volunteering
- Becoming a Financial Partner
- Sponsoring a Camper
- Spreading the word about what we're doing



Please become a monthly supporter. Any amount is graciously accepted. To continue to produce the quality programs and experiences at Branch Adventures, your financial gifts are essential. All gifts are tax deductible. We would also like to schedule a time to come to your church or organization and present our goals and specific needs.

