

# High Braes Refuge

# Highlights

To the Glory of God

August 2009

## Summer Camp

Jeff Andrews

### Change

Another year of Day Camp here at the Braes has ended. As many of you know, this year we tried something new and provided two day camp programs for the same age groups. Total registration was higher than 2008. More than half of the campers enjoyed both programs.

Both mission teams did a great job and we believe the campers were blessed. We saw several of those children make clear decisions to follow Christ. We had all the help needed and the program was fully funded. We will now take all we have learned from doing the two programs and will decide how to proceed in the future. The Braes depends on these mission teams to be able to provide this program. **No matter what, we expect day camping to continue into the future.**

The difficult news to report is that we were unable to provide the teen camping program this summer. It would be difficult to explain all that went into that decision in the small space of this article. The reasons have most often been explained as a lack of funding and volunteer help. However, that by itself might set the impression that those elements have always been there in years past. Truthfully, they have not.

**Funding:** The teen program depends on the financial gifts of individuals and churches to be able to operate. In the last six summers of teen camping we have only met our funding goals in 2004 and 2007. In all, the Braes has committed more than \$34,000, in addition to donations, to keep this program running over the same seven years. That extra funding has come from logging and sale of property. At this point, what little resources we have left in savings are needed to keep this ministry, as a whole, running.

**Volunteer Help:** The second key element to a successful Summer program is people. In the past, all of our

help has been volunteer. However, over the past few years we have had to begin paying some positions in order to be able to secure key positions. This has increased overall costs. In addition, it has become harder every year to find young people who would be able to give up two weeks in the middle of their summer to be able to help. Our efforts to recruit have more than doubled but have still come up short.

**Ministry Commitment:** The Braes staff commits a great deal of time each year to making a teen program come together. Months of preparation go into each summer. However, with each passing year the demands on the staff have increased in all areas of the ministry. This is having an overall negative effect on the ministry as a whole.

**Where do we go from here:** We have spent a lot of time praying about and searching God on this matter. In conclusion, we feel that continuing the Summer teen camping program is no longer feasible. If we are to continue local teen ministry, it will need to be done a different way. The question now is how do we provide quality, local, youth ministry within our means. We believe we would like to try a different approach.

**Infuzion:** On October 9-11, 2009 we will be hosting an "Infuzion" event here at the Braes. This will be a retreat for local teens, both junior and senior high ages. A team from **Infuzion Ministries** will be here to provide the program leadership needed. [More information on this event is included in this newsletter.](#)

We want to see the ministry of the Braes continue for years to come. God has equipped us in a unique way to be used by Him here in this place, and we want to maximize our potentials in those areas to see God work in the lives of the guests of this ministry. Though we are sorry the teen camping program will not continue, we look forward to focusing the ministry better in the future and providing quality ministry within the means God has given us.

# INFUZION

## High Braes Refuge

October 9-11, 2009

### Teen Retreat

# VICTORY

IN  THE  
CROSS

On October 9-11, High Braes Refuge will take its ministry to local teens in a new direction. The Braes will host an "Infuzion" event for local Junior and Senior high students grades 6 - 12. We hope this is the

start of a long term relationship with "Infuzion". Infuzion's director, Jay Trainer, has become a personal friend and someone who loves the Braes. He has a heart for young people. Infuzion's purpose is to build partnerships with those working with teens to help promote healthy, whole, pure, and intimate relationships with Christ.

Infuzion will come, with its entire team, ready to minister. This is ideal for the Braes as we feel most able to host, rather than organize, this type of event. Our local teens will benefit greatly from this retreat. If all goes well we hope to have additional Infuzion events each summer during July.

The theme for this retreat will be "**Victory In the Cross**". Teens attending will learn what it means to walk a victorious life, even though the circumstances may be difficult.

As with the Summer camping program, we want to do all we can to make this retreat affordable for teens living within the 25 mile radius of the Braes. Using surplus funds from the 2009 Summer camping program, we will be able to reduce the cost to \$45 per person, (\$102 actual cost per person). There is a maximum of \$85 per household for families with multiple teens attending. If you are a family with a genuine financial hardship, please let us know. Some funds have been set aside to provide full or partial scholarships for these families.

Registration forms will be

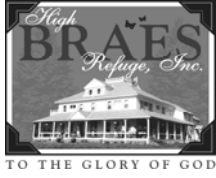


This is a special thank you to those of you who were a part of our Day Camp program this summer. Our teams from Leptondale Bible Church and Immanuel Baptist Church did a great job. In addition, our own staff of kitchen and maintenance help were great. This group of young people worked hard and without complaining. Toni and I want them to know that we love them and hope to see them again in the future. Thank you, again, for your hard work and for the way you loved and supported us.

Mr. Jeff & Miss Toni

Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts. They will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty, and I will meditate on your wonderful works. They will tell of the power of your awesome works, and I will proclaim your great deeds. They will celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

Psalm 145:3-7



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I would like to help support High Braes Refuge.

Please apply my monthly financial gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ; or my one time gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ toward the following:

General Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Summer Camp/Infuzion \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Improvement Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Specific improvement Project: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# High Callings

## Volunteering at the Braes

599-7362.

[contactus@highbraes.com](mailto:contactus@highbraes.com)

**General Workday: October 24, 2009**

**Starting at 8:30 am**

It may seem early to talk about it but winter is coming. There is much to do to prepare each fall and we would like your help. Things that will need to be done include:

- **Cleaning up leaves**
- **Cutting and stacking firewood**
- **Closing down summer buildings**
- **Preparing the Manor House for winter**

Please consider being a part of this important workday. Lunch will be provided for those staying for the afternoon. Please let us know you're coming so we can be ready.

(315) 599-7362

[contactus@highbraes.com](mailto:contactus@highbraes.com)

### Living Memorials

#### Recent Remembrances of Loved Ones

In Memory of...	Given By...
Barbara K. Thomas	Bernice O'Drake
James S. Moore	Al & Diane Smithler
Bobby E. Raymond	Dorothy Buecher
Leon & Shirley Papke	Keith & Barbara Osborne
Anita Clark	Richard Clark
James Moore	Thomas V. Fanning

### Please Pray for the Braes

**Infuzion:** We hope this will be a successful ministry to local youth. Please be praying that the details come together and that we would be able to fill the Manor House that weekend.

**Day Camp:** We saw several children begin a relationship with Christ this summer. Please be praying for these campers that they would find a place to grow in that new relationship.

**Retreats:** We still have some availability this fall during the month of November. Please be praying that God would send groups our way. This is our primary ministry and want to see this place used by groups who want to see people come to Christ and grow in that relationship.





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## From the Director

### Compassionate – Watchfulness

As the director of a retreat center I meet a lot of people. Over this past weekend I had the pleasure of spending some time with a 77 year old retired minister while he and the group he was with were visiting the falls. His name is Don. With his wife alongside, Don opened his heart to me and I quickly saw his love for Christ and how much he looked forward to someday being with Him. He had no attachment to anything this world had to offer, but as he looked forward to heaven, his heart reached back to the lost. Don is ready to leave this world to be with his Savior, but not without seeing others there with him. Through tears he expressed his concern that so many are not ready to stand.

I don't often have the chance to sit and talk to people from Don's generation as the Braes spends most of it's time ministering to youth. But it was a pleasure to see just a little of his heart and the heart of others of his generation in that same group. It's like a porthole to a different attitude. The contrast with today's thinking is startling.

We become use to the world we live in, and we can all say we have seen change in our lifetimes. Look in the news today and you will see, as believers, things that baffle the mind. But those changes didn't happen fast. They came in tiny, almost unnoticeable, increments. Before you know it, a generation has passed, the damage is done, and that becomes the starting point for the next generation.

The nation of Israel suffered repeatedly with this problem. Gradually moving in the wrong direction until they all but forgot God. Then came God's correction and restoration only to be followed by the same process all over again. God told them again and again to look back and

remember a different time with a different attitude.

Today we are fortunate to have the Word of God in our hand. It helps us to remember. It opens up thousands of years of history and shows us the defects of our own hearts. It shows us our tendency to become attached to this world. It helps us to get to know who God is, and demonstrates His amazing love for us. It should be a rock we anchor to throughout the generations. It will help us to stand in times ahead as the lines become blurred.

The world is now going through so many changes. A solid dedication to Godly living and an intimate relationship with Christ is becoming a thing of the past. But in talking with Don I saw just one thing that has changed so much, we don't see the lost the way we use to. We don't see Don's kind of compassion for the people who are not ready. Can you remember the last time you shed a tear for the lost or shed a tear of joy for someone who was found?

Don had in the foreground of his mind something so many Christians today have moved to the back; this world will not go on the way we see it, forever. What we see today will someday be radically interrupted by the call of the Bridegroom. The Bible encourages us to be ready and to help those that are not. At that moment, nothing this world has to offer will matter. Many of those left behind will suddenly develop razor sharp memories. They will evaluate their lives on a different standard. With agony they will remember lost opportunity; then tears will flow. Not as tears of compassion, but tears of regret.

Remember what has been lost, and with compassion, remain watchful. He's coming!



Jeff Andrews  
Director of the Braes