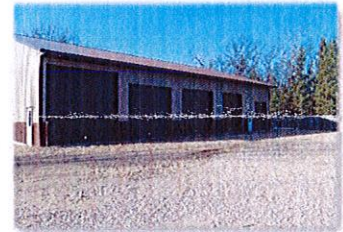


December 2016

Dear Immanuel Bible Church,

"We have a foundation!" My cousin and her husband are building a house, and her excitement as she penned those words was clearly evident. The structure and frame of a building spring up quickly, but until you get the foundation in all you have is a plot of ground.

We've laid a couple of foundations here a camp this year as well. A maintenance garage was erected in the pole barn area, and just recently a cement pad was poured where we set three brand-new, brightly-colored 550-gallon gas tanks along with an older tank, that I personally feel needs to be painted orange to complete the festive picture. The goal is to locate all of the maintenance and storage buildings into the same area, then remove the old crumbling garage and reclaim that piece of land.



We've been talking about Camp's constitution in our weekly staff gatherings lately. The first week we discussed the foundational truth of our belief in the inspired Word of God. This, like every foundation, is what our faith is based on, what we build the rest of our constitution upon, and where our proclamation of the Gospel stems from. It is not a shaky "house of cards" but a bedrock foundation that will hold firm until the end of time when Christ returns. Every one of the 6,898 campers who attended a retreat or camping event this year heard messages based on this

truth. As we head into 2017, our aim is that we would stand securely on the solid foundation of the Bible and not drift away from any truth that is found in it.

After eleven months of dealing with our new database system, I finally feel that I have a basic understanding of how it works—a foundation on which to build. I am very grateful for those of you who have prayed for me about this. God answered your prayers—and despite some days when I felt like pulling out my hair, I made it through this transition. Continue to pray about this though, as new things to work through, pop-up frequently.

We're gearing up for winter, and anticipating what the Lord will do in the lives of the campers He sends our way. Would you pray with me for protection of our retreaters during the winter months when footing is slippery? Pray also that the Lord would even now begin preparing hearts to respond to the preaching of His Word.

As surely as night follows day, summer is just over the winter horizon. Our health officer has retired, and we are praying for someone to fill that position—minimally for the summer (which the state of Michigan requires) but eventually long-term. Some interest has been expressed in the summer position, and we are praying that God would make it evident to them if He would have them come.

Resting on the foundation of God's saving grace,

Marilyn

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*Grateful for your support of the staff & ministry here at Barkel.
Merry Christmas & Happy 2017!*