

Spring & Summer 2022

Marmon Valley Ministries



Above & Beyond

Counselor Continues to Help After Camp Ends

Camp Counselor Savannah El-dridge remembers what it was like to be a young Christian with no one to mentor her.

“I accepted Christ when I was eight and I was kind of stuck, like “What do I do now?””

In the summer of 2020, two girls in her cabin, Natalie Kaiser and Avalyn Hines, were in a similar situation. Their families did not go to church regularly and both girls wanted to go every Sunday. Realizing the girls lived just 15 minutes from her, Savannah offered to pick them up and bring them with her to church.

Now, most Sundays, Savannah takes the girls to church.

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At a time when research shows most kids are not enthusiastic about going to church, Natalie and Avalyn were looking for a way to go every week.

“I wanted to get a better relationship with God,” Natalie says. “I wanted to learn how to sacrifice my life to Him and how to worship Him more.”



Above and Beyond Continued...

Avalyn lists a couple of reasons she wanted to make church a weekly part of her life.

“I wanted to go to church because I wanted to learn more about being saved and, at that time, I was having family problems. So I needed to get away and have like a happy place.”

Jolynn Hines, Avalyn’s mom, admits that marital problems are what her then eleven-year-old daughter was struggling with. She is grateful for Savannah’s willingness to come alongside her child.

“Maybe some things were shared, some heartfelt things and Savannah took it upon herself to be that big sister, that role model. Taking these girls under her wing to be Christ-followers like herself. I thought it was really great.”

Tracy Kaiser, Natalie’s mom, also appreciates Savannah’s willingness to come alongside her now 13-year-old daughter.

“Natalie has a boyfriend now and I never thought to ask, ‘Is he a Christian?’ So it was nice that Savannah did,” adding, “I feel like the more people that love your children and guide them, the better.”

Although there is a youth group at the church that Natalie and Avalyn could meet with on Sunday mornings, the girls prefer to stay with Savannah during the adult service.

After church, Savannah takes them out for lunch and they talk about that day’s message, answering their questions and talking about how they can apply what they’ve learned.

Savannah is grateful for the opportunity to help them grow spiritually.



“When I was growing up, I never had an older person to mentor me,” she says. “I went to church, but I didn’t have anyone checking on me, seeing how I was doing in my relationship with Christ. So I want to do whatever I can to help them with that.”

Nearly a year and a half after Natalie and Avalyn started going to church with Savannah, they say they have no plans to stop, and Savannah is ready to continue riding this trail with them.

The 6 Types of Soil For Your Garden

Loamy soil

Three main components make up soil: sand, silt, and clay. Loamy soil includes all three in equal amounts. That means that it drains well, retains a lot of moisture, and breathes enough for air to reach the roots of a plant. Those factors make it an ideal all-around choice for gardening.

Sandy soil

It's typically not highly nutritious. But as long as it's supplemented with organic fertilizer or similar additives, sandy soil makes a great bed for root vegetables and bulbs.

Silty soil

The high silt concentration of this soil allows it to retain large amounts of moisture and nutrients. Mix in a little organic compost and your silty soil will be perfectly suited for fruits and vegetables.

Clay soil

Usually grayish and wet, with a tendency to stick together in clumps. Clay soil is great for shrubs like hostas. It can even serve as a base for fruit trees.

Peaty soil

To grow healthy plants in peaty soil, mix in nutrient-rich organic matter, plus additives like lime to lower the acidity.

Chalky soil

The high levels of chalk make this soil alkaline, the opposite of acidic. Some plants, like lilacs and Boston ivy, thrive in alkaline soils. Others will suffer nutrient deficiencies. You can correct your soil's pH balance with organic compost materials.

By Harrison Kral



“What soil are you?”

Matthew 13:23 explains how we can be compared to the soil. When we begin to hear and receive the Word of God, we are compared to the good soil and can produce wonderful fruits! In contrast, setting aside the Word begins to dry us up and we strive for light, water, and life.

The takeaway

How are you responding to the Word? Which soil are you? Are you the path, which is no soil at all? Are you the rocky ground with a little soil? Are you among thorns? Or lastly, are you the good soil? Take some time to explore what soil you are, and how you are going to continue to respond to God's word.

VISION FOR THE VALLEY COMING INTO FOCUS

The Marmon Valley Board of trustees is looking to the future to continue to provide the most impactful camping experiences! As our number of campers grow, and our facilities and staff are stretched to their limits, the Board launched the vision for the Valley campaign to raise funds to improve facilities and security; and enhance our mentoring and scholarship capacity. Here are some renderings of the major projects and upgrades that are part of the vision.



Bunk House –

As most of you know, several of our buildings were originally built for animals and re-modeled for guests. Some of these buildings are beginning to show signs of age and are in need of replacement. A new bunkhouse is in the planning stages here at Marmon Valley! Part of the “Vision for the Valley” has been to update and increase sleeping accommodations and restrooms for our campers and guests. The goal is to add a new building with three bunkrooms,



and plenty of showers! With this new structure we will be able to accommodate additional campers each camping season! This will cut down the wait time for showers as campers prepare for evening devotionals and then bed.



Water Slide –

We were blessed to be gifted a commercial grade water slide (over 100 feet) that we plan to install at Lake Hill-Be-Gone.

This will require some engineering, site prep, additional equipment purchases and some good ol’ fashioned elbow grease before we can make the big slash!



While this will take some time to install, this new activity will all be worth the smiling faces on a hot summer day here on the Farm!

Archery Sight Upgrade

Part of the plan to enhance the program activities at MVM is a new archery pavilion. This structure will be large enough to cover the campers and staff on a hot summer or rainy day! Archery is one of the most popular activities here, besides horseback riding. Along with the other activities



here at camp, archery is another great way for us to encourage the campers spiritually as they aim for various targets in their life.



Discipleship and Leadership

Like everyone else, finding staff is a major challenge. Campaign funds will allow us to step up recruitment efforts for camp counselors, the young people who care for, lead, and disciple the boys and girls who come to camp. Technology upgrades will help us capture important information that helps the ministry get feedback from

campers and evaluate the effectiveness of programming.



Scholarships

With increased capacity to host up to 160 more campers per year, some of those campers will need scholarship assistance. To keep pace with the increased demand,

and be ready in the event of another recession or pandemic, some of the campaign revenue will go into the camp scholarship fund.



Wrangler Matt and the fundraising team are already working to achieve these goals. In just the first quarter of this year, commitments total more than \$250,000. We are grateful for your prayers as we strive to turn the vision into reality.

If you would like more information on the Vision for the Valley, contact Jim Schroeder at jim@marmonvalleyministries.org

Easter on the Farm April 16th



This event is a good way to have some family fun! The morning of the event will include all types of activities! Enjoy a pancake breakfast, a hayride, a pony ride, (ages 11 and under), and a family scavenger hunt! When the hunt is completed, children 11 years and under receive a goodie bag! Don't forget to stop by the petting zoo and play areas!

Youth Weekends

March 18th-20th & October 21st-23rd



Dad & Daughter Date

April 2nd & August 13th

Mother Daughter Retreat

April 22nd-23rd & May 7th-8th



Summer Fun Day's

June 18th, July 16th & August 27th

Fundraising Events



1. Ride Through the Valley

September 18th, 2022

This special trail ride fundraiser is an opportunity for you to partner with MVM to raise the funds necessary to keep providing camp scholarships.

2. Horseshoe Hill Climb

November 5th, 2022

Choose from a 5K, 10K, 20K, or 30K option. Proceeds from the run go toward MVM scholarships.

Learn more and register online at marmonvalley.com/run



BACK TO NORMAL

With Covid-19 on the wane in the second quarter of 2021, the Logan County Health Department gave the go-ahead to return to normal camp operations last summer.

There was pent-up demand for some good old fashion farm-style camp fun! Several weeks of camp were full by the end of April and we maxed out most of the other weeks.



A total of 776 boys and girls attended camp in 2021. Scholarship assistance was provided allowing 82 youth to attend camp. Best of all, 30 children accepted Jesus as their savior while at camp!

We are very excited to see how God is going to work through the camp ministry this year.



Summer Camp Scholarships

This summer our goal is to help even more boys and girls experience a week of camp through our scholarship program.

If you would like to make a secure, online donation to the Scholarship Fund, click on the Donate button below. Marmon Valley Ministries is a 501(c)3 non-profit and donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of IRS regulations.



For more information about our camps or applying for scholarship assistance, call our office at 937-593-8051.

