

# News From the Expeditions Unlimited Adventure Centre

Volume 1, Issue 22

Winter 2014

## Prayer Request:

- With winter ending we begin our slow spring season. Please pray for God's financial provision during this time.
- Pray that follow up and mentoring will happen for the students who made decisions to follow Christ this winter.
- Pray for our summer staff as we are starting to hire for another busy year.
- Pray for the Compass program as we try to get it off the ground by this fall.
- Pray for wisdom and discernment in our selection of 2 new Resident Assistants to help with the Sherpa program this summer.

## Praises:

- For the lives that were changed through winter camp!
- For the successful completion of the dining hall addition!
- For new full time staff and their commitment to this ministry!
- The development of the Compass program is increasing and the Lord is already instilling interest among students



## Note From Director, Steve Higgins

*So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. (1 Cor 3:7)*

We all have our roles to play in the advancement of God's Kingdom. I am always encouraged when I hear how much of an impact our facilities, staff, and programs have on the lives of students.

After a recent winter retreat, a long time friend and female staff member from a church shared with me how two students in her cabin had accepted Christ for the first time that weekend. It's encouraging to hear that exciting news and now those students will go home with someone who will help them learn and grow in their new found faith. I told this woman that our job is easy; we provide and maintain the facility where speakers can teach others about God, but now the ball is in her court. She will go home with these students and has the job of mentoring and discipling them along in their faith. Her response was the one I was hoping for. She said, "It's an honor to be able to take it to the next level". This is one reason I am passionate about working with intact groups. I know that follow up will happen and new believers won't slip through the cracks when they return home to their everyday lives. Praise God for the lives that were changed this winter season!

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## Winter Update

By Steve Voss

It seemed like last winter we received a lot of last minute calls from groups looking to lower their total numbers. Students were backing out due to weather, finances, school, whatever. For some reason, this winter has been the exact opposite! Groups have been calling with more students and asking for more beds. Our new dining hall addition and meeting room are being used every weekend and it is rare that a cabin sits empty.

*(Continued on other side...)*

## Winter Update (continued)

Last weekend the group I hosted met in our newest meeting space. It was a thrill to see a bunch of high school students learning and worshipping in a room that we spent all fall building! It's amazing for me to think that 5 months ago there was nothing there and now it's another room where students can be taught about Christ and worship His name.

The youth pastor of this particular church focused his talks on the kingdom of God and the need to proclaim that kingdom in our communities, in our schools, and in our homes. He talked about the importance of using our gifts and talents to reach people for Christ. The main point he tried to drive home with these students was that "Doing nothing for God's Kingdom is simply not an option for a true follower of Christ". Talk about a message that prompts you to action!

While we see a lot of unbelievers come to Christ through a weekend of camp, many of the students we see are already plugged into youth groups and come from believing families. While this is great, and I am happy for the foundation of faith they have, a lot of times this type of background leads to complacency. I think this is getting even truer in our "what's right for you is right for you, and what's right for me is right for me" culture. It's always been scary to share your faith and I think it's getting worse. We all need to be constantly reminded that "doing nothing for God's kingdom is simply not an option for a true follower of Christ".



## Youth Pastor's Perspective

By Kirk Tate

It's always a great time when Glen Ellyn Bible Church, First Baptist Geneva, and First Baptist Wheaton converge on Expeditions Unlimited for a Winter Retreat! This year we brought in Toby Anderson from Tulsa, Oklahoma who shared during each session about the greatness of God. Sound teaching coupled with incredible worship brought about a weekend of life-change for many of the 200+ participating students. A highlight of the weekend was seeing 15+ students respond to the gospel, and countless others responding to God's challenge in their lives. The weekend would not have been possible without the dedicated and hard-working staff of Expeditions Unlimited creating the perfect environment for ministry and relationships! We look forward to all that God will continue to do in many students' lives as a result of the impact of Winter Retreat 2014 at Expeditions Unlimited.



## Note from Josh and Jo

January has been a month full of learning and growth at Expeditions. God has reminded us of His Spirit's power and the importance of confession and repentance. We were specially reminded of this during one of the recent groups that Josh hosted.

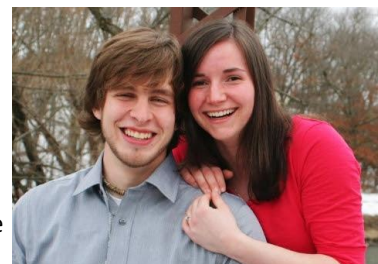


Throughout the weekend Josh had the opportunity to be a part of the small group discussion times. During this time, God laid a student's name on his heart and Josh had the opportunity to pray for the student. Josh also shared with the group that the Lord was placing this name on his heart. During discussion time, the student shared how he had been struggling with pornography and self-worth. He was encouraged that the Lord had laid his name on Josh's heart. It was so encouraging to see his bravery as he shared it with his small group and asked for prayer. This also opened up the opportunity for others to share areas of their lives that they wanted to give to the Lord. Even more encouraging is knowing that he and the other students went home with leaders who cared and wanted to follow up with them and help them through in their struggles.

## Adventure Centre Staff News

### Josh and Johanna Wilkosz

Josh and Johanna headed up the Sherpa program last summer and were married last August. They came on full time as of December 1<sup>st</sup> and like all of us, their role at camp includes a wide variety of jobs. They find themselves hosting groups, helping with maintenance, shopping, running the camp store/coffee shop, and whatever else we need them to do. Their main job, however, is to design and implement the new Compass program as well as run the summer Sherpa program. We are excited to have them as part of our team.



### Baby Voss

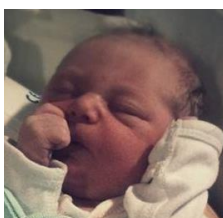
On November 4 of last year the Voss family welcomed Joshua Donald into the world.

This makes 3 little kids for Skooba and Erin. It's exciting to see how their family keeps growing! Jarred

Michael

### Michael and Jarred

Michael and Jarred both came to work at Expeditions Unlimited after participating in retreats. Michael attended camp as a student and last summer was part of our Sherpa program. Jarred attended camp as a leader for his church last fall and afterwards asked if he could stay up here and work. Both guys live in one of the cabins and do a lot of the much needed grunt labor that makes camp run. We are glad to have both of them on board!



### Grandma and Grandpa Higgins

A huge congratulations goes out to Steve and Lynn Higgins who became first time grandparents at the end of December! William Daniel Hutchens (Liam) was born to their daughter Jessica and her husband Clint.

## New Programs

### Compass Program

Compass is designed for students who are just out of high school and are looking for an opportunity to explore their options and ground themselves spiritually before taking their next step in life. These students will live at camp and take part in a seven part program focusing on Biblical grounding, missions, service, discipleship, life skills, job shadow experience, and wilderness. The program will start this fall with an ideal size of 6-8 students. If you would like more information about the program email: [wilkosz@expeditionunlimited.com](mailto:wilkosz@expeditionunlimited.com)

### Scholarship Fund

This year we will be setting up a scholarship fund for students who are unable to attend camp because of hard financial situations. Even though we keep our prices as low as we can, there have been many times where students are financially unable to attend. This fund will be used at our discretion to help individuals whose families lack the means to pay their own way. When someone gives to this fund all the money will go directly towards sending a student to camp. If this is something you would like to be a part of please make a note on your check or email: [info@expeditionunlimited](mailto:info@expeditionunlimited) for other ways to give.



## Dining hall addition

After an intense fall of work we finished the upstairs of our dining hall addition! On January 18<sup>th</sup> we opened the doors to our first big group of the winter and served 240 people breakfast. The following week we finished the new meeting room in the lower level. This room has been used every weekend since its completion and praise God for the hundreds of students who have been able to worship in this new space! Thanks for your partnership with us towards the completion of this project.



Dining hall addition lower level



Dining hall addition upper level

## Offices

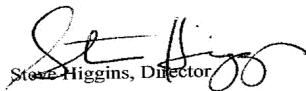
We are doing away with the old cubicles and building our own individual offices! This is a small project and will only take a couple of weeks to complete. Having our own work space will allow us to operate more effectively and efficiently and we are excited for that.



## The Tub

This room is located in the basement of one of the cabins we recently moved. Its original purpose was to provide a place for our staff to hang out and take a break. However, with an increase in the number of students this winter we had to hurry up and finish it to provide another small group meeting room.

***This year promises to be another exciting year for the ministry of Expeditions Unlimited. Please continue to keep us in your prayers. Keep the Faith!***

  
Steve Higgins, Director

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ towards the ongoing ministry of Expeditions Unlimited

I would like my donation to go directly towards the new scholarship fund

I/We would like to commit to partnering with you financially on a monthly basis

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

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