



### Volume 44 Spring 2025

1. Not One Ministry But Many
2. The Far-Reaching Impact of Serving at Summer Camp  
Beyond Bible Adventure Class  
Honorarium/Memorial
3. The Lasting Impact of Faithful Service  
A Moment of Connection: The Far-Reaching Impact of Guest Ministries
4. Mark Your Calendars

### The Privilege of Giving

Our commitment to you: Joy El is a member of ECFA (the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability). The ECFA seal (seen here) is an expression of our commitment to integrity in all aspects of our ministry. Please visit [www.ecfa.org](http://www.ecfa.org) to find out more about ECFA. All donations to Joy El are tax-deductible.



To learn about more ways to give, call Miriam Ankerbrand at 717-369-4539 or E-mail [miriam@joyel.org](mailto:miriam@joyel.org)

### Chris's Corner



As the new CEO of Joy El, I have discovered a great team of people who sincerely love God and are committed to sharing that love with everyone who participates in any Joy El program. Enjoy hearing a little about how several have been serving in this edition of the Joy El Journal.

-Chris Walsh, CEO

## Not One Ministry But Many

By David Rudy, Chief Advancement Officer



*"For in fact the body is not one member but many. (1 Cor. 12:14)"*

The Apostle Paul offers a profound illustration of the unity and diversity within the Body of Christ, likening it to the intricacy and perfection of the human body, designed by our Creator. He highlights the beauty of **many distinct members, each serving in a unique and essential role**. No function is more important than another. Instead, we see how each part depends on the others, working together in harmony to fulfill the body's purpose.

*"And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? (1 Cor.*

*12:16-17)*

*"But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. (1 Cor. 12:18, 20)*

This truth is evident at Joy El. I am continually amazed at how the mission and ministry here extend far beyond the camp itself. **It's much larger than any one program—it is a movement of God's work**, a beautiful expression of unity through diversity, made possible by the people He has called to serve.

We are incredibly blessed to partner with local churches in multiple regions, joining efforts to impact children and families in their communities. I am particularly inspired by the evangelistic mission we see in both camps and Bible Adventure/CIA programs, which are reaching many unchurched families. Equally, the discipleship that takes place through these programs, as well as the 4.12 Leadership Training Program, is an essential and ongoing part of what God is doing.

But recently, what has deeply blessed me is recognizing how **the ministry extends far beyond the confines of these programs**. Through the dedicated staff and volunteers, God is working not only in and through these programs but continues to work in each of us and through us wherever we go—so long as we are willing to allow Him to do so. It's a privilege to share with you this year the inspiring stories of how **God is using people like you to expand His Kingdom**.

*"The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor...*

*But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. (1 Cor. 12:21-27)*



*The Gospel is shared and lived out both on and off site*

# The Far-Reaching Impact of Serving at Summer Camp

By Elijah Shively, Program Director



Each year, it is my privilege to hire, train, and lead the summer camp staff. **I am constantly amazed by the way God uses the summer camp staff** to bless and encourage children during their time at camp. Yet, what never ceases to surprise me is the powerful way **God continues to work in the lives of our summer staff long after camp ends.**

Recently, I was humbled as I reached out to former staff members, both to gather updates and to invite them back for another summer of service. **As I listened to their stories, I was deeply moved by the incredible ways God has continued to shape their lives.** Here are two particularly inspiring stories:

**One former camp counselor**, whom I contacted to inquire about his future ambitions and availability for the upcoming summer, shared something truly remarkable. He **is now enrolling in a theology program in the Dominican Republic**, while simultaneously serving to help grow churches in the school's community. It was humbling to see how God had taken a young man who once served as a counselor, and now **he's following a calling to overseas ministry in the Dominican Republic.** His growth is a testimony to the far-reaching impact that summer camp can have on a person's life.

The second story comes from a former 4.12 LTP student and camp counselor—someone we are thrilled to have back serving with us

this summer. But **his journey after camp** is just as remarkable. This young man, **soon-to-be graduating the Air Force Academy**, has not only excelled academically but **has also launched Bible study groups with fellow cadets and led some to begin a relationship with Jesus.** His story is another powerful reminder of how serving at camp doesn't just impact the children—it shapes the hearts of our staff, equipping them to lead and spread the gospel in places far beyond the campgrounds.



*Summer camp not only impacts hundreds of campers but the summer staff that disciple them.*

These stories are just two examples of the far-reaching impact of serving at summer camp. It's not just fun and activities—it's **a transformative experience that leaves an indelible mark on both the campers and the staff.** The lessons learned, the relationships built, and the faith that is deepened during those summer weeks have lasting effects that ripple out into the world in profound ways. Whether it's overseas ministry, leadership at the Air Force Academy, or any other path our staff members take, the impact of their service at camp continues to shape their lives—and the lives of those they touch—for years to come.

## Beyond Bible Adventure Class

by Brenda Brazee, Assistant Director of Bible Adventure



While so much of what we do happens at our programs, whether it's on site at camp or in the public school Bible class settings, but I was recently humbled and inspired greatly by a story I heard from a **Bible Adventure volunteer** that confirmed we are not only impacting children's lives, but we are **taking Jesus to families and communities.**

Brittany\* is a fifth grade student that attends Bible Adventure and has been since third grade. Over the years she has built great relationships with the faithful volunteer team. **Brittany's family does not attend church regularly, so Bible Adventure is her church**, this is her family in Christ.

The Bible Adventure team learned that **Brittany and her mother had been in a major car accident right before Christmas** and Mom was severely injured, rendering her, **unable to return to work for quite a while.** Brittany's mom is a single mother with another child younger than Brittany to care for, and she drives bus to provide for her family. **Now she was unable to work and was greatly concerned about providing for her family.**

As the **Bible Adventure team** learned about this, they **took immediate action by collecting an offering to help this family in their time of financial need.** They were able to collect a rather substantial offering and one of the Bible Adventure volunteers took time to personally deliver the offering to the family and spend time with them in friendship. **They also got together a meal plan to bring meals to the family during this time of need.**

Because Brittany's mom was laid up during this time, her mother actually came from out of state to stay with her for a while to help with her care. **Now Brittany's mom and grandma get to see the hands and feet of Jesus through this Bible Adventure team.** Join us in praying for the Bible Adventure team to continue to serve selflessly into their community when needs like this arise, and pray for Brittany's family that her mother and grandmother would make life-changing decisions to begin a relationship with Jesus.

*\*Not actual student's name, name changed for privacy.*



*Bible Adventure combines faith, fun, and friends to help kids grow in their love for Jesus!*

## HONORARIUM / MEMORIAL LIST

In Honor of:  
Given by:

**Dawn Johnson**  
Mr. Allen Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. Allen Johnson  
**Director of Camping Ministries Office**  
(Marshall Family)  
John & Gracia Marshall  
**Gerald Frey**  
Neal Musser  
**George Washington University**  
Tahir Loremus

**Gregg Garman**  
Perry & Tina Mentzer

In Memory of:  
Given by:

**Dorothy Martin**  
Greg & Selena Strine  
**Faye Ankerbrand**  
Connie Harnish  
George & Jane Pittman  
Robert & Bobbi Kinker  
Tabb & Laura Justus

**Geri Emig**  
Nancy Bixler  
Wellsville Bible Adventure Team

**Kim Shatzer**  
Deb Gorbisky  
Thomas Shatzer

**Gladys McCrae**  
William & Rita Beck

**Jean Jackson**  
Joyce Shew

**Jessica Justus Pedersen**  
E. Faye Stouffer  
Tabb & Laura Justus

**Mary McClure**  
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Mr. & Mrs. Allen Johnson  
Linda Bivens  
Lois Brechbiel

**Melvin Burkholder**  
Margaret Burkholder

**Pat Garling**  
Mary Wilfong  
Melodie Anderson-Smith, Jodi Stewart  
Schwarzer, & Nathan Stewart

## A Moment of Connection:

### The Far-Reaching Impact of Guest Ministries

By Regina Martin, CIA Coordinator and Assistant Program Director



While serving as the Host for our Guest Groups at a recent weekend retreat, I had the privilege of meeting many guests, but **one encounter stood out in a way I didn't expect.**

I was wearing a sweatshirt from The Pilgrim, a play performed by ARISE Collective Theater. As I walked through the room, a woman from the retreat group excitedly approached me.

**"Oh my word!" she exclaimed. "I saw your sweatshirt and just had to come talk to you.** I've been to The Pilgrim the last three times they performed at Lancaster Bible College (LBC)."

She went on to share that **one of those performances had coincided with a particularly difficult season** in her life. "I asked the Lord to speak to me that weekend," she explained, her eyes lighting up. "And each night, **He sent a different person to pray with me. It was exactly what I needed.**"

Her voice softened as she continued, **"That experience changed everything for me."** It was clear the impact of that performance had stretched far beyond just a night of theater—it had reached deep into her heart, providing comfort and reassurance when she needed it most.

While she had recognized me from the first night of their retreat, she hadn't spoken up or made any connection with me. **However, when she saw me the next day, wearing that sweatshirt, it felt like a sign**

**from God—a confirmation that everything was aligned, and she was exactly where she needed to be.** We talked for a while, reflecting on how The Pilgrim had impacted both of our lives, each in our own way, but still sharing that deep, unspoken connection through the experience.

Over the course of the weekend, we crossed paths several times. Each time, she smiled warmly and waved, saying, "It's so good to see you!" **It wasn't just a greeting—it was a reminder of the unspoken bond we had shared and the unexpected ways God connects people.**

In that simple moment of connection, I was reminded of the **far-reaching impact Guest Ministries has as we serve and bless groups** that visit Joy El. It's not just about providing a space for people to gather; **it's about creating opportunities for life-changing encounters.**

We never truly know how deeply someone's experience will

resonate or how it will ripple out into their lives, impacting them, their communities, and the world around them.



*Guest Ministries serve many church, youth, college, and mission groups during weekends, giving them time to connect to their creator and refresh.*

## The Lasting Impact of Faithful Service

By Susie Barkdoll, Assistant Director of Bible Adventure



Betty never imagined the ways her deep love for the Lord and her faithful service in the Bible Adventure (BA) Program would touch generations to come. For **more than forty years, Betty has served as a BA Listener**, faithfully participating in the four Waynesboro programs over the years.

For many of those years, Betty had the joy of serving alongside her husband, Ron. Ron was a constant source of encouragement, motivating students to memorize scripture and celebrating their achievements when they earned awards. Though Ron has now gone to be with the Lord, Betty continues to serve as a BA Listener, carrying on the work they both loved.

But what's even more inspiring is the way **Betty's obedience to God's calling has multiplied through future generations.** One of her former students is now serving as an Equipping Coordinator, training dozens more BA volunteers and leading classes of students, while another has recently joined the staff as the Bible Adventure Office Assistant.

Betty's story is a powerful reminder that **no role is too small when it comes to serving God.** Whether it's guiding young hearts as a BA Listener, encouraging students to memorize scripture,



*Students are released from school for an hour of Biblical instruction with caring adults.*

Betty's faithful service has left a lasting legacy. She continues to embrace the call to develop disciples, serving with joy and gladness as she shares God's love with students in Bible Adventure.

Betty's example shows us that **when we answer God's call, we play a part in something much greater than ourselves.** Her commitment to serving with faithfulness and love is impacting lives today and will continue to inspire generations to come.

*Matthew 28:19a/20a "Therefore, Go and make disciples of all nations...teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you..."*



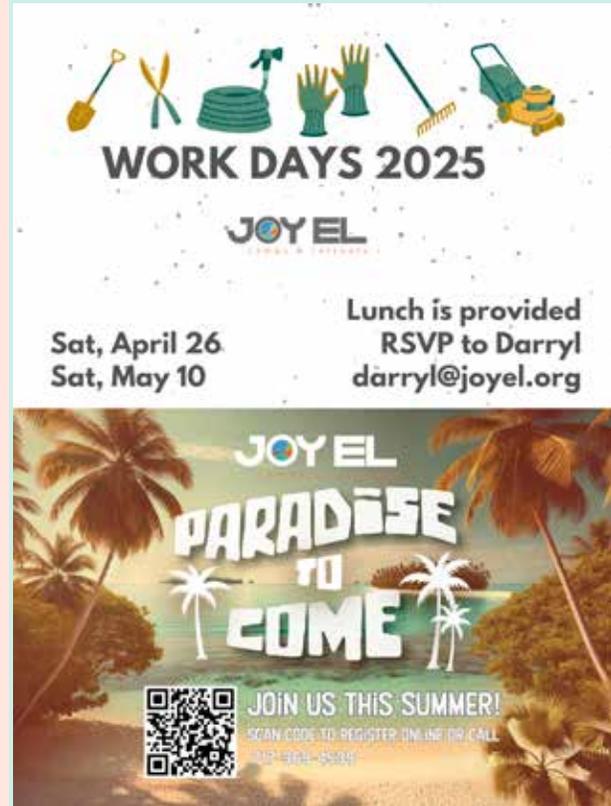
*Listeners in Bible Adventure disciple the next generation, impacting a life that will impact others!*

# Mark Your Calendars

Date	Event	Time (s)
April 26	Work Day* Lunch Provided	8:00 AM to 1:00 PM
May 9	4.12 Pizza & Paint Party	5:00 PM
May 10	Work Day* Lunch Provided	8:00 AM to 1:00 PM
May 15	4.12 Graduation Celebration	6:45 PM
June 7-9	4.12 Leadership Training Summit	6:00 PM Fri to 2:30 PM Sun
June 11- Aug	Summer Camp- "Paradise to Come"	
July 1	Info Meeting for Returning 4.12 Students	6:15 PM to 7:15 PM
July 10	Info Meeting for Potential 4.12 Students	6:15 PM to 7:15 PM
July 15	Info Meeting for Potential 4.12 Students	6:15 PM to 7:15 PM
July 31	Info Meeting for Potential 4.12 Students	6:15 PM to 7:15 PM
July 31	Early Application deadline for Returning 4.12 Students	
August 11	4.12 Applications due in hand	

\*Email or call [darryl@joyel.org](mailto:darryl@joyel.org) 717-369-4539 to RSVP for a work day.

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Now you can get the most up-to-date information on Joy El events along with updates on what God is doing through our ministry.

## Updates and Events

3741 Joy El Dr. Greencastle, PA 17225  
return address service requested

