



Dear Friends,

The Fourth of July at Gull Lake Ministries was a blast. Besides the great food, comfortable rooms, friendly guests, attentive staff, and Richard Allen Farmer's preaching, there were fireworks!

That evening, my wife and I were invited to join Ambush, Hoedown, and their families in a boat on the lake to watch the, *Rockets' red glare and bombs bursting in air*. It was a great show—almost surreal; the stillness of the evening and the clamor of the show, the gentle lapping of the waves and the concussions of the explosions, the tranquility in the boat and the energy overhead.

And then I thought about the deer and other wildlife in the area. Why my mind works that way I do not know—it just does. I imagined a frantic, frightened young deer thinking that the world was coming to an end. The unexpected noise and lights from the explosions overhead must have been terrifying. I imagined him running through the woods asking, "Why is this happening? What should I do? Where can I hide? Please make it stop."

What was a beautiful, inspiring, enjoyable event from my vantage point was terrifying to the creatures who did not understand. Without an appreciation for the lights and noise, and without an awareness of the reason for the explosions, the events of the evening were frightening and confusing.

Maybe some fireworks have gone off in your life. Maybe an explosion or two has left you scared and confused; a financial reversal, a medical crisis, a broken relationship, or a dream that has never come true. God may look at these events very differently. Maybe our limited vision keeps our eyes locked on this world so much that we miss the show.

Paul reminded the Romans, "*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*" (Romans 8:28). What comfort when the explosions begin. What peace when fears invade our hearts. What strength when hope is ebbing away. What wisdom when confusion reigns.

God looks at the same fireworks show and sees the beauty of what it represents and what it is accomplishing. We see the lights and hear the noise and run scared in the forest imagining the worst and thinking the world is out of control.

The next time an explosion goes off in your life, think about the fireworks at Gull Lake and remember that God is working things out for His glory, His purposes, and your good.

Sincerely,

Dan Bolin

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Dr. Dan Bolin is the president of Christian Camping International; an alliance of 20 associations of Christian camps and camping leaders around the world serving 12 million campers and guests annually. To receive Fresh Bread, a weekly devotional and prayer update from CCI, contact admin@cciworldwide.org. To find out more about Dr. Dan Bolin's work in growing Christian camping globally, visit www.cciworldwide.org.



Tom and Janet Langston (seated), Brian and Kelli Meyer, Lauren 15, Nicole 11, Andrew and Emma 8 (left), Mark and Kelli Langston, Ava 3, and Micah 1 (right)

One GLM Family Story

Many of the families that come to Gull Lake Ministries have been coming for many years and as their family grows they bring each new generation in the hopes that they will carry on the tradition. GLM is thankful for the Lord's blessing of these families and would like to share the story of Tom and Janet Langston, their son, Mark Langston and daughter, Kelli (Langston) Meyer and their families.

We love coming to Gull Lake for the speakers and great family time. We have come to Gull Lake for 13 years seeing many changes through the years, which have all been positive. The first year we came with our first grandchild who was two, and this year we had all of our six grandchildren with us which was so much fun for all ages from one year old to 15. The spiritual emphasis is the difference between Gull Lake and other vacations. We focus on our relationship with Christ and how to live closer to Him. Each year we come away from the week encouraged to walk closer to the Lord and keep faithfully serving Him. What a blessing it was this year to see four of our grandchildren baptized. We plan to keep coming back every year for a week of family camp and hopefully bringing as many family members as we can.

Tom & Janet Langston



We moved to Richland, MI from Illinois and we discovered Gull Lake Ministries back in 1997. The kids love it and talk about GLM all year. The time with family to focus on our Christian faith in a fun and family-friendly way is irreplaceable. The family-centered approach is great. We love the enthusiastic college staff. The kids learn so much with their counselors. It gives our family a jump start in our journey of following Christ. Our family has changed for the better because of the time invested at GLM, it pulls us back on course with our commitment to family devotions. In 2008 our son Andrew, then five, was scheduled for open heart surgery in late summer, but the kids still wanted to go to GLM. So we went and received so much encouragement and prayer for his upcoming procedure. I am so glad we went to family camp. God answered our prayers and the surgery went well and he is doing great. As Christians, it was truly gratifying to have our children baptized during Family Camp. The impact of GLM on our kids has been tremendous. We moved to Minnesota this year and it has been challenging for everyone to start over trying to make friends and get to know new neighbors. It was a shot in the arm for our family to go to GLM, as we have done for many years, and be fed spiritually and emotionally. The kids have been more ardent about their walk with Christ since we've been home and their believer's baptisms have undoubtedly contributed to that.

Brian & Kelli Meyer

We came to Family Camp with my husband's family, they all love this camp! Every year they would come home from camp refreshed, spiritually nourished, family focused, and simply joyful and we wanted that! And it was lasting! Not a camp high, but their experiences were life-changing, especially in their children. Now that we have children of our own, we didn't even hesitate when they extended the invitation! This was our first year and we definitely plan on returning in the future. I have worked for Christian camps in the past as a leader and staff, so I know what it takes to run one, and I was blown away with GLM. They mastered a perfect blend of fun and professionalism. The staffs' heart and desire to serve was above and beyond. They served and loved on us with excellence. As a wife and mother, it was so nice to be served in every way! Our family was so well taken care of, physically and spiritually! Our three year old daughter still talks about the Bible stories she learned, the funny things her leaders did and said, and her experience in her Cove Kids class. She and my one year old go around quoting the Bible verse we would go over every morning. I love that and you wouldn't get that with any other vacation! Absolutely spiritually and physically refreshing!

Kelli (Mark) Langston

Welcome Our New Staff Members!

Walk in obedience to all that the LORD your God has commanded you. Deuteronomy 5:33

For years, Jen Johnson attended Ladies' Days and always thought "It would be so awesome to work at Gull Lake Ministries!" Now that dream has come to fruition! Jen has been at GLM serving as Marketing Coordinator since February of 2011. She has a degree in technical communications and attends Radiant Church in Richland. Jen and her husband Buggy serve in the children's ministry at Radiant and have three children, Kyle, Josie, and Maya. In addition to the children's ministry, Jen feels called to work with middle school age girls and enjoys facilitating a small girls' life group. Her favorite verse is Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future." Jen is so thankful that working at GLM was part of the Lord's plan for her!



Jen and Kimberly

Since May of this year, Kimberly "Too Fast Too Flurriest" Wilkes has been with GLM full time as Retreat Sales Manager and has been handling Family Camp reservations. She is a graduate of Michigan State University with bachelor's degrees in both marketing and advertising. Kimberly is married to Chad and has four kids: Gary, Gabby, Alyssa, and Grady. Kimberly and her family attend Nashville Baptist Church. In her spare time, she loves to scrapbook, watch or go to sporting events, and she enjoys photography. Kimberly's favorite verse is "Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart." Psalm 37:4. She has rested on this verse through many difficult life circumstances.

Welcome Back!

Ten of our GLM Family Camp dads and daughters have just returned home from a 10-day trip to serve orphans and needy children in Uganda. It was a life-changing experience for these middle school girls and their dads. Many who read the blog at pcmonline.org stated they felt like they were on the trip with them. Check out the 10 blog posts from September 23 to October 3 with all the pictures and action!



In Memorial

Forris Stevens
Edward Gast
Paul Gordon

Through the love and concern expressed with a memorial gift, Gull Lake Ministries can continue to touch lives for Jesus Christ. If you would like to give a gift in memory of an individual, simply enclose your gift, your address, and the address of those to whom you would like an acknowledgement sent and mail to: Gull Lake Ministries, 1988 Midlake Drive, Hickory Corners, MI 49060.

New Year's 2012 FAMILY CAMP

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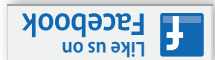


Memorial Day Weekend May 25–28, 2012

John & Melanie DeKruyter

Expect a very interactive learning experience as you engage in the Scriptures with John and Melanie DeKruyter. John and Melanie have studied extensively under Ray VanderLaan, as well as earning masters degrees while living in Jerusalem. The weekend will include live teaching, joining Ray VanderLaan 'on location' via recorded lessons, and coming together to experience the sacred worship Jesus and His community knew.

Call now to reserve your spot! (800) 350-2442 ext. 204



Gull Lake MINISTRIES
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