

Attention, Parents!

Scholarships Still Available



We never want finances to prevent a child from coming to camp and hearing the good news of the gospel.

Thanks to generous donors, we have funds set aside to help children come to camp who would otherwise not be able to.

If we can help your camper come this summer, please email us at info@bigskybiblecamp.org to explore a camper scholarship. We would love to hear from you!

Serve at Camp & Save for College



Through our **Summer Ministry Program**, summer staff can raise additional financial support to augment their summer salaries, with the potential for some staff to double their pay. **One counselor has raised more than \$2,400 in extra funds already!**

We will provide the necessary materials and coaching to help summer staff succeed. Contact Grace DeValois, Program Director, at grace@bigskybiblecamp.org to explore this exciting opportunity.

Volunteer Opportunities



Why not volunteer for a week at Big Sky Bible Camp this summer? We are often in need of **nurses, cooks, and assistant cooks in particular.**

Come and be refreshed as you serve in a joyful and rewarding Christian community!

Contact us today at info@bigskybiblecamp.org for a volunteer application.

April 26th is Reach Day!
Don't miss this opportunity for your gift to go further on Reach Day.
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the BIG SKY QUARTERLY

A NEWSLETTER OF BIG SKY BIBLE CAMP

spring 2024

Summer camps are a lot like families. They have their own lingo, inside jokes, and traditions. They also have their own legends. Ask anyone who has been to Big Sky Bible Camp over the last forty-four years, and there's a good chance they know one of ours: Edwin Murphy.

Edwin grew up in a good home on a ranch near Great Falls, MT, where he enjoyed riding horses in the Smith River Valley with his brother and sister. He was curious about God, but it was hard to find a church home at the time.

In 1970, at the age of 19, he traveled with a youth group to Briercrest Bible Institute. It was there, during an evening gospel presentation, that the Lord saved Edwin and set him on a remarkable ministry journey.

After high school, he tried his hand at forestry school in Missoula, and then learning a trade through Trapper Job Corp. Neither were for him.

A friend suggested he attend a Bible school. "I told the Lord that if my mom was against it, I would not fill out an application," Edwin says. "To my surprise, she wanted me to apply."

In the fall of 1976, Edwin made his way to Miller College of the Bible in Saskatchewan. At his first chapel there, the students sang what would become his life's theme song, "I have decided to follow Jesus." He began serving at Big Sky Bible Camp in the summer of 1977, and then did missionary work in Germany the summer following. Edwin would spend the next 45 summers at Big Sky Bible

Camp. During much of that time he led wilderness backpacking trips, his favorite ministry at camp.

Jeremy Brown, former Big Sky camper, counselor, and now camper parent, recalls an epic adventure with Edwin in the Jewel Basin back in 1998.

One of their campers injured his foot after a full day's hike and needed medical attention. True to form, Edwin carried the injured camper's backpack on his back and slowly helped him and a friend all the way back down the trail.

"The next morning, we awoke at dawn," Jeremy recalled. "I heard a sound in the bushes. At first, I thought it was a bear, but then I realized it was Edwin snoring in his sleeping bag in the morning sunlight!" Remarkably, Edwin had returned the two campers safely to camp, driven back up to the Jewel Basin, and hiked to the site again in the middle of the night.

"Edwin was always prepared," remembers Norse Swanson, one of Edwin's co-leaders on the trail. "If anyone was missing their pencil at Bible study time, he had an extra. Several extra!"

Norse also highlights Edwin's work ethic and servant's heart. "There is no chore or task that is beneath him," Norse says. "His work is done with excellence and most often is done behind the scenes. He has a depth in his relationship with the Lord that can only come from many years of love and devotion to his Savior." *Cont'd inside*



Jewel Basin, '88. Edwin bottom left.

"Thank you, Jesus." - Edwin

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“Reach Day” Friday, April 26th



Reach Day is a special 24-hour online giving event during which BCM, our parent organization, will waive all administrative fees on gifts given to Big Sky Bible Camp.

This year, our goal is to raise \$50,000 towards the cost of new cabins (see below) along with raising additional support for Camper Scholarships and our General Fund.

Visit bigskybiblecamp.org on April 26 to give. If sending a check, indicate “Reach Day” and your desired project. Mail anytime from April 15 through April 25. Thank you!



Next Up: New Cabins!



When we launched Camp Promise 35 years ago, we could not imagine having to one day turn campers away because we were out of room. Yet in the last few years, this has become our reality.

As the **only overnight Christian camp in the state of Montana for children and adults with special needs** – and one of the few of our kind in the Northwest – the Lord has given us a tremendous opportunity.

We must expand if we want to share the gospel and make disciples among the increasing number of families impacted by disability.

Eight new cabins will enable us to serve twice as many Camp Promise campers each summer and will introduce

a new world of ministry opportunities, including family camps, respite retreats for parents and caregivers, and specialized programming and training.

Each cabin costs \$325,000. Building two cabins at a time saves us time and money. The good news is that we’ve already raised enough for one cabin. Our goal is to raise another \$325,000 so we can break ground.



We’re eager to move ahead, but we cannot do it alone!

Please visit bigskybiblecamp.org to give. And if you participate in our Reach Day special day of giving on April 26 (see above), our parent organization will waive all administrative fees on your gift!



Winter Camps Wrap-up

Our campers enjoyed many memorable moments at Jr. High Snow Camp, Sr. High Getaway, and March Madness this winter. It was especially encouraging for us to welcome a record number of campers for Senior High Getaway!

Over the course of several chapels at each camp, campers learned about the Kingdom of Heaven through Jesus’ parables in Matthew 13.

We are delighted to welcome Brad and Christi Dahl on staff as part-time assistant directors, and we thought it would be fun to learn more about this wonderful family! *Clockwise from top are Brad, Magnolia (7), Edelweiss (4), Poppy, (11), Ranger, Crosby (12), and Christi.*

How long have you been married?
We have been married 14 years!

What are you as a family looking forward to as you serve at Big Sky?
We are thrilled for the opportunity to live out the gospel in serving a population that is near and dear to our hearts. The Lord has placed on our hearts a passion for family discipleship, and our prayer is that the Lord would bless our efforts as we work to create practical tools and encouraging resources to help these special families nurture faith at home. We are excited to see how the Lord will grow us, along with Camp Promise, as we embrace His calling!



CAMP PROMISE Meet the Dahls!

What are some things you enjoy doing together as a family? We enjoy spending time with friends and family, connecting through God’s word, day trips to Glacier National Park, enjoying God’s creation,

Emeline, one of our senior high campers, says she was challenged to not overthink spiritual things, but to simply take God at His Word. “Going through the parables encouraged me to be applying the things I’m learning in Scripture to everyday life,” she said.

Please pray with us that God’s Word would indeed find “good soil” in our campers’ hearts as they live each day for Him.

camp fires, road trips, read alouds, audiobooks, missionary stories, serving together with Camp Promise, music, art, hockey, and hospitality.

What is one of your family’s favorite Bible verses? “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 4:4-7)

Where did you attend school?
Brad: Art Institute Minneapolis and Seattle; BA in Art Education & MA in Special Education Instruction K-12, Montana State University (MSU).

Christi: Manuel AVEDA Institute; BS Family and Consumer Sciences, minor in Child Services, MSU.

Cont’d from front

When he isn’t serving each summer at Big Sky, Edwin ministers in Missoula area nursing homes, a ministry he launched in 1984 and has faithfully pursued since.

These days, Edwin serves at camp by helping the maintenance crew, mowing grass, and hauling firewood. You can hear the sound of his ATV across camp from the early morning through late evening. He en-

joys getting to know the summer staff, and they of course enjoy him, too.

Edwin has no plans to retire. And if you asked him, he would say that that was up to the Lord.

“The Lord has given me many adventures with many ups and downs and has been with me through it all,” Edwin says. “Thank you, Jesus.”



Join us! Dining Hall Open House

We thank the Lord once again for His faithfulness in providing us the funds to build this new facility!

Please join us on **Saturday, July 13**, for a time of worship, celebration, and prayer as we dedicate the new dining hall to the Lord’s service!

The open house will run from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. with a dedication ceremony from 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. Come for all or part of the event.

Light refreshments will be served. RSVP by July 1 to info@bigskybiblecamp.org. We hope to see you soon!