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It's A Great Day For A Workcamp!

Hello Paul,

January has arrived and that means many people make New Year's Resolutions. If you're not sure what your 2012 resolution will be, or if you want to see others' resolutions, here is the Top Ten New Year's Resolutions for Christian Youth Workers:

1. Shave off ridiculous "Youth Pastor" goatee.
2. Learn how to text well, including emoticons :-P and texting shorthand, U need 2 know them, k. LOL
3. Not be the *last* person to hear about the newest internet sensation.
4. Order something other than pizza for the next youth meeting meal.
5. Tell another Youth Pastor in your area about Reach Workcamps. (Plus, you'll get \$100 if they signup for camp!)
6. Create a new game using ping-pong balls, blindfolds, Shakespeare, potatoes, old newspapers, and hopping on one foot.
7. Read through the entire Bible before next year.
8. Create new challenges for memorizing Bible verses.
9. Lead worship with something other than a guitar or piano/keys. Let's give those woodwinds a try!
10. Read this email in its entirety.

A quick note to all youth leaders: The 2012 workcamps are filling up fast and a few of them will most likely close in January. Make sure you're on the **Hotlist** for the camp(s) of your choice to avoid missing out or **register now** for your camp before it's too late!

Have fun keeping those resolutions,

The Reach Workcamps Staff
(Mike, Paul, Heather, Annie, Neil, and Joel)

Camp Stories...

as told by 2011 Summer Staffer,
Lisa Gibson

I have always wanted to see the ends of the earth, and on this warm June day I feel just about as close as I have ever been. I'm technically still at home in the United States, but the visions of backwoods Tennessee outside my passenger seat window may as well be Azerbaijan.

I had come to Tennessee for the first time as a summer staff member for Reach Workcamps. Now I was on my way to meet the McGhee family in order to verify the home-repair projects that would be completed by high schoolers the following week.

It's our second attempt to find the home, and once again we find ourselves lost and with a GPS that is of no use on this mountain. We come to a crossroads. At least twenty mailboxes are standing vigil in between the options we have for continuing on. They don't tell me which road is correct, so I pick straight ahead. Almost immediately, the trees part and I can see down into the valley. Other hillsides covered in trees roll on down yonder. The curves are seemingly more treacherous now. We're desperate-and amazingly, modern technology steps in with cell phone reception. We call the McGhees; it turns out when we passed the mailboxes, we passed by the road to their house. Turning around, it's back over the hills, around the curves, down the dips and to the end of the road past the mailboxes...

2012 Schedule...

Please call the Reach Office to check on availability or to register your group.

JUNE 17 - 23
JOLIET, IL*
CLINTON, TN*

JUNE 24 - 30
CLINTON, TN*

JULY 1 - 7
KANAWHA CO., WV

JULY 8 - 14
BROADALBIN, NY*

JULY 15 - 21
ELEANOR, WV

JULY 22 - 28
ELEANOR, WV*
ONTARIO, NY*

**Combination Jr. and Sr. High*

- June 17-23 [Joliet, IL*](#)
- June 17-23 [Clinton, TN](#)
- June 24-30 [Clinton, TN*](#)
- July 1-7 [Kanawha County, WV](#)
- July 8-14 [Broadalbin, NY*](#)
- July 15-21 [Eleanor, WV](#)
- July 22-28 [Eleanor, WV*](#)
- July 22-28 [Ontario, NY](#)

*Indicates combination Jr. & Sr. High Workcamps

Reach Trivia...

December's trivia question was:
How many ornaments are on Annie's Christmas tree by her desk?



The correct answer is 21 and Kelsey O'Brien from Manorville, NY was the first correct person to respond and she will receive a free Reach T-shirt. Are you ready for the first trivia question of 2012?



[Click here to read the rest of this story and see more pictures.](#)

January's trivia question is:
As of this email, how much money has been donated to help start Reach's 3rd Summer Staff Crew?

Whoever e-mails us first at workcamps@reachwc.org with the correct answer will win a free Reach T-shirt. We will take answers until January 20th. Good luck!

Reach Devotion...

One of my favorite parts of a year's end is the summaries that we get. People put together the lists of the 2011 YouTube Recap, Top 10 Movies of 2011, or 2011 in Pictures. We even do it among friends with our Christmas letters and pictures of our growing families. I even love reading my own family's letter and thinking, "Oh yeah! I totally forgot about that!"

What are the major events that you would use to describe your year? A year is a long time, and a lot can happen in that time. I'm sure you've had some really good things happen, but also probably some bad things. Ecclesiastes 3 tells us this:

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens...He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart...I know that everything God does will endure forever..." Ecclesiastes 3 (abridged) NIV

I trimmed it down for the sake of space, but I encourage you to read the whole chapter. It's an interesting glimpse at the difference between our time and God's time. Maybe God gave us seasons because we need cycles. We keep track of weeks and months and years because we need natural breaks! It's refreshing to be able to say, "2011 was a tough year for me, but 2012 will be better!"

Yet the Bible tells us that eternity has been set in our hearts. We are not caught in a permanent loop of cycles. Someday, we will get to experience eternity and no longer need the natural breaks that can make the "grind" more bearable.

Even though I long for a day when I will rest in eternity with our Lord & Savior, I'm thankful that God has given us seasons. And I'm excited for the season of 2012 to begin!

In Him,
Joel Minter



[Email Joel](#) with thoughts of this devotion.

Youth Leader Spotlight... with Kerry B.

RW: How many Reach Workcamps have you attended?

KB: Ten.

RW: How does Reach differ from other organizations you have worked with in the past?

KB: It's their amazing mix of passion and professionalism. The staff ALWAYS handles things so smoothly and with such maturity and efficiency, but they never lose their love for what they are doing and who they are serving. I've seen other organizations do one or the other really well, but it's rare to see such a perfect balance from an organization and watch it get repeated over and over and over again.



RW: What is your favorite component of the programs?

KB: I like seeing the Reach staff get to share the message of the week with the campers. I enjoy just watching the enthusiasm with which they minister to the youth and adult leaders; it's really infectious.

RW: What changes have you witnessed in your youth after attending camp?

KB: How much room do I have? I think my favorite thing is just seeing the sudden change that every one of my youth who go to Reach for the first time has in regards to their understanding of service and how life-changing it can be, not just to their neighbors, but to themselves as well. They leave as completely different people.

[Click here](#) to read Kerry's entire interview and see more pictures.

We look forward to serving with all of you this summer! Please call us at 1-888-REACH-WC (1-888-732-2492) or [email us](#) for more information about Reach Workcamps or check us out on the web at <http://www.reachwc.org>.

Blessings,

The Reach Staff

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