

Peniel Postings

PENIEL HOLINESS ASSOCIATION · CONNEAUTVILLE, PA



So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared." - GENESIS 32:30

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE FAMILY

President's Message by Dan Segool



The pirate known as The Autumn Wind is robbing the trees of their gold, and the long summer days at Peniel are beginning to feel like a distant memory. Yet as I think back to our encampment, my mind is filled with great memories, blessings and optimism.

It's hard for me to believe this, but I've been serving in this role for 17 years

now. I've learned a lot during that time. There have been some trying times, but I have always been convinced that God still wanted to use our ministry. So, even when I was concerned or discouraged, I have tried to remember that the camp belongs to God. I might not know all the answers, but if we follow The Lord's leading, he will make a way.

We serve a God who is relational. He invites us to be in a relationship with him. We call him our Father. Often, I hear people refer to their "camp family" and this is an acknowledgement of the relationship we have with God, which makes us brothers and sisters.

I'm optimistic about Peniel because I can see that God is developing the next generation of campers. It has been a great pleasure to see several young couples in our camp family get married these past few years. Of course, I have warm memories of the recent weddings of my own children. But, I'm also excited that more are on the way for our camp family! As these young families are established, we are once again reminded of the family aspect of our ministry. Godly marriages are so important to carry out the mission. Despite what you might hear, these marriages and the families they produce remain the bedrock of our society. In fact, it is hard to think that organizations like Peniel and your local church would continue to thrive if it weren't for God loving and serving couples who work together in the ministry. Just take a few minutes to think about the history of our camp and I'll bet you would have no problem rattling off the names of five to 10 couples you can remember making a difference at Peniel.

Of course, another way is through family growth. What a joy it is to see those multi-generational families at Peniel! It is not unusual to see three generations of a family at camp, and we have had a few families that have been blessed enough to have four generations together at camp.

Now, I want to take a moment to acknowledge that God will use anyone with a heart to serve him. So, if you are single, a widow, or just don't have any other family at the camp, God has a place for you at Peniel! By the way, you do have family at Peniel!

As I see God working in our next generation, I am optimistic because I know this is from where our future leaders will come. For those of us who are more "seasoned," let's be great cheerleaders and encouragers for the generations who will follow us.

In closing, I want to thank you for being part of what has been a wonderful year in 2022. We have tried to share some of the blessings here in this newsletter, but there is much more to praise God about than we could possibly capture here! May you and your families be richly blessed during the holiday season. I'm excited to see what God will do in 2023!

IMPRESSIONS: *At Peniel, the influence of older generations to younger generations is strong. Our children see how to worship, how to love, and how to commune with God from their "camp family."*



PENIEL HOLINESS CAMP INFORMATION

Phone: 814.387.8438

Dan Segool, President
President@penielholinesscamp.com

Mailing List Updates
mailing@penielholinesscamp.com

Donation Information
finsec@penielholinesscamp.com

IMPORTANT DATES 2023

Work Days

Saturday, May 6

Friday/Saturday, May 26-27

Friday/Saturday, June 16-17

Friday/Saturday, July 14-15

127th Annual Encampment

Thursday, July 20 through
Sunday, July 30

REFLECTIONS FROM PENIEL '22

by Jan Borland



Camp is over for 2022, except for a few more workdays. They are not just work, but great fellowship too! Just wondering, what were you most blessed about at camp this year? Was it seeing old friends, seeing

new improvements, seeing how many were there? Perhaps it was the great preachers, missionaries and music groups. Or maybe you are blessed to see how our children are growing and how old I look!

We saw prayer requests answered, enjoyed great food in the dining hall, and had a wonderful selection of books and fun things in the bookroom. It's also entertaining and exhausting to watch Dan. I think he must have a twin (or triplet). He changes shirts all day long as he goes from one thing to another. He must keep Lori busy with laundry!

Now we're home. DULLSVILLE! But we have great memories of camp and how our Lord blessed and answered prayer. One answer to prayer was a young lady at the altar sensing a call to missions. We've prayed for her for years now! Another young lady was at the altar sensing a call to missions. God is working. Let's continue to pray for our youth!

PRAISE AND PRAYER: OUR WEAPONS OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

*By Vic Reasoner, Special Assistant
to the President for Francis Asbury Institute*

Revelation was written to a discouraged church in the first century that did not understand God's plan. They were under persecution from without and, as chapters 2–3 indicate, also had internal problems. Where do we turn when things don't look encouraging outside or inside? We look up! If you are discouraged, you need to peek through this hole and see what John saw. We are overcomers, but we must keep praying and singing.

The twenty-four elders in chapter 5 symbolize the church, old and new. It is the church that worships with the harp and bowl. When you have trouble praying, open up the hymnal and start with praise. Prayer and praise go together.

Our Harp

The church begins to worship in Revelation 5:8–10. To worship is to ascribe worth. "You are worthy." We worship God through music. There are 16 hymns in the book of Revelation. In Revelation 5:9 they sang a new song. The old song was the song of chapter 4—a song of praise to God our Creator. The new song is the song of chapter 5 to Christ our Redeemer.

Then in verse 11, angels beyond number join the chorus, singing "worthy is the Lamb." They rejoice every time a sinner repents. In verse 13 all nature—every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and sea—join in the worship. Notice, however, that it is only the church that praises Christ for his work of redemption.

Our Bowl

In Revelation 8:3–5 the bowls are full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. Prayer is our priestly function (v 10). Prayer is spiritual warfare, and we fight our battles through worship. A new day has dawned on the world—the Day of the Lord. The Lamb has been slain. Atonement has been completed. Through his blood the gates of heaven are opened. The seven churches are candlesticks blazing the light of the gospel. The prayers of God's people ascend to the throne of God. Chapter 8 opens with this description of prayer rising like incense. Our prayers are collected in bowls and are not lost or forgotten. In God's own timing he sends fire from heaven in answer to our prayers.

Our prayers have filled the golden bowl and have been brought before the throne. There is silence for half an hour as our great high priest intercedes for us. "The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him" (Hab 2:20; see also Zech 2:13). Then the trumpets sound and the bowls are poured out. Heaven sings while the enemies of Christ and his kingdom are judged (Matt 27:25).

We live between the kingdom inaugurated and the kingdom consummated. This calls for faithful endurance and joyful worship (Rev 14:12). In the second century, Tertullian wrote an essay on patience. He wrote that God is the author of patience, and the devil is the author of impatience. He explained that every sin we commit has its root in impatience. Of course, patience or perseverance means to steadfastly endure in the face of opposition. Of this patience, William Barclay wrote, "It is not the patience which grimly waits for the end, but the patience which radiantly hopes for the dawn."

While we fight for the soul of our nation and the future of our families, we must remember that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal (2 Cor 10:4). We fight on our knees. And when we cannot pray, we can praise. Are you discouraged? Are you finding it difficult to find the words to pray? Then tune up your harp. "Tune my heart to sing Thy praise," as Robert Robinson wrote in 1760. By faith, Paul and Silas were enabled to sing at midnight, while incarcerated. God hears our praises and our prayers, and in his timing, he will respond. "Joy comes with the morning" (Ps 30:5).

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2022 CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS

As 2022 is coming to a close, we can look back and realize that we have been very blessed. Many people commented that our 126th encampment might have been our best ever! Our evangelists were so very faithful to share the Word, the fellowship was rich, and the weather was great.

This was also true with the physical ministry. We have enjoyed good weather for our workdays and we were able, with God's blessing and the financial and labor donations of our people, to accomplish much around the grounds.

During the winter, we contracted with a company to put a new foundation under the North Bathhouse. This was an important repair, because we had noticed that the building had moved in the past few years. It's on a very good foundation now. We also painted that bathhouse. In May, we started a partnership with Men with Vision, Mercer County Chapter. They replaced the steps on the office building, built new ramps and doors for the North Bathhouse, installed new posts and water spigots in the camping area, repaired vents on the Girls Dorm roof, and assisted us with siding the gable ends of the Cookman Dormitory. This work was accomplished over the course of five months.

Our children's playground set was in bad shape, and we were able to get a very gently used one. The children greatly enjoyed hours of fun on this during camp. It is very well built and should last for many years.

After camp, our crews began working on several projects. We tore down a couple of cottages that were in bad shape. Those spaces were then cleaned up and landscaped to prepare them for possible future cottage sites. Our Mobile Home Trailer, which is now approaching 30 years old, was really beginning to show its age. We cleaned and sealed any rusted areas and then painted the entire trailer. We were glad to get that finished while we had favorable weather conditions in September and October. The trailer looks better than it has in years! Several other smaller painting projects were done. A fresh coat of paint makes a big difference! In addition, we did all our normal post camp work to close down our buildings, keep the grass mowed, and shut down our water system.

As we look forward to 2023, we will be working to plan for more improvements. During camp we started a fund for "Repair or Replacement of the Boy's Dorm." Our Trustee Board will be looking into that situation in the months to come, and we expect to have more news early in the spring. We will also be looking to continue painting projects throughout the campus.

Many thanks to our new friends from Men with Vision, as well as our dedicated Peniel volunteers who have been such a blessing to our ministry during 2022!



LASTING IMPROVEMENTS:

The new to us playground was assembled prior to camp and became a wonderful area for the youngest campers during the encampment. During fall workdays, the mobile home trailer received a fresh coat of paint.



MEN WITH VISION: *Our friends from Men with Vision took on several projects in 2022, including building new ramps and doors for the North Bathhouse.*