

Peniel Postings

PENIEL HOLINESS CAMP · 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

WHY PENIEL?

President's Message by Dan Segool



We had a great encampment this summer. Our evangelists ministered faithfully and really blessed us. The weather was very comfortable and with a few brief exceptions, very dry. Of course, the food in the dining hall and snack stand was delicious, sending us home with a little more than when we arrived!

One thing I like to do before turning in for the evening is just to take a ride around campus. I get to see our people relaxing, perhaps on a cottage porch, in a game room in Cookman, or around a camp fire. This year, our camping area was at capacity, and I often found several camping families gathered together around camp fires. One evening, it occurred to me that two of these families have come all the way from Florida. That's a long way to come for camp! I asked myself, "WHY?" Why would they come so far? Since camp ended, I've been in touch with these families and asked them to share with you the WHY of Peniel.

Many of you would be familiar with Jonathan and Aimee Doyle. Jon is a "Peniel Lifer," and Aimee married into it. They are fourth generation campers! Each year, they make the trek from their home in the Jacksonville area with their children Hannah, Emma and Judah, who represent a fifth generation at Peniel! Aimee's Mom, Judy, usually joins them for the venture to Peniel. Just across the way from them in the camping area are Dave and Carolyn Peck. By Peniel standards, they are just a couple of kids, having first come to Peniel in 2018. They come to Peniel by RV all the way from their retirement home in Apopka, Fla., which is just north of Orlando. They usually make several stops to visit friends and family on their way north. WHY do these families come so far to be at Peniel? Let's find out!

"Aimee and I feel it is important to make the pilgrimage to Peniel for a number of reasons," said Jonathan. "First, because Peniel is a sacred place to me, where I have wrestled with and surrendered to God. My understanding of the gospel message and the doctrine of holiness has been deepened throughout my lifetime at camp. Second, as a Christian father, I now have the responsibility to raise my children in the 'discipline and instruction of the Lord' (Ephesians 6:4). We believe (as did three generations of my family before me) Peniel is a rare place where Hannah, Emma and Judah can draw near to God and deepen their faith without distraction."

Jon and Aimee represent something that is deeply engrained in Peniel: the multigenerational aspect. It is an important and long-standing tradition in their family. Dave and Carolyn have a different experience, but they also quickly recognized the generational impact of Peniel.

"We first came to Peniel in 2018, having been invited by Len and Diane Whitehouse, who also reside in Apopka during the winter," said Dave. "Our first time, we felt so welcomed. Everyone went out of their way to include us and went beyond what we could have expected. The worship we experienced helped us to understand the work of the Lord. We loved the music – both the concerts and the music ministry adds so much to the experience. We were also so blessed by the children's and teen ministry. The time spent nurturing them and their belief really impressed us. Peniel delivers a strong message and mentors young people. We also noticed how much of a family Peniel is. We were impressed by the generational aspect of Peniel. It is truly a family, and it is inclusive. We originally came because of a friendship with Len and Diane, but once we got there, we



Dave & Carolyn Peck

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PENIEL HOLINESS CAMP INFORMATION

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IMPORTANT DATES 2024

Work Days

Saturday, May 4

Saturday, May 18

Saturday, June 1

Friday/Saturday, June 21-22

Friday/Saturday, July 12-13

128th Annual Encampment

Thursday, July 18 through
Sunday, July 28

FALL CRAFT SHOW RAISES CAMP FUNDS

The SOAP (Serving Opportunities at Peniel) auxiliary hosted a craft show and bake sale to benefit Peniel at Venture Church in Boardman, Ohio, on October 14. Over 20 vendors participated, offering a wide array of homemade crafts. Several of our ladies brought tasty baked goods which also sold well. In addition, Peniel Youth had a booth set up offering information about our Youth Program. This was a great opportunity to engage people who were not familiar with Peniel or Venture Church. There were many good conversations and connections.

The fundraiser was successful in raising over \$1,000 for Peniel. The funds were used in part to help send the recent mailing regarding the replacement of our Boys Dorm. Your prayers and financial participation are so appreciated as we seek to make Peniel ready to serve for many years to come!



FINANCIAL UPDATE

Last month, a mailing went out to raise money to replace our Boys Dorm. We have had a good response, raising over \$10,000 thus far. 2023 was a great year of ministry at Peniel. Our attendance was up significantly this year. This is blessed news, but it also creates challenges because our costs continue to increase, and we made additional capital investment to accommodate more campers. Peniel strives to make our camping ministry very cost friendly. We are only able to do that because of generous donations. As we head into the winter months, we are facing financial challenges. In this mailing, you will find a donation flyer and envelope. We need your support now and throughout the offseason. Please support Peniel!

...WHY PENIEL?... *continued.*

wanted to be involved. We returned in 2021 and again this year in 2023.”

As you might imagine, it is a significant expenditure of finances and time to travel all the way to Peniel in an RV, as well as to travel as a family with young children. Jon shared, “In fact, we are EXCITED to drive four days, over 2000 miles taking 40 hours of travel roundtrip, with countless ‘Are we there yet’s?’ and bathroom stops. We are joyful in our ‘suffering’ during the journey to Peniel because we know that our family will experience God in such a way that is life-defining. The last primary reason to the question of ‘Why Peniel?’ is family. There is no other place where so many of our family (biological and spiritual) are gathered. Getting to reconnect and worship God together is something we all look forward to.”

That’s right folks, while you will find many Doyles running around camp, Jon and Aimee consider YOU to be part of their spiritual family.

Dave and Carolyn have been blessed to enter that spiritual family. In 2019 and 2020, they experienced several tragic losses of family members, including children. When they came to camp in 2021, they were experiencing overwhelming grief. At Peniel, they found themselves surrounded by loving and supportive brothers and sisters. Dave even remarked that the young people at camp have helped in his healing process.

“We hope that The Lord is using us to minister encouragement to others in the same way that campers have ministered to us,” he said. “We have patterned our witnessing and outreach in our park in Florida based on what we have learned at Peniel.”

As a newer family at Peniel, Dave and Carolyn have a passion to see the camp grow. “We need to actively promote people to come to Peniel. It might even mean that we need to play a financial role in getting them there,” Dave shared. “The Youth can also play a role. When youth come to camp, their families may also get involved. I don’t want to see people lost - I know you can’t save them, but I can point them in a direction that they can hear The Word. Our job is to give them a chance to hear The Word.”

While the path to Peniel was very different for the Doyles and the Pecks, the values they treasure and the experiences they enjoy at Peniel are very similar. The Doyles have made it an annual tradition in their family, and their kids are so excited to come back each year. The Pecks plan to return again in 2024, and Dave hopes to bring his sister to introduce her to Peniel.

“To put it in a nutshell, Peniel is like going home - a big family reunion,” Dave said. As long as we are able to travel, we plan to continue coming.”

So, what is the WHY of Peniel for you? WHEN did you first come? WHAT brought you to Peniel and WHY do you keep coming back? I’d love to hear your story! Please email your story to me at president@penielholinesscamp.com.

Thanks for helping to make our 127th year one of our very best. As the year comes to a close, all The Segools want to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year. We are excited to see what God has planned for 2024.



*Jonathan & Aimee Doyle
(Hannah, Emma, Judah)*

SUMMER '23 EVANGELISTS SEND WARM GREETINGS

Greetings from Mike & Elizabeth Adams

It was a joy and privilege to serve as one of the camp evangelists at Peniel Camp this past summer. Elizabeth and I thoroughly enjoyed the amazing hospitality of the Peniel family. Services were well attended and anointed by the Holy Spirit. Our team of David Spencer, Vance and Jeannie Sharp were a pleasure to work with again.

The atmosphere was joyous, open, praiseworthy, and charged with enthusiasm. It has always been a great experience to work with camp president Dan Segool. He is a true servant leader not only at camp but wherever he goes. Thanks Dan for all you do!

Two last things: first, we are so impressed by the dozens of volunteers that make Peniel Camp run so efficiently and happily. Wow you folks are the best!! Secondly, the amazing youth segment of the camp was a huge blessing as well. They led the camp in openness and hunger for more from the Holy Spirit!

We love Peniel Holiness Camp and can hardly wait to be back! Blessing Peniel family!

Greetings from David Spencer

What a privilege it was to minister at Peniel Holiness camp this summer. You are not just “Holiness” by name but in demonstration also. We witnessed that when a young lady walked in to camp and the ladies took her in and ministered to her. Early in the camp she made a decision for the Lord, and we had the privilege of watching her life being transformed during the days we were there. What a wonderful thing to see God’s people at work! We saw many of the youth and adults respond to the message of the Cross. The family atmosphere was wonderful and the food was great. What a beautiful place to spend 10 days and draw closer to God and make new friends!

Greetings from Vance & Jeannie Sharpe

It was great meeting you and the whole Peniel staff. We had a very good experience along with getting some much needed maintenance on our coach. We felt as if God ministered to all attendees, especially the youth. We look forward to our meeting again as God will ordain!

WEDDING BELLS RING!

It is exciting when the bell rings at Peniel. Good things always follow, like a meal, a service, or a youth game. On June 24, the Peniel bell tolled for the wedding of Jesse McCallum and Caryn Stafford, who exchanged vows in the Tabernacle. Jesse and Caryn met years ago as youth on the teen plan at Peniel.



Jesse & Caryn McCallum



Benny & Megan Shaffer

On October 28, Benny Shaffer and Megan Bartley were married in Youngstown, Ohio. They also met through the teen plan and have served as counselors at Peniel during the last several years. Congratulations Jesse and Caryn, Benny and Megan. We pray for God’s blessings on your marriages, and you sure have been a blessing to all of us!