



ALLEGANY BOYS CAMP

inspiring change through relationship

July 2017

Problem Solving

STEP 4 - PUT THE SOLUTION INTO ACTION

In Matthew chapter 21, Jesus posed a question. “But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said ‘Son, go, work today in my vineyard.’ He answered and said, ‘I will not’, but afterward he regretted it and went. Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, ‘I go, sir’, but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his Father?”

The fact that there was a question indicates that neither of these sons did the very best thing. It was probably disappointing for the father that the first son didn’t say the right thing, but the lesson Jesus seemed to be teaching was the importance of doing the right thing above saying it.

At camp, we are constantly dealing with these two aspects of righteousness: saying it, and doing it. Much of our problem solving revolves around the things we say. What we say is important, but my, what ineffective problem solving when that is all it amounts to.

Sometimes a group becomes so exasperated with a member who says the right things without following through that they finally protest, “We don’t want to hear anything else out of him. We just want him to do it.”

“Doing it” means following through with a resolve to do better. It usually means changing, and changing can be hard. How many

deep-rooted habits have you, my reader, been able to eradicate in a day? How many new ones have you established in a day?

In a camp group when a member fails to put his solution into action, he will receive reminders from all sides of what he said he would do. Sometimes “doing it” looks so daunting that he will deny ever committing to it or will attempt to back out in some way or another. But if his group is “for real” about change, they

will not relent in the crucial moment. They will persist until he actually takes that step: until his words mean something.

The moments will turn into days. The days into weeks, and one day it will just sort of dawn on them, “Why look, he’s been doing what he said he would do regularly.” When did that start?” Well it started with that first step. In the moment, it didn’t look very life changing, and it certainly wasn’t very regular, but that’s when it started. And for the one who took that step, on the day when he first took it, it was so hard, but looking back he thinks, “That wasn’t so hard was it? You just have to do it.”



Albert Stoltzfus, Program Director



ADVENTURE LEARNING - SANCTUARY

Have you been to a sanctuary recently? What does a sanctuary feel like? Did the atmosphere make you feel welcome? A sanctuary is a place of safety and belonging in which life is nurtured. We work hard to make Camp a sanctuary for the troubled boys we serve – A place where they gain a healthy sense of self-esteem and can safely work through their issues. This session, we have been working on developing habitat on camp property to make it more of a sanctuary for plants and animals. We have intentionally been planting various types of plants that provide excellent food and cover for critters.

The Woodsmen helped transplant cattails from our small pond to the new, larger pond. Cattails provide excellent food, cover, and nesting habitat for various birds, including ducks. Frogs love to live among the cattails, and fish love to eat frogs, and boys love to catch fish. Cattails will help make our pond a small aquatic sanctuary.

The Pioneer group helped me plant a native meadow beside the pond just below their campsite. This mixture of grasses and wildflowers is comprised of seeds that are native to the area, and will display attractive colors from spring to fall. Birds, butterflies, and bugs will thrive in this native meadow. Recent rains have turned this plot into a carpet of green.



Near our chapel, the Mountaineers planted a plot designed to attract larger animals such as doves, turkeys, pheasants, and deer. Millet, sunflowers, and buckwheat are growing taller by the day. In the near future, we hope to be able to have some guest lurking near our chapel.






Removal of invasive species of plants such as multiflora rose and poison ivy has made room for the beneficial species to thrive. Healthy, diverse plants around camp means healthy, diverse wildlife. Not only are these projects good for Camp, the hard work involved also helps create a sanctuary environment for the boys at camp.

Chad Martin, Education Supervisor



Camp Kindling ... *small pieces of camp news and needs*



-  Welcome to Floyd and Heidi King and their family. They came to camp from Leola, PA in June. Floyd will be serving as family worker. Pray for their family as they settle into the camp community.
-  We said goodbye to Kim Shank. She was here for the past year as a cook.
-  Andrew and Steph Barnhart said goodbye to camp this month. Andrew has served camp at Allegany and Bald Eagle in multiple roles over 15 years as chief, supervisor, and family worker. He has blessed camp with his ideas and passion. Also, Steph was camp's secretary/receptionist before she graciously filled the role of mom and supporter to her husband. We will miss Andrew and Steph and their family and wish them God's richest blessing for the future.
-  We need trim carpenters to finish the upstairs and basements of several staff houses. If you would like to help with this, please contact camp.
-  Canoeing is an important part of camp's program. Each year boys at camp spend many weeks canoeing many of the longest rivers in the eastern half of the United States. This creates many opportunities for learning academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually. Some of Allegany Boys Camp's canoes are wore out! Of course we want to make sure any canoes we send on a lengthy trip are sea worthy. So if you would like to help with the expense of purchasing some new canoes, please contact camp. We are hoping to raise about \$5,000 to purchase 8 new canoes. Thanks for considering this opportunity!

