FACE TO FACE

A Publicatin for Friends of Peniel - A Center for Prayer & Renewal

Fall/Winter 2014

So Jacob called the place Peniel.

<u>Meet the Management Team:</u>



In late fall of 2013, a small group of local Peniel supporters met to begin planning for 2014. Weekly meetings led this group to become our present Management Team. Although the governing board, the Prayer Council, meets four times a year, it became clear that to function effectively this group would need to meet much more often. Our primary goal is to organize, plan and implement year round programs that use our facilities. This has been done with the support and blessing of the Prayer Council. Peniel's history tells us that the task of leading Peniel is difficult for only one person. There are so many facets to the job description of camp director. With a group of people working together, sharing ideas, making suggestions, and praying together, the tasks become more manageable. At the present time the roles played by the Team include Jan Goodwin as Program Manager, Tobias Kipp as Facilities Manager, Jeanette Powell as Financial Manager, and Gina Kipp as Office Manager. We are also supported by a large group of local people. Tom and Beth Sweeney, who live on campus, offer continual support on a daily basis. This year's programs were accomplished due to the help and support of a multitude of volunteers.

About Peniel – A Center for Prayer & Renewal

Founded in 1933, Peniel is an interdenominational camp and conference center promoting renewal - through union with Christ of r youth, adults, families & churches. Peniel is situated in upstate New York's magnificent Adirondack Mountains. Fifteen minutes southwest of Lake George and 45 minutes north of Albany. Peniel has a rich history of over 80 years of Christian ministry. Historically Peniel has been a place where people can come to meet God face to face.

About Face to Face

Face to Face is published tri-annually. Peniel welcomes letters to the editor, news items and manuscripts for publication. Peniel is also accepting voluntary subscription fees of \$5 per year. If you would like *Face to Face* sent to your home or a friend, contact the Peniel Office: P.O. Box 368, Lake Luzerne, NY 12846 or email office@penielbibleconference.org

Peniel 2014: A Year of Continuing Growth

The year of 2014 for Peniel was a year of continuing growth and commitment. The outreach into the community brought in many new faces and many familiar faces who added to the ministry here. We are grateful for all the Lord has provided.

The Prayer Council Meeting at the end of January focused the leadership on a commitment to look to the Holy Spirit to help us to do what is right, stay the course, and to continue to provide a place where folks can meet Our Father face to face.



February SnoFun

This year Peniel was blessed to host Sno Fun 2014 during February break. Two separate events were held from February 16h through the 20th. The first event was Sno Fun JR for children ages 7-12 and Sno Fun Survivor was next for children ages 12-17. It was a time for children and young adults to experience the love of Christ through Biblical teachings, worship, wonderful food, crafts and plenty of old fashioned fun in the snow.

Biblical teachings were presented through indoor and outdoor challenges, games, lessons and examples of how God wants us to be survivors. The Survivor Theme was a reminder that God has plans for us, plans to prosper us and not to harm us, plans to give us a hope and a future. Everyone was challenged to see how much better it is to walk with other believers instead of trying to survive without the body of Christ. The young adults experienced Biblical teaching through the "Survivor" theme and verse memorization while they participated in games and challenges that reinforced what they learned from the Bible.

Worship is always a wonderful time to praise God through music. During Sno Fun JR we had several young adults here to share their hearts as they lead us in worship. It was a gift from the heart and they were an inspiration to everyone. During Sno Fun Survivor we also had many times of inspiring worship. The memory of a specific time of praise and worship still brings great joy to my heart. After the message was shared and the worship singing began, the praise was so spontaneous, harmonious and beautiful that it brought tears to my eyes. I could not help but wonder if this is what it will be like when we get to heaven. We were blessed with wonderful food and plenty of Hot Chocolate to keep everyone warm. Many people volunteered their time to help prepare meals, wash dishes with Dylan the dishwasher, set up the dining hall and keep us supplied with Warm Hot Cocoa after our outdoor activities. Everyone received a cute Snow Man soup kit as a parting gift to remind them of Peniel.

To reinforce the biblical truth that God is with us always, the youth participated in arts and crafts and learned how to make snowflakes; survival bracelets and memory verse wooden Snow Men to bring home with them to remind them of all they did here at Peniel.

A Tubing run was created on Peniel's hill overlooking the swimming pool. Everyone including counselors and adults enjoyed being a kid again sliding down the carved out paths of snow in tubes. The days of radial flyers are not gone just yet; the only difference is that the sleds are inflated plastic instead of wood and metal. He! He! Cold or not, everyone enjoyed the sledding, broom ball and outdoor hiking and snow challenge course.

Planning for outdoor events always depends upon the weather. The weather just before the event was not what we needed for successful tubing down the hill. However, God made Himself known, because the day of the event the snow was falling. Not just any snow. This was the type of snow where one could only dream of for a thrilling ride down the hill. The snow lasted the entire two events and ended when the last event was over. The Lord truly blessed the event with perfect weather.

The Lord not only blessed the weather but He blessed the whole event! All glory and honor to the Lord above for ministering through Peniel to bring hearts, young and old to meet Christ Face to Face! May His will be done here at Peniel for many years to come!

Redeemer Reformed Women's Retreat in May was a blessing for about 20 women who came to grow closer to God, study His Word, enjoy the natural surroundings and spend time in fellowship with each other. Many compliments were shared about the wonderful lodging and presentation of meals and snacks.



Photo at Left: Praise Camp performance for the senior citizens of Lake Luzerne and Hadley.

Photo below: Peniel Bible Conference information booth at Maplefest. Raffle .





Memorial Day Work Weekend involved many helping hands from the local area as well a large group from Maine. The Hill and Pine cabins were cleaned, swept and furnished with new mattresses. Many of the roofs were swept of pine needles. And speaking of roofs, the new dining hall roof was completed with a green metal roof and has provided us with a water tight dining area! No more concerns about rain drops in the salad! It looks marvelous among the pines.

Peniel's Aquatics Programs: There are three main goals incorporated into our programs: Our first goal is always to be ambassadors of Christ, reflect his presences in our lives, when teaching our lessons. The second goal is to provide quality American Red Cross programming to the community we serve. Third to provide lifeguard staff to Peniel's Children's Camp Program. All these goals work toward a single purpose to help Peniel connect with the surroundings communities and to be seen as a place where people can come to meet God face to face.

This year was the second year Peniel has offered ARC lifeguard training and swimming lessons. We began our season in June with a small number of students in both the re-certification and the full certification classes for lifeguards. Then we continued our season with many different levels of "Learn to Swim" classes for children until August 29. Even though our groups were small in numbers with 6 and 12, they made a big impact on the local communities of Corinth, Lake Luzerne and Hadley. Many people have commented about our beautiful facilities. Many have asked about our Children's Camp programming and rentals. All of our evaluations from parents have come back with good reviews, and high recommendation of our program to friends and family, as well as request for new session information.

Peniel is getting a reputation not only as an aquatics facility, but also as a friendly Christian camp. It is my hope and pray that this program will continue to grow and provide a much needed service to this community as well as spread the news that Peniel is truly a place to come to find the Lord. Please continue to keep Peniel in your prayers. Please consider sending a designated gift to the special needs that are required to continue all the programs here at Peniel. Check our website for details of these special needs and projects.



June was a month of planning and prayer. The Management Team had been meeting since January to put together programs, speakers, councilors, summer staff, and facility in preparation for the 2014 season. It was an exciting time as ideas were shared and prayed about. We were concerned that we would have enough campers and decided to have ten days of prayer asking the Lord to give us fifteen paying campers per week. That would cover the overhead cost of camp, understanding that most of the staff were volunteers. We prayed that the Lord would provide the amount we needed to send the 6 councilors and the nurse home with compensation for 3 weeks. And then we just watched as the Lord began to pour out His Blessings proving again that He wants to give us what we need if we just ask. We had a total of 34 campers for each of the camps, plus volunteer staff who contributed to the cost of food.

Our Staff Training Week included a wonderful blending of experienced councilors and staff as well as a great supply of familiar faces. The LAMP program led by Beth Sweeney was a time for the councilors to study the Word and be clear about working with campers. Many other projects were completed during the day including the new 'offsite wilderness clearing' above the Hill cabins. This area is still within the Peniel property boundary's and will be used as a primitive camping area. This area was used during Wilderness Camp.

Praise Camp (7-12 year old kids) proved to be an exciting time to learn how to use your talents to praise God. It was exciting to see kids dancing, speaking in sign language, singing, using drama, as well as hands-on fun in arts and crafts as they investigated talents that were available to them. We had several guests sharing their talents with us. These included a dress rehearsal of the Puppet Show presenting at the local VBS program later in the summer. One of our local musicians shared her talent using drums as a praise gift. We also enjoyed Michael Burkley (pastor of Rockwell Falls Presbyterian Church) who came and gave us a magic show with a great correlating message about God's Truth. On Friday we presented our talents to a group invited from the Senior Center in Lake Luzerne and they were very pleased and impressed with the ministry available here. On Saturday the parents were able to see the presentation to give them a better understanding of what their children accomplished.

The emphasis during *Wilderness Camp (12-18 year old kids)* was on Surviving Spiritually in our world today. This group included kids from 12-18 years. Three children from Praise Camp begged their parents to return for this week and enjoyed a double portion of the message! This group of kids were very actively occupied with skills needed for living in the woods. There were lessons in lighting a fire, proper and careful use of a carving knife, hiking up Constitution Mountain, taking a night hike (in the dark), lots of games and outside activities. We also welcomed as guests on Thursday campers and staff hiked up to the upper primitive campsite and prepared their shelters and prepared their own dinners wrapped in foil. These were cooked on an open fire and enjoyed sitting around on logs. Later after a worship time each person tucked themselves into their own personal shelter and curled up for the night. Other than a porcupine that investigated Tobias Kipp, the night was a huge success. And, oh my, the faces that came to breakfast the next morning were full of joy! Tired, but happy.



Growth in Truth The next group of guests arrived for a wonderful week led by Dan Meiners. Growth In Truth is one of the camps that has been faithful for many years. This year's conference theme was, "Transforming Prayer – Praying the Will of God, is an Invitation and a Gift, resulting in the Transformation of our Lives.". Jay Richmond, Director of the Renewal Prayer Network and Campus Pastor of City View Church/FBC, in Scotia, NY was the main speaker, bringing all four evening messages on praying the scriptures, Jesus' teaching and example, and praying people into the kingdom of God.

The morning messages were brought by Marion Boozer, on the ministry of the Holy Spirit communicating God's love, Tim Woodruff on reverent awe in prayer, and Dan Meiners on God's gracious Isaiah 55 invitation to return to Him for mercy, blessing and joy. They were followed by precious times of small group prayers for one another.

There were also spontaneous gatherings of prayer for the world and our country, and wonderful fellowship around wonderful meals prepared by loving staff members. Tobias Kipp reported on the camps for kids held this summer and the progress of Peniel's other ministries. The music was beautifully led by Alice Peterson and Cheri Markward.

The theme and initial plans for Growth in Truth 2015 were also agreed upon. The theme will be "One with Christ in All of Life", on applying Union with Christ in the various parts of our lives. If the Lord tarries, we plan to hold it August 3rd to 7th next summer. Mark your calendar now!

August is a very quiet month with Peace on the Mountain. We would love to accommodate guests who might want to come and just spend quiet time here on their own. There are lodgings available including the private motel rooms, the lodge setting which would be great for family gatherings, rustic cabins (it is still not too cold) for a back to nature adventure or the campground centered amid the pines. The pool is still open and, of course, the canoes and kayaks are available as well.

In September there will be a teen movie night with pizza, popcorn and fellowship! Invitations have gone out to teens who participated in programs this summer and we are looking forward to being together and catching up on all their news.

Our next scheduled event (10/11 - 13) is a "Be A Kid Again" weekend. This was an event mentioned on Facebook as a reunion for many of the young people who came here in the late 80's and 90's. A guest speaker is scheduled, with meals planned, and lodging available. Of course, there will also be canoes, kayaks, and especially foosball! The grounds will be available to tour and everyone will be encouraged to share memories with each other.

As we wrap up the end of 2014 please keep in mind the ongoing needs for Peniel. We would love to have families, youth groups, men's groups, women's groups and personal retreats come and spend time with us for renewal. We would invite you to call the office and make arrangements and let us know how we can serve you.

(As we wrap up the end of 2014 please keep in mind the ongoing needs for Peniel.

The Ansel System for the stoves and ovens in the summer dining hall needs to be updated. As a safety item the fire inspector has been very helpful in letting us put it off as long as possible. The cost will be about \$3000.00. We will need to replace the pool liner for the summer sessions. The current pool liner is the original and has been patched beyond repair. We are expecting it to cost about \$5000.00 for a replacement.)

Please join us in praying about these items as well as the ongoing need for overhead cost.

In fact, we would invite anyone with a heart for Peniel and its ministry to consider how you can be involved hands-on in this Kingdom Work. We have a Designated Fund Account and are collecting donations for these two large expenditures. All donations are tax deductible.

Continue praying that God will be pleased with our ministry here at Peniel. With His Blessing we will strive to keep to the vision set before us by the founding members of Peniel. With your help we can continue the ministry, reaching children of all ages and sharing with them the Gospel of Jesus.



Peniel Property Report 2014

I would first like to thank all whom have prayed, worked, and contributed to the Peniel ministry this year. Without God and the help of you Peniel would surely fail. We ask for the continued guidance from The Holy Spirit to do God's will in the upcoming year. Jesus said in Mark 4:26, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain – first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come." I thank all of you who have scattered seed this year as well as previous years. The sprouts are growing!

I will start with the first challenge of 2014. We turned on the water for our February event and bam!!!!, the line from the Office to the Restaurant froze! Not the first time in Peniel history from what I gather. So the show must go on right? After 200' of water potable hose and an endless effort from the Maintenance Team; i.e. Tom Sweeney, Beth Sweeney, and Myself, we were able to hold the event with lots of prayer, and help from God of course. The leak was repaired in June after it finally thawed. The frost was deeper than 5' this past year. God still made it happen, the planting of seeds!

We then started planning for the Memorial Day Work Weekend. The #1 project, replacing the Dining Hall roof. What a good size project right? Well I am thankful to say that with the help of the Maine Group brought to us by God we were able to easily replace the roof with a beautiful green metal roof. No buckets were required this year at camp. Hallelujah! We were also able to cut a two years supply of firewood and clean the grounds up beautifully as many of you have seen. I would like to thank all of those who helped, with the planting of seeds! Right before camp we lost our walk in cooler, as well as our commercial refrigerator. I was thinking, "We really can't afford this right now God." Well He heard my thoughts and we were able to get them up and running right before camp at a very minimal cost. His timing - perfect timing. I thank God for helping me when I lack faith. The Pool was the next struggle this year. The liner is in desperate need of replacement. I have to be honest I thought I was going to have to shut it down in the middle of camp. The liner is brittle and continues to rip daily at times. Well, about 35 patches later, above water and below water, we survived. I like to call it the liner of many colors. We will need to replace the liner before the start of next season at a substantial cost. If you are interested in contributing please contact us and we can give you the details. I would also like to give thanks for the donation of the automatic pool cleaner. It has saved me much time to focus on other aspects of the Ministry. We have been in need of a new hood and fire retardant system in the Dining Hall for the last few years. We were "grandfathered in" for the last two years. This means since it was existing and unchanged we didn't have to replace it. Now the State has made all of these systems obsolete as of 2015. We will need to replace for next year at a cost of approximately three thousand dollars to be able to operate. Please pray that this need is met. If you are interested in helping with this please contact us and we would love to talk to you about the project in detail. We have also had some cabin damage on the Hill Campus from falling trees that are being repaired presently. Insurance was able to cover these projects. We are looking to go to metal roofs on all Hill cabins next year the Lord willing. These will be slated as Memorial Day Work Weekend projects for next spring. The rejuvenation and reintroduction of the Pop Shop is also slated for spring. We will also be staining all decks and porches as weather permits in the spring. Pray for sunshine, and a slight breeze if that's not too much. The bath houses are also on the list for upcoming projects. We have had a substantial amount of tile donated to help with this project. Praise God!

In summary I would have to say that God is good! He has shown us this year that He wants the sprouts to grow. Thanks to all who have planted seeds. May it further His Kingdom. May Christ be with you!

His Servant, Tobias Kipp Property Manager



Paul Babcock finished his course here on earth on November 19, 2012 in Brooksville, FL. Paul and his wife Diane met at Peniel, and they and their family were "regulars" at Peniel conferences for many years, with Paul playing a significant administrative role in Peniel's work.

Hilliard Davis, Sr. finished his course in January, 2013. Pat Stimers tells us that the Davises, active members of CGC in Newark, "drove hundreds of miles transporting New Jersey campers to [Peniel] youth camps over the years. They were tireless and sacrificial. They blessed us in many ways supporting the ministry of Peniel."

Gene Kellogg finished his course on February 8, 2013, in Valdosta, GA. An active participant in Peniel conferences for a number of years, he continued to keep up with Peniel through the Prayer Cell Letters when the long trip up from south Georgia became too taxing for him.

John Humme, having lived in Delanson, NY, finished his course on February 23, 2013. John's Peniel conection dates to his participation in a young adult group at Calvary OPC in Schenectady and the influence of the Meiners and the McCulloughs. Later on he served as a pastor and as a counselor in Peniel youth camps.

George Nickels finished his course in April, 2013, in Timberville, VA. He was one of a large group of Davidson College students who came to Peniel in the early '50's and later became a significant part of Peniel's ministry. George met his wife, Janet Stewart, at Peniel; his ministry included counseling and serving as an associate pastor.

Roger Shafer finished his course on June 29, 2013, in Holland, MI. His Peniel connection dates to his participation in a young adult group at Calvary OPC and the influence of the Meiners and the McCulloughs. Roger's influence drew a W W II army buddy named Herb Dale to Peniel; Herb later had key leadership roles in Peniel and especially in the southern Peniel ministry.

Claire Braun Sjogren finished her course on December 24, 2013, at Palmyra, VA. Many remember Claire as a tireless worker at Peniel, putting in many hours "above and beyond" the call of duty in willing service there (and known, too, as an excellent cook). Her Peniel connection dates to the late '40's.

Jack Merry finished his course on February 17, 2014, at Queensbury, NY. Very capable with technology, he was an inventor of medical devices. Very actively involved with Peniel, he as an Elder was one of the founders of Redeemer Reformed Presbyterian Church in Queensbury, just over the mountain from Lake Luzerne.

Arnold Glover finished his course on March 31, 2014, in Schenectady, NY. His original Peniel connection was through participation in a Bible class held at 242 Union St. in Schenectady, taught by Miss Armstrong and Miss Vroman, in the early '50's. He worked at Ellis Hospital and later at GE.

Lois Glover finished her course on April 5, 2014, in Schenectady. Lois came into the Peniel picture through

her courtship and marriage to Arnold (they were married at Calvary OPC). She was a nurse, working at Ellis Hospital.

John Whitnah, Sr., finished his course here on April 30, 2014, in Washington, DC. John's initial contact with Peniel was through a friendship with Cal Malefyt in Boston, where John was in graduate school. Son John, Jr., writes, "My parents met at Peniel and our family spent many summers there." John served Peniel in numerous capacities, including a number of years on the Prayer Council. He was retired from the Atomic Energy Commission.

Mary Smartt finished her course on May 21, 2014, at Chestnut Mountain, GA. A New York state native, she accepted Christ at Peniel as a teenager. And Peniel was also where she met her husband, Kennedy. Together they served the Lord in churches in Georgia and Virginia, as well as in other ministries, including Peniel.

Jane Galloway finished her course on May 25, 2014, at Media, PA. She was introduced to Peniel by her pastor, Trav Sloyer. She was known as an active hiker and mountain climber and also a prolific writer.

Earl Eckerson finished his course here on June 14, 2014, in Greenville, SC. First introduced to Peniel through the young adult group at Calvary OPC in Schenectady, he ministered in a variety of capacities -- pastoring churches, specializing in counseling, organizing Christian schools, and others, including serving on Peniel's Prayer Council and directing youth camps.

SPONSORS & SCHOLARSHIPS

L.A.M.P. Program

The LAMP Program will be a 7 week commitment this summer. You can help sponsor a LAMP counselor this summer. It is only through their hard work and dedication that we are able to offer camp to children. Your help is needed. If you are interested please email: office@penielbibleconference.org

Peniel Bible Conference 336 Lake Tour Rd, Lake Luzerne, NY 12846 • 518-696-4038



Please consider sending a child from your church, to Peniel for a life changing experience. Sponsoring a camper or even a partial scholarship can help bring a child to the knowledge of the Lord.



Our facility offers many different options for your next Ladies or Mens Retreat. Our campus is perfect for your next youth group event. For more information Please contact at: Peniel Bible Conference & Camp P.O. Box 369, Lake Luzerne, New York 12846 Phone: 518-696-4038 Email: office@penielbibleconference.org Web:www.penielbibleconference.org

There's an Ansul in Distress!



There's an Ansul in distress and you can help in the rescue challenge. Peniel is facing two very large projects that must be completed to keep the camp open.

The "fan" over the summer kitchen stove has been grandfathered up until now, but we have been told that in order to meet New York State's safety codes, we must replace the old system with a new Ansul system. The expense of this installation could be as much as \$5,000.

In addition, our pool liner has lived it's last summer with tape repairs, and a new liner must be put in next spring. The expense of this project will be around \$8,000.

Tobias Kipp, our property manager, will be exploring the best deals we can make, to bring our camp up to code. Both projects will need to be done before the planned summer 2015 camping season.

This seems like a large goal, but it can be managed if everyone works together. Here's the challenge:

Please consider sending a tax deductible donation of \$10 each month until the cost of both projects has been saved. Donations can be made on Pay Pal at the Peniel website or you may send a check to: Peniel Bible Conference, PO Box 369, Lake Luzerne 12846. Please make a note on your check,"For Rescue Challenge".

We have 544 Facebook friends. If every friend would send in \$10 for 2-3, months, both projects would be completely funded.

Please be a part Peniel alive for future generations. We will post our progress each month on Facebook. Thank you for your support

Peniel Bible Conference

2014 - 2015 Schedule (Tentative) 9/6 Wilderness Teen Movie Night 7m 10/3 & 4 Prayer Council Meeting 10/10 – 13 Adult Retreat & Alumni Weekend "Be a Kid Again" 10/10 - 13 King School - Class Reunion 10/30 Campus CLOSED 11/14 & 15 Ladies Retreat - Adirondack Christian Fellowship 11/29 Wilderness Teen Night - La Cafe 2/15 & 16 Jr. Snofun - Frozen 2/20 - 22 Sr. Snofun - Mt. Everest 4/1 Campus OPEN 4/17&18 Teen Spring Event (name & theme TBA) 4/24 & 25 Prayer Council Meeting 5/1 – 3 Ladies Retreat - Redeemer Reformed 5/22 – 25 Memorial Day Work Weekend 6/2 - 6 Americade - CMA Riders 6/12 – 14 & 6/19 – 21 ARC Lifeguard Training (Full Cert) 6/15 – 6/19 ARC Lifeguard Training (Re-Cert) 7/5 - 8/28 ARC Learn to Swim Program 7/5 – 11 Staff Training Week 7/12 – 18 Children's Camp (name & theme TBA) 7/19 – 25 Junior Camp (name & theme TBA) 7/26 – 8/1 Family Camp & Day Camp (name & theme TBA) 8/3 – 7 Growth In Truth - Union with Christ 8/7 & 8 Prayer Council Meeting







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Return Service Requested