

SIERRA BIBLE CAMP by Tony Wade

I first went to Sierra Bible Camp in the late seventies when I was a teenager. I remember it being a lot of fun—singing, skits, campfire and honestly, girls. Sierra Bible Camp is near Lake Almanor and the breathtaking beauty of the Lassen forest envelops you while you are there.

I was in a cabin full of wisecrackin' young men who pulled pranks and did some things that I'm not proud of now, but near midweek something remarkable happened.

We were all in our bunks at night with the lights out and the counselor was asking us what we liked about camp. It got pretty deep as one by one we all talked about how great it was and many expressed love for each other. Not typical teenage boy stuff. It was what I called a natural high and I never forgot it—even years later when I was sucked into the world and seeking out unnatural ones.



Fast forward about twenty years and as a disciple of Christ and an adult I returned to camp and it was such a blessing. We had so many wonderful times up there. The most memorable was when Renee Reed and I had a mock feud that went on all week long ostensibly because I wouldn't allow her to be in a skit.

She organized all the females in the camp to picket me at campfire and then when I retaliated at a later night, she posted a declaration on the wall in the chow hall the next day that said anybody who participated in my shameless shenanigans would not be having the savory home made soup in a bread bowl for dinner, but a cold hot dog.



John (Reed) the baptizer

One by one the guys in my own cabin (starting with Renee's son Jonathon) got on the microphone in the chow hall at breakfast and renounced me saying I had brainwashed them. It was so funny. Then Renee and I "reconciled" and showed the forgiveness and did the skit together.

When our church started holding a family camp, what was already good became great. It was wonderful to have so many people away from the confines of the

building and out in nature studying God's word and singing praises to him that rise up into the sky with the smoke from our campfire.

I have solidified so many relationships up at camp. Fellowship is sometimes relegated to the periodic potluck ,but up there you have an opportunity to really get to know people.

We will be returning to Sierra Bible Camp after a multi-year absence and I am so excited. **Our week of camp is July 28th-August 4th. The cost is \$125 per adult, \$75 for children and kids 7 and under are free. The max for a family (even the Brady Bunch) is \$450.**

I know that many people are not campers, but let me attempt to change your mind. Many long timers here knew our dear brother and former Elder John Gibson. He was the father of former member Cindi McLeod.

For years John drove the busful of kids up to Sierra Bible Camp and when we got there, he would turn around and head home. Well, when we started doing the family camp, he decided to stay and said he was so glad he did as it was a tremendous blessing.

I also wanted to share that during memorial Day weekend the camp holds an annual work weekend. It is a rather low key time of



fellowship with other members from various congregations to get the camp ready for use.

My wife Beth and I used to go there every year and may do so this year. If you plan on attending, I have some advice: do not volunteer to clear the weeds from the leech field. Beth raised her hand the first time we went and we discovered that the “weeds” they were talking about were more accurately described as little trees.

There are two nearby towns, Canyon Dam and Chester if you want to rough it a bit more smoothly. We sometimes go into Chester and get ice cream from the Pine Shack Frosty which should be listed as one of the natural wonders of the world.

So please do pray about attending and if the funds are an issue, we can find a way. Mark your calendars , set up your vacation time and I would love to see you all out there among God’s incredible creation.

FAIRFIELD CHURCH OF CHRIST FAMILY CAMP JULY 28 TO AUGUST 4th