



NEWSLETTER March 2021

Gift Packets Delivered to Families of Campers

My Minnesota family came and sorted out the items for the gift packets. These packets were delivered to families of past campers. The Camp has been closed since the start of the Covid pandemic so the Camp committee decided to stay in touch with these groups by providing “gift packets.”

The packet items are displayed by members of Paul’s family.

Items for the packets: rice, beans, Jenga game, Bible story/activity book, colored pencils, toothpaste, toothbrush (donated by Dr. Gillard of Hutchinson), crackers, cookies, and 3 bars of soap, were wrapped in a big bath towel with the Camp logo in the center.

A big thank you to our contributors who helped make this gift possible with the 2020 matching funds.

—by Paul Bernhagen



Letty Bernhagen (Paul’s Mom), Trent & Elissa (Pheneger) Johnson, Luann Pheneger (Paul’s sister) Andrew Meade, Roy (Paul’s son) and Thelma (Paul’s wife). Other family members not pictured were Steve Pheneger, Emily (Pheneger) Meade, Aria and Beckett Meade.

Report on the “Gift Packet” Trips —by Letty Bernhagen

During my 6-week stay in Costa Rica, I traveled with Paul and Thelma to 9 locations to deliver the items for the family gift packets. We traveled from Puntarenas on the west to Limon on the Caribbean side and many locations in between. This was no small task!

Though trying at times, it was a rewarding experience to see the delight it brought to the groups of leaders, parents and children who attended our visits.

Paul and Thelma explained the idea and reasons for the packets. We delivered the contents of the packets to the groups in bulk form and they were responsible for packing each gift. I had the pleasure of showing them how to wrap the packets. (A completed packet shown at left).

In addition to explaining the packets, Paul and Thelma presented “The Dragonfly Project.” This project was explained in detail in the November Camp newsletter. You can also review the project by going to their website: dragonflyproject.org. The project is a bereavement program which is designed to give comfort to grieving families through the use of cards. It was well received by the groups and cards were left with each group. (A picture of one of the groups receiving these cards is on the reverse side.)

After my visit to Costa Rica, there were a few groups to receive their items, but have been completed at this time. Complete statistics aren’t available but Paul reported that over 900 towels were distributed.



—ZOOM CALL ON APRIL 11 AT 3 PM - SEE OVERLEAF—

Participate in a ZOOM CALL on April 11



For supporters of Camp Penuel Costa Rica and those interested in the Camp, we are having the first-ever Zoom Call with Paul and several Costa Rican guests on Sunday, April 11 at 3 pm CDT. Please join us.

If you are getting this newsletter via mail and you wish to be on the zoom call, please send your email address to Mark a week before the call. Your e-mail will only be used this one time unless you say it is okay to add it to our list.

The link for the Zoom Call will be e-mailed to you a few days prior to April 11.

Mission House Open

The mission house is open at this time (as is the pool, of course) and now you're welcome to make your reservations. Airfare to Costa Rica is very reasonable (\$500 or less) at this time. AND, now there is Wi-Fi available at the mission house.

Although there are no camps now, there is plenty of work to do to prepare the buildings and grounds for future camp sessions—painting, landscaping, repairing, etc. Also outreach opportunities.

The beaches, restaurants and tourist places are open and not busy, but masks are required when out and about. There are certain requirements for traveling there and also for the return flight. Check with the airlines about these regulations. If you are interested, please contact Mark.

Memory Lane Pictures

There have been many groups at the Camp over the years so if any of you have pictures to share, Lois and Mark would like you to pick out 4 or 5 pictures of your time at the Camp. Send them to Mark at markofinney@gmail.com. These pictures could go back even before the Camp opened in 2006. Some of the pictures will be posted on the Camp's facebook page.

The Finneys "On the Road Again"

The Finneys are planning to travel again late summer and fall. If you wish to have a presentation about the Camp for your church or group, please let Mark know. The Finneys will try to accommodate your location. They're good at detours!



Address for mailing contributions:

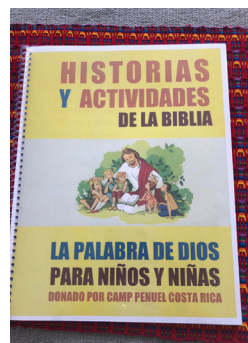
**CPCR Attn: Luann, 2431 Churchill St
Roseville MN 55113**



This group of leaders in an Esparza barrio is displaying the dragonfly card which was explained by Paul. They will use these cards for grieving families in their area. The card is designed on an 8 1/2 by 11" sheet of paper which will be folded into card size. The card explains the dragonfly story and a message from Camp Penuel Costa Rica.



4 happy boys with their leader as they receive their packets!



This Activity Book was included in the gift packets. The book was compiled by Paul and his daughter Rebeca designed and illustrated it.

This book is in Spanish but is being offered free of charge to any contributor.

If you can read Spanish, it could be used as a teaching tool for adults and/or children. It can also be copied if more copies are needed. Contact Mark for a copy.

Mark's e-mail: markofinney@gmail.com

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Camp Penuel Costa Rica**