



# Wilderness SUNRISE

EQUIPPING BOYS - STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

Spring 2018

## A LIFE LIVED FOR OTHERS

*In Memory of Floyd Yoder • 1947 - 2017*

Floyd Yoder, the founder of Fair Play Camp School, passed away this past December. In a recent interview he shared about the early days of camp.

"I first learned about a local camp in Virginia where we had a building supply. The boys would come out and get their supplies from us. I learned to know these boys and it was exciting to see the changes that they were making.

We went to visit the camp. I enjoyed visiting the campsites and seeing what the boys were doing. They were so excited to show us around.

We were making good money but it just did not fulfill me. One day I said to my dad, "I would be really interested in getting involved in a boy's camp - a place where there are people who believe in the biblical principles of God's word and

would be able to lead these boys to a better life." He said, "Floyd, if you would like to do something like that, I'll be 100% behind you."

We started praying about it. After about a year the

building supply sold and three of us scouted out South

Carolina. We ended up buying a property in Fair Play. We got a license to start a boy's camp, but the state agency was not convinced. They gave us a couple boys, but what we did not know is that they were



probably some of the hardest boys in the state. They had run away from 40 different places and nobody could keep them.

After a while they visited us and asked, "You can keep these boys and they run away from every other place. What are you doing?"

I replied, "I really don't know; we just love and care about these boys. When they run away, we go get them and bring them back to the group. We solve problems. We want to be able to help these boys."

Later on some more officials visited our program. We took them back to the camp and the boys showed them around. They could see the excitement and the enthusiasm. We began seeing the agencies have more confidence in what we were doing."

Ellen, Floyd's wife, remembers the early days of camp. "Because there was only one group, we often



Floyd with the original counselors (on left) and campers.

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Floyd chatting with Ken Edgar

## Create Your Own Legacy of Helping Boys and Their Families

Because of the generosity of people like you, camp has been instrumental in giving hope to boys and their families for the past 37 years. You can continue your legacy of service by including Fair Play Camp School in your will. You have the option of designating your bequest to fund the Floyd Yoder Memorial Endowment Fund or to be used as needed. When speaking to your attorney, here are the three key pieces of information that you will need:

**Legal name:** Fair Play Camp School

**Address:** 347 Wilderness Trail, Westminster, SC 29693

**EIN#:** 57-0705796

You can also contact the Anabaptist Foundation. If you wish to anonymously support Fair Play Camp School with gifts of stocks, mutual fund shares, real estate, or with a gift from your estate, you may do so through the Anabaptist Foundation.

### You can contact them at:

Anabaptist Foundation, 1245 Old Route 15, New Columbia, PA 17856 (800) 653-9817 [giftfund@afweb.org](mailto:giftfund@afweb.org)

## A LIFE LIVED FOR OTHERS *Cont.*

had the boys in our home. The whole church would attend the boys' graduations."

We loved camp and enjoyed interacting with the boys. It was a big part of our life for a long time. We had a lot of visitors because the camp concept was a new thing and people wanted to check it out. Floyd worked for no pay when camp started, but God always met our needs."

"We had a lot of struggles because we didn't come from

a camp background," Floyd concluded. "There were times that I wondered if we would be able to continue because money was not coming in. But, God took care of that. We were so blessed!

That's a little bit of the way camp started. From there on we started another group, then a third, and later the fourth group. In 1989 we moved to the new location."

## HE WAS THE FATHER I NEVER HAD

A former camper, John, remembers Floyd as a great encourager. "He was constantly telling me to never give up, no matter how tough life was. He was like a dad to us."

"He was always smiling," Willie, another former camper remembers.

Rod says that the most memorable thing that Chief Floyd ever said to him was after a particularly tough day. "Everything in life changes," Floyd told him. "All you need to do is slow down, help it along and watch it as it does. You can get through anything

if you just slow down, take on one thing at a time, and work through it. If I were to do it that

*"I am thankful for everything camp did for me. There is not a day goes by that I don't think about Floyd and camp. It was the best thing that ever happened to me."*



Floyd at an Early Graduation

way, I could do anything in life."

"Chief Floyd was a great man, and I know that he touched everyone in his life in his own special way. I know he is greatly missed. What he and Grandad did with starting camp means so much to so many. I am thankful for everything camp did for me."

Ricky remembers Floyd as a stern but fatherly

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## HE WAS THE FATHER I NEVER HAD *Cont.*

man. “My father was abusive. I was always fighting the system, fighting God, and was constantly running away. But Floyd was like a father to me; he treated me like his son. He was the father I never had. He taught me how to be a man.

When Floyd would walk into a bad situation, things would immediately calm down. He could get the best out of you without you realizing it.

In the past 35 years, camp has helped keep me from

doing some things that I otherwise might have done. It helped me break the chain of abuse. I’ve done some bad things, but I probably would have hurt more people. If people could actually be that good, I could do better myself.

There is not a day goes by that I don’t think about Floyd and camp. It was the best thing that ever happened to me.”

## HE LOVED GOD AND LOVED PEOPLE

“Floyd’s legacy is that he loved God and loved people,” J.D. Miller, former chief and camp director, recalls. “It was the transforming work of Jesus in his life, there’s no question about it. I remember walking into the state’s DSS office in Columbia, thinking that here is a guy with an eighth grade education going in to meet the lions of the political realm. But he had a way of relating with those people that was just unbelievable. By the time he was done and leaving the office, you knew there was a solid foundation to work on.

I remember especially the one man who had been there for a long time. He was a man of faith. The conversations would often go for a while and then he would say, “I’m going to close my door for the rest of this conversation”, because it would turn to issues of faith and it didn’t need to be heard in the corridors. Floyd loved when that happened. He

knew that when the doors needed to shut he was at the right place. He had made a connection.”

“Floyd was so quietly and humbly competent in everything that he did,” Pat Prichard,

former educational director, commented.

“He never tooted his own horn about anything. In that quiet way, it gave camp a foundation that no one ever thought about.

Floyd was an easy man to talk to, and he just had this gentle way about him. He listened. When you had a conversation, you knew by what he said back to you that he had listened to you.”

“Floyd was a meek and humble man – he never made a big deal about being the founder of Fair Play,” Paul Graber, a family worker, remembers. “He just had a spirit of helpfulness. He wanted to help people.

All of the campers loved him. He had such a calming effect on them. If you had a problem, he wasn’t going to let you off the hook or rescue you. He gave you confidence that you would be able to work through your issues.”

“He had a way of caring for people – he would see an opportunity to help and step right in,” Dallas Troyer, maintenance supervisor, explains. “He was a visionary. He would see the potential in people and wasn’t afraid to go after them. He was not afraid to take a risk.”



Floyd & Ellen at the Annual Christmas Party

*“Floyd was so quietly and humbly competent in everything that he did.”*





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## EQUIPPING BOYS FOR LIFE

347 Wilderness Trail, Westminster, SC 29693

Phone: 864.647.4311 • Fax: 864.647.4314

E-mail: [camp@fairplaycamp.org](mailto:camp@fairplaycamp.org)

[www.fairplaycamp.org](http://www.fairplaycamp.org)

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## TRAIL NOTES

Daniel Hochstetler, *Executive Director*

Jackie Robinson is quoted to have said, “A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives”. Floyd was this type of person. He lived his life in such a way that it inspired others and spoke of the genuine care he had for people.

I am humbled by the opportunity we have today to carry on this legacy by continuing to serve boys and their families. Although I never had the privilege of personally working at Camp with Floyd, his vision for ministry and the principles that set the foundation for his life were passed on through the many stories of his time here. The impact of the quiet and yet faithful dedication he had to bring honor and glory to God is still felt today. His life has been an inspiration to countless people to live in such a way that others will be changed by the things they do.



## STAFF NEWS

### ARRIVALS

- Brittany Hostetler (Cook), *Plain City, OH*
- Willis Wagler (Thrift Store), *Washington, IN*

### DEPARTING

- Lana Hochstetler (Cook), *Middlebury, IN*
- Lexi Yoder (Thrift Store), *Middlebury, IN*
- Micah Schrock (Thrift Store), *Topeka, IN*
- Madison Yoder (Thrift Store), *Sturgis, MI*

### STAFF NEEDS

- Thrift Store Guys & Girls - Immediately
- Chiefs - Two Needed Fall/Winter 2018
- Cook - February 2019