

# Lakeside Reflections

A Newsletter for the Friends of Tilikum

Spring 2008

## Time with a Child

by Nate Forbes



Omar and Nate

**“The mission field isn’t only in other countries, it’s right here!”**

**-Omar White**

Omar White has a heart for ministering to the kids of north Portland. He serves as the children’s ministry director at Mt. Olivet Baptist church. Their church heads up a mentorship program targeting under-resourced kids of this neighborhood. Tilikum partners with them to help reach these kids through our outdoor day camp ministry. They bring about 50 kids every summer to Tilikum to hear about a God who loves them and experience him through creation. A scholarship fund at Tilikum has been set aside for these kids to give them the opportunity to come to camp. Thursday night a few of us from Tilikum drove up to visit Omar at Mt. Olivet to learn more about their ministry and to visit with the kids.

We were all amazed at how intentionally the mentorship program is designed. Each adult mentor is paired up with one elementary-aged child for the whole school year. Omar asks his volunteer mentors to make a commitment of at least a year to make the program most effective for the kids. We met with some mentors that night who had invested in their

child for five years! The program is set up to allow for a lot of one-on-one focused time between the adult and the child. That evening a Bible lesson was co-taught by a mentor and his child. Pairs broke off to discuss the lesson. We couldn’t help but notice the mentors also took time to catch up on their child’s life. It was encouraging to see the natural bond occurring between them.

When we asked Omar to describe a key need of the youth in this area he responded, “The bottom line is time. When you spend time with a child it makes a huge difference. Taking a walk with them in a park, seeing them in their schools, visiting in the lunchroom, these are all things that will impact a child’s life. A lot of times the kids’ mother or father is working just to make ends meet, or their grandmother who is taking care of them is getting older and doesn’t have the time these kids need. What they need is to have someone spending time with them, encouraging them, loving them.”

That night we observed just that – kids connecting with solid role models. They were pointing the kids to God and encouraging them to make right choices.

The focus of this program is not only the children, but also their families. Omar told us a few stories about kids who had gone through the program and the positive effect it had on their lives. Some of their parents had noticed the mentor’s positive effect on their kids and in turn are coming to church, finding Christ, and expressing interest in becoming mentors themselves.

This ministry extends beyond the school year and into the summer months. The kickoff event for this program is their week at Tilikum day camp.

We asked Omar to tell us about some experiences the kids have had at Tilikum. He told us that last summer at the end of

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# Director's Clipboard

by **Bedford Holmes**  
Executive Director

Welcome to the Director's Clipboard, my ongoing contribution to our new and improved newsletter, *Lakeside Reflections*. We at Tilikum are excited about producing this updated information log to keep you better informed about our ministry. Lissa Forbes is the new editor for this publication, and under her guidance we hope you enjoy learning more about how God is using Tilikum. Lissa, who graduated from George Fox with a degree in organizational communications, is married to Nate, our Day Camp manager. Lissa has been very involved behind the scenes in helping him and the rest of us serve our campers. I am quite excited to have her as our roving reporter to better tell you the stories of spiritual renewal that take place on our grounds.

The intent of the Director's Clipboard is to give you updates on how we are helping others advance this ministry into the community. Below I have highlighted two recent advances in Tilikum's ministry.

One of the most significant developments in the last six months has been the presentation of our new site plan to the public. To review, back in August 2007, our planning architects, Fletemeyer & Lee, gave Tilikum formal recommendations to our advisory board for consideration. I also presented an overview of the plan to our donor community and staff at our September Potlatch celebration. The board studied the plan and formally adopted it as the pattern for the future growth of Tilikum at the December board meeting. This spring, I will be presenting the plan to the George Fox University Board of Trustees for its endorsement.

The development of the plan has been a labor of love over the past three years, and there are many people who have donated their time and resources to make this possible. Forty-six individuals donated more than \$40,000 to pay for the fees involved in this process. The site plan gives us a compelling vision for the future development of Tilikum. A copy of the plan is available upon request at the Tilikum office.



"The site plan gives us a compelling vision for the future development of Tilikum."

— Bedford Holmes as he shares the new site plan with others

Another important development at Tilikum has been the founding of a new service organization called the Lovers of the Lake. Lovers of the Lake exists as a group of partners who provide the resources and expertise to maintain and enhance the lake at Tilikum. The group will help plan and implement annual projects to improve the lake for our guests. They will also provide volunteer labor and procure donations for the various identified tasks. Projects such as raising funds to restock the lake with fish, repairing docks and boats, and maintaining the integrity of our dam are example of what the Lovers of the Lake will tackle.

The two specific projects slated for this year are:

- Reconfiguring the waterfront/swim area with terracing and a new dock
- Create new fish habitat in the lake by submerging leftover Christmas trees we have collected.

If you would like to serve as a member of this group, or make a contribution toward the needs of our lake, please contact me for more information.

Thank you for your continued interest in the ministries of Tilikum. 🌿



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a camp day, a girl who had just been recently transplanted from New Orleans told him that she wanted to accept Christ into her life. Another girl from the program overheard this conversation and asked to help pray with her to accept Jesus. How wonderful!

During their week at camp the kids have the opportunity to enjoy nature on the hiking trails, swim in the lake, swing through the trees on the Big Swing, and catch newts in the lake. This impact stays with them. The songs they have learned at camp are still being sung even now.

When asked about what made the greatest impact on Omar this summer, he said it was watching the college-age summer staff interact with the kids and seeing how they had a true passion for God. "You could really see the enthusiasm and the love they had for the kids; their attitude was that of 'we're going to have a good time, we're going to have fun with Christ!'"

Before we headed home, we asked Omar what we could do to help his ministry. He left us with the thought of finding someone we could mentor. It makes a significant impact on an individual's life. He also encouraged us to continue in supporting the scholarship fund for these kids.

We left feeling encouraged and ministered to by watching the mentors be the hands and feet of Christ to these kids. 🦋

Omar will be visiting at our Tilikum 10K event at Champoege State Park on April 5 to share a devotional. The funds raised from the 10K go to the scholarship fund that makes it possible for kids to come to camp. We invite everyone to join us in this fun event and in supporting this ministry.

# TILIKUM 10K

GOING THE DISTANCE TO GET KIDS  
TO CAMP!

*A Benefit for the Tilikum Scholarship Fund*

GO THE DISTANCE

The sixth Annual Tilikum 10K is taking place at 10 a.m. Saturday April 5, at beautiful Champoege State Park in St. Paul, just minutes from Newberg.

The 10K Run & 5K Run/Walk event is to raise funds to get under-resourced children to summer camp. The race will take place along the banks of the Willamette River at the scenic Champoege State Park. Participants raise donations per kilometer they run or walk, and a minimum donation/entry fee of \$35 for adults, \$15 for youth, is required to take part in the event. Awards will be given to the first-, second-, and third-place finishers in each race, and all participants will be entered into a drawing for several prizes donated by local sponsors.

Please come join us, either as a runner, a walker, or simply a spectator, and do your part to get kids to camp. For more information log on at [camptilikum.org](http://camptilikum.org) and click on the big orange foot.

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# Meet our staff...

## **Bedford Holmes – Executive Director**

Camp name: “Chaps”

*(MEd from George Fox University)*

Bedford has been a part of camping ministries since 1975. He and his wife Sara and their three daughters – Abbie, Maggie and Bonnie – came to Tilikum about eight years ago from Texas. To Bedford, camping is a community. It’s a place where the Lord makes major connections with his people through relationships, creation, and his Word. A fun thing to know about Bedford is that he finally turned 13 years old this year, as he is a leap-year baby. Congratulations!



## **Julia Brown – Office Manager**

*(BA, Christian ministries and international studies from George Fox University)*

Julia is the newest member to the Tilikum staff. She and her husband, Jeff, live in Hillsboro on their family’s filbert farm. While she was going to school at George Fox, she became familiar with Tilikum and soon started working as a host. She has enjoyed being a part of an outdoor ministry. Currently, Julia is learning to ride a motorcycle. Her goal is to take a trip to Bend with her husband and a Christian dirt bike group called RUTS (Riders Under The Son).



## **Carl Anderson – Property Manager**

Current camp name :“C-Dawg”

*(BA, accounting from George Fox University)*

Carl has been on full-time staff at Tilikum for 13 years. Prior to that he was a summer staffer for two summers where he met his wife Julie. They have two children, Grace and Susannah. “I have seen the amazing impact that time spent in nature seeking Christ can have on people,” he says of being part of a camping ministry. Carl is certified in a number of things. Recently he passed his International Society of Arborists test.



## **Arden Butler – Property Manager Assistant**

*(BA, secondary education from the late Cascade College in Portland)*

Arden came to Tilikum by way of a nontraditional interview. While he was parking the “new” church shuttle bus at West Chehalem Friends Church, the former Tilikum director approached him and said, “I either need the bus or I need you out at Tilikum.” Arden told him the bus was spoken for, but he could be available. That was eight years ago. We’re glad Arden continues to be available for Tilikum. One of his favorite aspects of camping ministry is watching personal and spiritual interaction between summer staffers and campers. To this he says, “It’s priceless!”



Another aspect of life that is priceless to Arden is his wonderful family:  
his wife, Joan, son Dennis, and daughter Jodi.

## **Carrie McNeal – Housekeeping Supervisor**

Camp name: “Mrs. Zippy”

*(BA, elementary education /speech pathology from Washington State University)*

Carrie has been a part of Tilikum since 1999. She and her husband have four now-grown children who attended Tilikum for as many years as they were able. For Carrie, being at camp has given her a variety in her work to keep it enjoyable. She also enjoys the opportunity to be a part of helping others to step out from their routines. One of Carrie’s favorite vacation spots is the Oregon Coast, and in her spare time she enjoys browsing thrift stores and spending time with her wonderful family.





### **Carol Yard – Program Director**

*(BS, biology from Grove City College in Pennsylvania; MA, educational ministries from Wheaton College in Illinois; certificate in leadership and camping ministry at HoneyRock Camp in Wisconsin)*

Carol grew up in northwestern Pennsylvania, with her parents and three older brothers. Camping encompasses a lot of who Carol is. She first attended camp in third grade, then counseled when she was old enough, and as an adult has worked at a variety of camps and programs doing adventure and wilderness ministry and environmental education. She feels her calling is to care for the outdoors and share it with other people. This is how she has experienced God the most in her life, and she is excited about developing the wilderness program at Tilikum, IMPACT.

### **Nate Forbes – Day Camp Manager**

*(BS, Christian ministries, Lancaster Bible College in Pennsylvania)*

Nate started at Tilikum in May of 2007. He has been a part of camping ministry for the past nine years. Although he loves Oregon, his original home is in Michigan where his parents and sister and her family still live. Camping ministry has always been a place for him to connect with God and create lifelong friendships with others (including his wife, Lissa, whom he met at Twin Rocks Friends Camp). A fun fact about Nate is that he is on a race with his college friends to travel to all 50 states before they turn 50. He is seven states away from that goal!



### **Michelle Welton – Retreat Center Director**

*(BA, international studies from George Fox University)*

Michelle has been involved in the camping industry for seven and a half years, four of which have been at Tilikum. It has been a joy for her to be a part of the ministry here. She is also enjoying this opportunity to be back in Oregon, where she is closer to her family in Bend. During her spare time, she enjoys time with her family (Brent, her husband of 10 years), camping, scrapbooking, racquetball, playing the flute, hiking, and geocaching. And last, but certainly not least, she is a master of the hoola hoop.



### **Roberta Anderson – Food Service Manager, Bon Appétit**

Roberta grew up in Florence, Ore., playing on the sand dunes. She now lives in Dundee with her husband. They are the proud parents of six kids and 14 grandchildren. During her spare time, Roberta likes to be with her family, bake, crochet, sew, and make jewelry. She is going on her 26th year of working in food service. This summer will be her third summer at Tilikum. A fun fact to know about Roberta is that she doesn't like pasta, but is willing to cook and serve it.



### **Stephanie Belt – Guest Services Coordinator**

Camp name: "Glitter"

*(BA, theatre from Missouri Southern State University; Bible studies certificate from Capernwray Missionary Fellowship in Carnforth, UK)*

Stephanie has been with Tilikum for almost one and a half years. She grew up in Joplin, Mo., which is known as the Ozarks, with her mom, dad and older brother. For seven years Stephanie taught an array of dance classes including ballet, tap, and jazz. During her spare time, she enjoys reading classic novels, swimming, taking ballet, mountain biking, and walking on the beach. A favorite quote of hers comes from Alice Abrams: "In life, as in dance grace glides on blistered feet."



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# Experience the Adventure

by Carol Yard

I woke with my head in a puddle and the sound of my tarp flapping by one corner in the strong wind of the storm. My sleeping bag was soaked, and rain pelted my face. I could either continue to lay there in misery and vainly attempt to stay warm, or get up and do something about it. The storm showed no intentions of retreating to the other side of the lake, so I got up and tried to grasp the flapping corners of my shelter and anchor them before it flew away into the forest. In the middle of running from tree to tree, a strange thing happened. I began to laugh irresistibly! It was a moment I will always remember and go back to in life's storms. The laughter erupted from a realization of my utter helplessness and dependence on God. I remember hearing God's voice very clearly in that moment. I joyfully surrendered, knowing that I was nothing without him, and placed my trust completely in him. My sleeping bag dried out in the sun the next day, but the experience positively impacted me for life.

Reflecting on my experiences in the wilderness, I remember times of peace and sunshine as well as trial and storm. Both have given me vivid images of who God is, who I am, and his love for me. We often wrap ourselves in human-made comforts and distractions until the natural world becomes very foreign. Pieces of our identities are lost when we don't take time to be in nature. God has chosen to reveal himself to us through what has been made (Romans 1:20), and it is a shame to insulate our lives so much that most of our experience of it is through picture windows.

God has used wilderness environments throughout history (i.e. Moses, Abraham, Elijah, Jesus) to shape people and change the course of their lives, and he continues to do so today. IMPACT is our effort to give young people the chance to connect with God through purposeful wilderness experiences. Tilikum partners with On the Edge Adventures to offer this opportunity to students entering grades 10-12. This is a pivotal time to grow spiritually, physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially. The journey involves backpacking for six days with a small group of people, and rock climbing if the conditions are right. We will hopefully escape some of the false messages of our culture and experience God's truth.



We encourage participants to go beyond what they think they can do, serve others, and test their leadership abilities within a safe community.

Like our life journeys, IMPACT can be beautiful and uncomfortable at the same time. In these uncomfortable places, we have the choice to grow through leaning into God and reaching out to others, or instead, retreating into ourselves. It is here that character and faith are refined. IMPACT exists not only to enjoy the outdoors, but to equip people with metaphors to draw from at other challenging and unpredictable times in life. ✨



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## Impact:

July 28-Aug. 2

For students entering grades 10-12.

Call Tilikum to register today!

**(503) 538-2763**

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# A Time to Connect

by Michelle Welton

Tilikum's family programs emphasize times of spiritual and relational renewal, bound within the framework of community. Whether fishing with your son, baking bread with your daughter, or racing a canoe together across the lake, the setting, the people, and the presence of God create an ideal opportunity to experience life side by side. Tilikum is an ideal setting to get away from the distractions of everyday life and enjoy uninterrupted time together in God's glorious creation. Not only do they provide time to reconnect with your children, but are designed to foster supportive relationships among parents. The atmosphere surrounding our family programming is very special, one that encourages families to come back year after year. Those who attend are excited to share about their experience:



“My son Sage (5 years) and I will be attending the Single Parent Family Camp at Tilikum for the third time this summer. The experience was threefold me: 1) the opportunity to share a fun experience with my little boy and do things we wouldn't otherwise do; 2) the opportunity to relax and be pampered without taking time away from my son; 3) the opportunity to meet with other parents 'like me' and let Sage play with other kids 'like him'.

We formed a single mom's support group that is still going strong. We have grown together and supported each other on a weekly basis for almost two years, and it all began with relationships formed at Tilikum. Since last summer, three of the moms have professed their belief in Christ and all of us talk often, and with excited anticipation of our next trip to Tilikum. It will no doubt be the highlight of our summer.”

*Nicole Stevens, Single Parent Family Camp*

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If your family would like to participate in one of our 2008 programs, please contact our office at 503-538-2763 or visit us on the web at [camptilikum.org](http://camptilikum.org).

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## Did you know...?

- ... OPB filmed a segment of Oregon Field Guide that featured our very own Tilikum. It airs March 30th at 6:30 pm.
- ... February is dubbed “Quilting Month”. We had 100 people come during this month alone to focus on all types of quilting.
- ... Richard Harney has volunteered countless hours rebuilding our old canoes.
- ... our first retreat happened in March, 36 years ago.
- ... that co-operation between camps is great. Last year we purchased a portable sawmill with Black Lake Bible Camp and Twin Rock Friends Camp. We are grateful for the generosity of the donors who paid for Tilikum's share.

## Animal Crackers

Percy's Ponderings: “Wow, in the 15 years I've been here, there have been 39,000 campers through these doors. That's a lot of pats for a pig like me.”





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Outdoor Ministries  
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## UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Landscaping and gardening
- Trail Maintenance
- Devotional library caretaker
- Family program assistants
- Data entry
- Build bed frames
- Paint rooms in the Retreat Center
- Handyman tasks
- Weekly volunteer counselors for day camp – beginning June 9 through Aug. 15

Please contact Michelle for more information regarding volunteer opportunities and job descriptions at 503- 538-2763 or [mwelton@georgefox.edu](mailto:mwelton@georgefox.edu)

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