

The Visionary

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DISCIPLESHIP SCHOOL OF THE OUTDOORS

by Doug Lucas, President, Team Expansion

Did you ever stop to think how much time Jesus spent outdoors?

Whenever he had to make a difficult decision (like choosing his leadership team) or face a difficult challenge (like foreseeing a martyr's death), he would go to the hills to pray. And when he wanted to work on some real confidence-building and faith-walking, he'd grab some of his closest followers and head out on the lake, storms and all.

As it turned out, his training seems to have been fairly effective. On the one hand, one might respond by pointing out that he only had 1 drop-out out of 12 key leadership candidates. But the bigger "proof of the pudding," of course, can be found in the incredible waves that these leaders have left in their wake. Largely through the start-up efforts of these key trainees, Christianity turned the world upside-down (or rather, right-side up). It became the world's dominant religion and the stories of these leaders became legacies of lives lived on purpose.



So with that as our model, you can probably see why Team Expansion has opened the "Discipleship School of The Outdoors" (or "DSOTO," for short) at Emerald Hills. And coming in to lead it is a top-notch veteran Team Expansion missionary with a heart for sports and the great outdoors, Tara Woolard.

Immediately upon arrival, Tara went to work upgrading and improving the challenge course that we were already constructing (with the help of a local scout troop). Every month, we hear of a new development on the ropes course, a new consultant coming to give input, and multiple groups enjoying the course. Recent participants have written back to say, "Although it was physically and mentally challenging, our students wanted to stay another night and do it again the next day!" Another participant, a future

team leader in a Muslim land in Africa, wrote, "When we were first told that we were going through a ropes course for team building, I thought "are we at junior high summer camp?" Then we went through it. Going through the course ended up being one of the best team building exercises we've done. We all had a blast doing it and learned so much about and from each other. This course has been one of the highlights of our training!"

But one of strongest testimonies came, actually, from the field team that actually received a short-term team that had trained with Tara in the Discipleship School of the Outdoors. The team leader in the field wrote, "When I met the group, I was shocked how well they had already connected. I asked more about the preparation they had done. The leader told me about their time at your team building weekend. The way they had connected with each other and the memories from that time (even had a t-shirt made with quotes!) was refreshing for me. They continued to serve the entire trip as a team loving each other and reaching out as one. Thank you for your ministry in this team's preparation and therefore, your ministry here." She continued, "One question. Is it possible for other groups to take advantage of this great ministry? I spent some time on your website and the Emerald Hills facility looks wonderful in many ways! I would recommend your service to other leaders of other countries. Again, thank you. And may you be assured that your ministry there is reaching the nations!"

Of course, the hopeful outcome of all this (and more) training is that cross-cultural workers would be more adept at sharing Christ, resolving team conflict, and never quitting prematurely. Please pray with us (and please continue to support) Emerald Hills and all that it provides, not just for Team Expansion workers, but for others as well. Thank you for your help reaching the nations!

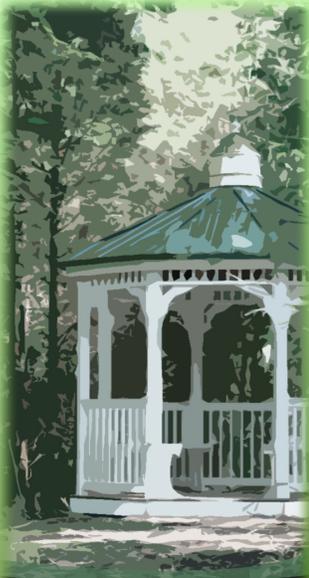




Southeast Christian Church of Louisville, KY completed their prayer shelter!

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Sale of the Hopewell House **soon**
- Four more 29 partners needed
- More funds to develop the rest of the campus
- Wisdom as to how to use the campus to the best of its possibilities
- 1,955 more Enlarge the Harvest partners needed
- 243 more Enlarge the Harvest captains needed



Only 3 more "Project 29" Prayer Shelters left to claim.

Project 29

Contact us today to find out more!



If you would like to bring a work team and come help at Emerald Hills, please contact Tara Woolard at twoolard@teamexpansion.org!

FINANCIAL UPDATE: AUGUST 2009

Emerald Hills Fund

Balance 8-1-09	\$166,987.34
August Receipts	\$8,113.85
August Expenses	\$134,654.04
Checking account Balance 8-31-09	\$40,447.15

Receipts

Andover Church of Christ	\$235.00
Center Pointe Christian Church	\$300.00
Coastal Community Christian Church	\$150.00
College Heights Christian Church	\$400.00
Fayetteville Church of Christ	\$250.00
Fern Creek Christian Church	\$400.00
First Christian Church, Sullivan	\$200.00
Heritage Christian Church	\$100.00
Individuals	\$3,610.00
Interest Income	\$234.76
Kroger Inc	\$275.32
Lifespring Christian Church	\$125.00
Northwest Christian Church	\$200.00
Okolona Christian Church	\$1,000.00
Team Expansion (Richter)	\$20.00
Westerville Christian Church	\$613.77
Total	\$8,113.85

Expenses

For more Support	\$133.95
Louisville Water Co.	\$67.48
Interest Payment	\$112,827.41
Kitchen Equipment	\$1,568.22
LG&E and Propane	\$431.98
Mailbox for Emerald Hills Home Owner	\$270.00
Gazebos	\$19,355.00
Total	\$134,654.04

NOTE: We're thankful for the First Capital Bank, Louisville, Kentucky, which has believed in us the lion's share of the money used to build the infrastructure at Emerald Hills, along with much of the Prayer Center & Atrium. **We've begun making formal mortgage payments toward this principal.**