



# West Branch Trailblazer

Keeping in Touch, Seeking Your Prayer and Involvement

November 15, 2016

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Volume 10, Number 3

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## Special Needs

We are praying about adding a staff member or two to help us coordinate camps and maintain our facilities. We are also seeking an additional summer cook who would be able to supervise certain kitchen shifts (June 9-July 15).

## 2017 West Branch Events

- 3.17-18 Men on the Move  
Williams, AZ
- 4.29 Ladies Spring Getaway  
Flagstaff, AZ
- 6.4-7.29 Southwest Youth  
Challenge
- 6.19-23 Youth Camp 1
- 6.26-30 Junior Camp
- 7.6-8 Family Camp
- 7.10-14 Youth Camp 2
- 9.9 Arizona Regional Youth  
Conference, Phoenix area

## Summer Camp: God Did It Again!

Heading into summer, we were on a crash course with a hard deadline to complete our projects to have fully operational camp cabins. Somehow, somehow, the Lord helped us accomplish the goal. We certainly had to adjust a few expectations here and there; however, we had cabins with fully usable restrooms. No more shower houses or portable units outside the cabins! (*Watch our video at [westbranchAZ.org](http://westbranchAZ.org) for the only camp promo video we know of that shows a kid brushing his teeth!*)

God allowed us to have working sanitation, fresh water, propane, and fire protection systems completed since last summer. We finished a huge amount of "touch up" projects in the ten cabins and first aid building. Also, we set up a food storage commissary to support our mobile kitchen. As a bonus, the Lord gave us an extremely important road extension into the center of camp to accommodate water and food delivery and, most importantly, campers arriving for their week of camp!



One of the 10,000 gallon water tanks being moved into position

All of this work was essential to accommodate the campers we had this summer from Arizona, Colorado, and California. During our two weeks of youth and junior camps, we saw eight young people trust Christ as their Savior and many others pray with counselors about important spiritual decisions in their lives. We thank the Lord that we could work with these churches to help them with the people they are reaching.



2016 Summer Staff

## Prayer Requests

Additional full-time staff

2017 Summer staff

Direction for the beginning of the Dining Hall project

## Project Status

**Sanitation**- should be completed before January

**Roads & Grading**- completing one new road spur, another is started, grading ongoing

**Dining Hall**- beginning the process to confirm our plans and find out what infrastructure issues need to be resolved

**Open-air Auditorium**- investigating possibility of pouring a concrete floor and adding a platform in spring

## Workers Needed Next Spring

No doubt we will need volunteers to help us with minor projects next spring. If you think you or a group of men could help with painting, light carpentry, concrete, plumbing, or electrical work, let us know.

## Stay Connected

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2016 has been a lot like 2015. We had many development goals and huge needs, but the Lord saw us through those challenges and proved faithful once again. As we near 2017, we are trying to wrap up all these projects that still have loose ends. The contractors are nearing the final stages of the sanitation system and expect to have the inspection for discharge within the next month before too much snow flies. Summer monsoon rains demonstrated where we needed to beef up our new road spur and also direct water flow away from the center of camp. That dirt and cinder work is being done now as well.

We thank the Lord for His enabling us to serve Him in camping this year. As this stage of development comes to a close, we are so encouraged to see the Lord preparing us for the next! (See below for more details.)

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## Fall Flurry of Activity

Sandwiched in between two long ministry road trips, we held three events in three weeks in late August/early September. We were first privileged to host a retreat for the men of Cornerstone Baptist Church from Phoenix for a great time of preaching and fellowship.

### Youth Conference Teens



The next week we welcomed the top three finishing churches in our summer Arizona Youth Challenge for their prize: a free overnight retreat at West Branch. The young people did a great job this summer, and we enjoyed the opportunity to challenge these winning teens from Humboldt, Casa Grande, and Phoenix.

One week later, we took West Branch to Peoria, Arizona, for our annual Youth Conference. Over two hundred young people from twenty-one Arizona churches heard some great preaching from Pastor Peter Lopez of our host church, Maranatha Baptist. It was a great day of fellowship, friendly competition among the churches, and helpful Bible preaching.

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## Development: BIG NEWS!

### Future Dining Hall site



The gentleman said, "What would you say if I told you we wanted to finance the building of your dining hall?" I asked him, "Before or after I get up off the floor from passing out!" And off we go... with his directive to move forward on the project.

With MANY details to be considered, we need your prayers for wisdom and the

right people to be involved. We have started gathering information and local contractor contacts while also seeking to meet with city and county health department officials for clarification on various parts of the project.

Please pray for us as we will need to raise additional funds for the infrastructure to support the building as well as the equipment to furnish it. We are very thankful for an additional large gift toward this project this fall which will help us greatly as we get the ball rolling.