

Family Ministries

@ Horn Creek

Horn Creek Family Ministries exists to serve the Lord, the Church and the family by providing a unique experience of renewal and challenge through our week long Family Camps, and by being a resource and voice in the Church and in our culture for the family.

We believe Christ's plan for his people, until he returns, will continue to be a community called the Church. So as long as we are here we follow in the rich tradition of many who have gone before us to be constantly reforming the systems and methods the Lord allows us to employ around the unchanging truth of *his* redemptive work. As long as the Church is part of God's plan, she can never cease to be viable or efficacious.

Likewise, as long as the *family* is part of God's plan, the community called the Church must see the building and supporting of the family as a vital calling.

This is why we do what we do. Because we have a passion for seeing individuals and families changed by the power of God and his truth in their lives.

In some ways this has become more challenging for us. The frantic pace of the digital age and our addiction to being 'plugged-in' at all times makes the remote, simplistic and relaxed setting of what we do seem as counter-cultural as ever!

We think it's more important than ever.

Spiritual Impact/Growth

Horn Creek Family Ministry Impact goals:

1. To build upon and sustain a cultural ethos in our camps of life transformation: conversions to Christ, marriages turned around, families renewed, callings clarified, etc...
2. To become cultural experts on the current state of the family in the Church as well as the culture at large, paying special attention to the realities of broken homes, single parent families, adoptive families and families with special needs. This trajectory might lead not only to the specific shaping of our current Family Camps but also the possible formation of new Family Camps

with a special emphasis in a particular area such as single parent families.

3. To build a track record of relevance and life-change with new, young families that would represent future generations of impact as well as our greatest opportunity for relational cultural impact.
4. To transform our directly connected constituency from passive consumers to missional agents.

Key Strategies for Impact Growth:

1. Developing a healthy staff culture (permanent, summer, and intern) that maximizes ministry impact, thrives on energetic servant hood, relational connection, and ministry passion. Our training of, and intentionality with, our summer staffers, as well as the depth of our internship program are key components to this strategy. The relational and spiritual health of our permanent staff core is even more vital.
2. Relentless care of the design and programming of our Family Camps with thoughts to relational dynamics and rhythm and flow, always striving to maintain a balance between strategic programming and strategically created space. We want to have a system that allows individuals and families to literally customize their week as they go - based on the spiritual, physical and emotional needs of their family, all within a stealthy, but relentlessly intentional structure. We structure for freedom and the space for families to connect with each other and with the Lord. We punctuate the space with catalytic injections of programming that create a flywheel type momentum through the week.
3. Actively engaging with what is going on in the church and culture at large. This is not just a question of the state of the family, but the movements and change agents in play in the church landscape in general. Examples of this would be the renewal of emphasis on issues like social justice and environmental concern long neglected in much of Evangelicalism. These types of changes in sensibility are in some ways redefining what it means to be a Christian family. Where there was a leaning toward the ideal Christian home meaning a nice house in a safe neighborhood in the shadow of a good church, now it might look like something very different from that.
4. Continuing to develop a strong and dynamic speaker core of teachers and pastors for our Family Camps that truly see themselves as part of a vital Horn Creek team. Buy-in to the Horn Creek Family Camp vision and vital ministry passion should be the hallmarks of this team. Core orthodoxy and a kindred spirit with our heart for the family are absolute musts. Nevertheless, once these core resonances are established, variety is a plus. Speakers with

different styles, varying theological underpinnings related to non-essentials, different denominational moorings and varying ministry approaches and experiences will only enhance our impact, especially as we move speakers around from week to week.

5. As we engage more and enter more into the discussion of the movements of God in the Church, cultural indicators, and the state of the family, we will want to not only apply our knowledge to shaping our ministry, but we will want to share that knowledge with others. This could come in the form of book recommendations, more active blogging, seminars for churches, off-site ministry and even consulting with other camps and family ministries.

Numerical Growth/Marketing/Telling the Story

Key Strategies for Numerical Growth:

1. Intentional, purposeful, life-changing camps, run with excellence will create the relational, grass roots marketing force that is the biggest key to sustainable and meaningful growth. This marketing strategy only works if the camps 'work.' And if the camps don't work, then there is nothing worth marketing anyway. If they do work, then this strategy will not only be effective, but also protected from becoming a business strategy only.
2. Effective, efficient, and relationally driven digital age media: website, web based social networking, viral marketing.
3. Cross-pollination between youth groups, men's and ladies groups, family camps and other ministry partner groups.
4. Building intentional (but still relational) connections with other ministry leaders of churches and other organization and building a reputation of ministry effectiveness with these leaders/pastors and their organizations/churches.

Horn Creek Family Camp Ministries expand as the number of individuals and families that are touched by the Horn Creek Experience grows. Our Family Camps represent our 'ground zero' connection in this regard. Our ministry expands at the most basic level as our Family Camps grow in numbers, ideally as individuals and families share the Horn Creek story with others. But the touch of the Horn Creek experience is not limited to what happens at a particular Family Camp, or to those who come to camp and experience that connection first hand. This is because our ministry to families radiates from 'Family Camp ground zero' to the greater body of those individuals, families and communities that are

affected by our ministry through a variety of means. Ideally this happens relationally and organically as individuals and families changed through our direct ministry pour into the lives of others that may or may not ever make a direct connection to Horn Creek. In this way, our ministry to families expands exponentially with our Family Camps as the primary catalyst.

“What happens at Horn Creek doesn’t stay at Horn Creek!”

Catalytic ideals...

1. To transform our directly connected constituency from passive consumers to missional agents to friends, families, churches and other communities, as well as to the those in need of Christ.
2. For Christian faith communities, church and para-church, to begin to see Horn Creek as a highly valued resource and partner for healing, life transformation and spiritual formation and challenge.
3. That our passion for Christ centered homes, characterized by living in the way of Jesus with a holistic gospel zeal, would be so compelling to the culture that we would become a force for broader community and cultural renewal.

Cultural Impact comes...

1. Through the ministry of transformed lives and transformed families impacting others with whom they are connected. A track record of such impact allows us to...
2. Establish a voice and earn a hearing in the broader discussion of cultural ideals and values. This open doors for...
3. Having broader impact for family renewal and evangelism as we are seen as a valuable resource not only by the Christian community, but secular organizations and the culture at large.

Some key catalytic relationships...

1. Horn Creek Reps.
2. Horn Creek Speakers and other connected pastors and ministers.
3. Ministry Partner leaders and pastors.
4. Churches and other organizations and their leaders.

Hospitality

Every operational component of Horn Creek is important to the success of Family Ministries. Nevertheless, there are a few that more directly relate...

1. **Guest Services** – Hospitality and camper care is not just operational, it is missional. It is ministry. In fact, hospitality is a spiritual virtue and a spiritual gift. This is part of the reason why you can't expect to just fit anyone into a 'system' of hospitality or guest services. You can do it, but the spiritual giftedness and maturity will always be in play. It will matter. The key issue here is leadership. All of our summer staffers and interns are not going to have developed the virtue of hospitality. Even fewer will truly be gifted in this area specifically. Many will develop in this area while they are here. The key to our effectiveness with our ministry and the development of those summer staffers and/or interns will be the intentionality of our system and the health, skill, gifts and passions of our leaders.
2. **Food Services** – There is a spiritual and communal significance to what happens at the table. As a camp, we are faced with a number of challenges in this area. High volume service, labor demands and cost factors all tend to push against the artistry and spiritual value that a great meal around the table can represent. Our ability to creatively meet this challenge could be a key stepping stone from 'good to great' for our ministry. Our current efforts toward re-working our strategy in this important area are very encouraging and we are already seeing some good results. As we gain more experience in this area we need to be willing to make adjustments as needed. In the context of our ministry, this area must not be taken lightly. It is a core issue!

Servanthood

Servanthood is at the very core of Horn Creek Family Ministries. We exist to serve all of the families and individuals the Lord would bring to us. We also exist to serve the Church and the culture, particularly as a resource and voice in the area of the family.

The tendency is for this to be an abstract statement of purpose, over a practical reality at the relational level. Therefore, a key benchmark of our effectiveness and integrity in relation to our stated vision and purpose is how well we *really* serve those with whom we have direct contact.

Some people are hard to love. Some families are a challenge in the way they act at camp, the things they say, and the demands they make. Furthermore, placating is not the same as serving. We have to be relentless in our personal and corporate drive to serve with the heart of Christ. This will not always mean

doing exactly what our guests want or even always making them happy. But it will often mean placing guests needs above our imposition or discomfort.

Galatians 5:14 - For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Sustaining this approach to ministry demands a high level of spiritual maturity and ongoing growth. It demands ongoing spiritual formation and relational health. Balanced lives with appropriate down time and Sabbath taking are absolutely essential.

Bringing it all together...

Horn Creek ministers to individuals and families in a number of different ways. We minister across generations to our summer family campers as well as the youth who come to our summer youth camps. We also see ministry to our summer staffers, interns, permanent staff and volunteers as a core part of what we do. There is a sense that it is all 'family ministry.' Furthermore, our ministry to family campers, youth, or other groups we are in partnership with could not be successful without the support of our summer staffers, interns and volunteers. Everywhere you look in ministry at Horn Creek you see this two-way dynamic. Our staff ministers to campers and campers minister to staff. Horn Creek ministers to volunteers, and they minister to us, and help our ministry to go! Summer staffers and interns serve and minister to our campers and permanent staff, and we minister to them and pour into their lives. It all comes together at Horn Creek to create an environment of ongoing spiritual growth and challenge, and dynamic ministry.