

WE HAVE A SIMPLE MOTTO HERE:

Provide a Place for God to Change Lives

We are a non-profit Christian Camp owned and operated by independent Christian churches in New Mexico, Texas, Colorado, Kansas, and Oklahoma. Established in 1956, it is our purpose to provide a unique mountain environment for God to use His Word, His people, and His creation to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ, to renew lives, and to challenge all to follow Jesus. EPCC offers camps and retreats for all ages, as well as a place for your church to conduct their camps and retreats. EPCC also offers cabins for rent year around to support the Christian individual and family.

**2019
SUMMER CAMP DATES**

FAMILY CAMP I MAY 24-27 2019	HIGH SCHOOL CAMP JUNE 3-8 2019	MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP JUNE 16-21 2019
WOMEN'S RETREAT JULY 18-21 2019	ELEMENTARY CAMP JULY 22-26 2019	FAMILY CAMP II AUG. 30- SEPT. 2 2019



El Porvenir
CHRISTIAN CAMP
and Retreat Center
1 Christian Camp Rd.
Montezuma, NM • 87731

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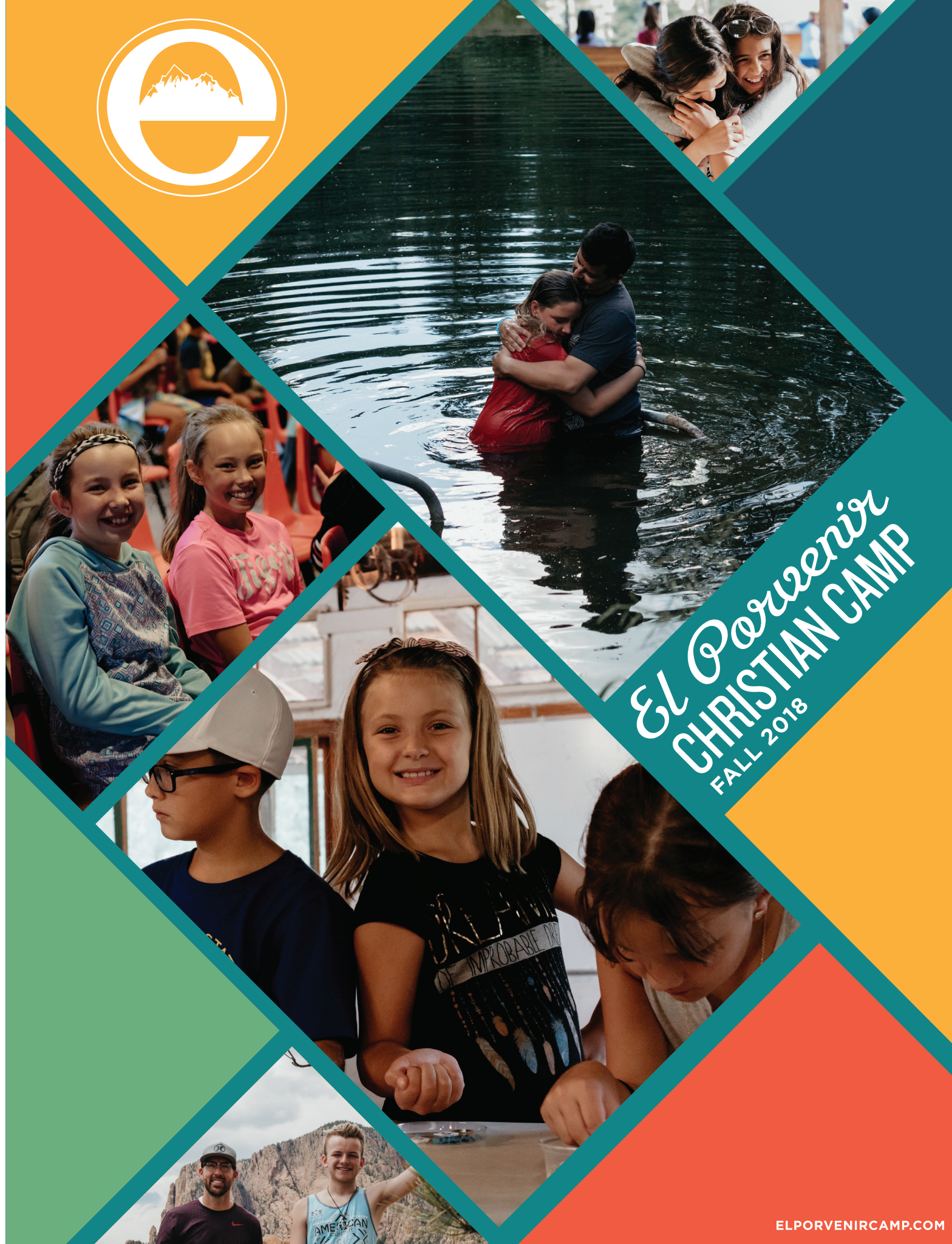
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MANAGER'S PERSPECTIVE

I am not the most spiritual person. There, I've admitted it. While God has created me to be like Christ, the way he does it is not how I would prefer. I would prefer to be a good person myself, but God has said that the righteousness of Christ is enough for me. God never promised to make me a better person. He did promise that a righteous person would come to live his life inside of me. The result of this humble arrangement with the Holy Spirit is unceasing gratitude to God. When I do something that is not Christ-like, I don't have to dwell on it and beat myself up. God already knows that is how I am apart from Christ. When that happens, it is an alarm bell that alerts me that I'm not letting Jesus live his life through me in that moment. I can apologize openly for my behavior and reorient my senses to Christ. The truth is that I am not a spiritual person, no surprise there. But thank God, there is hope, because Jesus lives in me. Thank you for supporting this ministry.

- Nate Stafford



El Porvenir
CHRISTIAN CAMP
FALL 2018

SUMMER CAMP REFLECTIONS

As Christmas music fills the air around me, I sit here reflecting on the warmer days of summer spent at camp and asking myself this question: How do we measure a successful summer at camp? There are probably lots of legitimate factors that come into play. When I look through the hundreds of photos from this past year; I see hugs, laughter, play, walks in the woods, heartfelt worship and genuine community. Each snapshot representing a camper that stepped away from whatever their story may look like at home, and attended a week of camp at El Porvenir. But how do we know, once they leave the mountain, that what we poured into their lives in that one short week was “successful” and will continue to grow?

In the latest issue of InSite Magazine, Peter Reid wrote, *“If good seed lands on good soil, it will grow. It doesn't matter whether the farmer is ill fit for sowing. The power of the Gospel lies in the seed, not the sower. Furthermore, growth is usually unseen. Camp ministry provides a unique challenge to those who serve: We want to see results. If there is no visible indication that Jesus has worked during camp, we tend to be discouraged or feel obligated to give inflated testimonies, which don't always reflect the truth. When asked, ‘How was the week?’ it's perfectly acceptable to answer, ‘I have no idea.’”*

That may seem contradictory in the field we are in. We want to report that every heart that came to camp this summer walked away with a changed heart, but the truth is many of the faces in these pictures we may never see again here on earth. Peter goes on in the article to tell about his own story of coming to faith in Christ. At the age of 13 years old, while attending church camp, Peter was led to that decision by his 19 year old camp counselor. His counselor never knew the fruit that came to bear in Peter's life after that experience at camp until years later. Peter goes on to state, *“He never knew what happened, but 35 years later I was happy to tell him. This event has helped me to pay more attention to the Source of our ministry, not the results. We serve Him to be faithful, not visibly successful.”* As staff at El Porvenir, we do not know all of the unseen things that God does in the lives of campers while at camp, but we do know this: that God is faithful to continue to do an eternal work in their hearts even after they leave here. We planted the seeds, and hopefully there are others back at home who will water, but it is **God** that will cause the growth... long after the sounds of campers laughter have stopped echoing on the mountain.

- Melinda McCay, Program Manager

2018 CLAY SHOOT FUNDRAISER

Our Clay Shoot Fundraiser, held this past May 5, was a tremendous success! Our venue, Amarillo Gun Club in Amarillo, Texas was a great host and we had an amazing turn out! We would like to thank everyone who volunteered their time and resources to help the camp raise almost \$20,000! Wow!

The funds from this year's shoot will go toward finishing up our Retreat Center (former “metal/yellow dorm”) remodel. Future renovations will include giving our lovely metal exterior a much needed facelift, to match the beautiful new interior that came as a result of generous donations from our two previous Clay Shoot Fundraisers. Please mark May 18, 2019 on your calendars for next year's shoot, again held at Amarillo Gun Club in Amarillo! Details to follow!



2018 BY THE NUMBERS

HIGH SCHOOL CAMP: **103 CAMPERS**
MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP: **85 CAMPERS**
WOMEN'S RETREAT: **104 LADIES**
ELEMENTARY CAMP: **105 CAMPERS**
FAMILY CAMP I: **84 CAMPERS**
FAMILY CAMP II: **141 CAMPERS**
PASTOR'S RETREAT **44 CAMPERS**
LADIES CRAFT RETREAT **42 LADIES**
TOTAL SPONSORS: **146 ADULTS**
TOTAL RENTERS: **2,129**

TOTAL ALL CAMPERS
2,983

NEWEST ACCOMMODATIONS AT CAMP

If you came up to camp this summer or fall you would have seen our newest additions at camp... Brand new canvas tents on wooden platforms! At the lower end of camp, just below the Old Chow Hall, there are 5 smaller 28'x16' platforms, and just below the Bungalows is one large 30'x50' platform. Each of them were built to hold our new canvas tents and sleeping cots. The smaller tents each hold about 10 campers and the largest platform can be used to hold a tent with room for about 40. This spring, Ryan Guilfooy, our facilities manager, put in many man hours planning, leveling and pouring concrete pillars which set the ground work for our platforms to be built. Thank you, Ryan! Many thanks also to Greg Payne, who came out and assisted Ryan; the many guys from Washington Avenue Christian Church; our local friend, Carey Lane, and his crew of guys, and of course the faithful Summer Staff of 2018.

The canvas tents were put up in July by our willing and eager Summer Staff and Core Volunteers, and are held up by EPCC homemade posts and beams from trees on the property. There was a lot of blood, sweat and tears put into every stage of this project and none of it would have happened without every one of the people mentioned above. The tents are a great new option for guests wanting more of a true “camping” experience, and we hope that they will serve many individuals, groups, and families for years to come.



FAREWELL TO THE GUILFOY FAMILY



On December 2, the staff at El Porvenir waved a reluctant goodbye to Ryan and Rachel Guilfooy and their two children, Isaac and Ellie, as they drove away from camp and to their next calling and ministry as the senior pastor of Blue Ridge Community Church in Virginia. Ryan joined the EPCC staff as our Facilities Manager on October 11, 2015 and served the camp faithfully and with excellence in the 3 years he was here. Ryan lived out daily the words of Paul, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,...it is the Lord Christ you are serving.” Col. 3:23, 24

Each summer, Ryan taught our summer staff how to serve in this manner by his own daily example of hard work and excellence. Whether facilitating campers in a game of paintball, or building tent platforms, or cleaning a toilet; Ryan viewed each task as worship to his Creator and taught our staff to do the same. In the off-seasons he was an integral part of our Metal Dorm remodel and the recently added tent platforms, not to mention so many other necessary facility-related projects that Ryan was a part of. Without his leadership and hard work these much needed projects would not have been completed.

We cannot end this article without mentioning Rachel. Rachel, while spending a lot of her time managing their home and taking care of their two beautiful children, played a huge part in the community and spiritual health of our summer staff. During the summers at EPCC, Rachel shared her heart and her life with the summer staff by opening up her home for weekly “R & R” nights and by co-leading a female summer staff community group, affectionally known as “girls night,” in which food and fellowship and laughter were shared in abundance.

Over the last three years, both Ryan and Rachel have been an extremely important part of our full-time and summer staffer's experience, as they shared their life stories, their Jesus stories and pointed each of us to know Christ more. So it was no surprise when Ryan announced that he was feeling called back into church ministry as a senior pastor, because during his time here Ryan has been exactly that for the staff of El Porvenir Christian Camp. A pastor, in the truest sense of the word. And we have been blessed because of it. Thank you Ryan and Rachel for your love and service at EPCC. You are dearly missed.