

- A. **Bits from Bob**
- B. **Happiest People on Earth** □ **New Record Set**
- C. **Ft Hood Texas**
- D. **Motivational Speaking**
- E. **Bountiful Harvest**
- F. **Biggest Event of the Year-Miracles Happen Festival III**
- G. **Operation Welcome Home**
- H. **Red Barn Progress**
- I. **Appreciation Dinner** □ **Tuesday December 7th**
- J. **Other**

**A. BITS FROM BOB:** It has been an extremely busy and exciting fall. Winterizing the camp and getting the buildings ready for cold weather is a huge task. This past Saturday was our annual Lumberjack Weekend. Besides the lumberjacks, we had a pastors couples conference, Eaglebrook Church volunteers, and scrapbookers.

**KITCHEN EXPANSION:** We are working on getting a permit to add food storage space in the kitchen. Jan, our food service director/cook, has been patiently waiting for this much-needed space. Donations so far include excavation, cement, roofing materials, etc. More help and funds are needed. Let's have it ready June 2011.

**CAMP VICTORY:** Ironwood was spared any damage by the major flooding in our area, but hundreds of homes and business were damaged or lost. Our staff took a day and went north of Rochester to Camp Victory and helped put their camp back together after they suffered lots of damage. Serving others in need is what we are called to do.

**EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT:** Derek Riess has just completed building a beautiful outdoor shelter. Eagle Scout project # 12.

**A TIME TO SEW:** November 5-7 is Jode's biggest quilting retreat yet!

**GO VOTE:** Tuesday November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Second President John Adams said □The only way our constitution can survive is to have a moral and spiritual people.□

**B. HAPPIEST PEOPLE □ VOLUNTEERS SET RECORD:** 1275 hours were volunteered by people and groups including: IBM Days of Caring, Evangelical Free Church □ Lake City, UPS, Eaglebrook Church □ Mpls, Trinity, Anchor Point and Next Step Ministries □ Madison, WI. Our family attends Autumn Ridge Church where we recently heard a series on serving. □God has given each of us a special particular gift, and if we find and use that gift, we will be the Happiest People on Earth. (Quote on page 103 of the book □The Happiest People on Earth□.) Yes, your □Helping Hands□ and □Caring Hearts□ BRIGHTEN THE DAY AND LIGHTEN THE LOAD. Ruth 2:12 says □May the Lord under whose wings you have come to take refuge, reward you fully for what you have done.□

**C. FT HOOD, TX -** On November 5<sup>th</sup>, my daughter Lydia and I will fly to Ft Hood for the one-year anniversary of the terrorist attack which killed 13 soldiers and injured several others. We are attending by special invitation from Sgt Patrick Ziegler and his finance □ Jessica Hansen. Patrick and Jessica came to our Miracles Happen Festival II where Patrick was given a □Medal of Valor□ and special recognition. I will be doing a ½ marathon in my wheelchair called, 'RUN TO REMEMBER'. Thanks to Dan & Joan Blaisdell, Phil & Sherry Heydt, New Beginnings Church, and Rockpoint Church for providing the funding.

**D. MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKING:** This month has been my busiest in 18 years of speaking. Last week alone I spoke to 125 law enforcement personnel in Hastings, MN, 200 business owners in Alexandria, MN (Unity Foundation), 300 construction workers for Knutson Construction and 150 social workers at a conference in Mora, MN. I will pass along two of the emails I received.

*□Thanks for speaking at our MSSA in Mora. When I saw the schedule I was waiting to hear you speak. I bought your book and read it last night. I will pass it along. I loved the story about getting the ranch built, and it sounds like you had the best contractor, GOD. Never quit, you are doing a good work. Social worker □ Deb.*

*□You were the most inspirational speaker that I have ever heard. Please send me a copy of your book. I will have my pastor contact you about coming to our church.□ John □ Businessman.*

**E. BOUNTIFUL HARVEST:** Every year the camp is blessed by several area farmers who **take the time** to support our ministry by planting and harvesting crops at Ironwood, and again this year we had an

abundant bean and corn harvest. These combined funds are the biggest yearly fundraiser for the camp. **Special thanks** to John & Chris Steel families, Sargeant Grain Elevator, Larry Larson, Central Coop Services □ Hayfield, Rick Davis Seed Company □ Hayfield, the Heydt families and Matt & Lisa Vaupel.

F. **MIRACLES HAPPEN FESTIVAL III □ July 29-31, 2011 Mark your calendar:** Our committee is already busy planning next year's big event. We welcome any new ideas, singing groups, etc. We plan to have a bit more of a western theme and give special recognition to the Vietnam Vets at the military salute on Saturday July 30<sup>th</sup>, and we plan to repeat all of last year's events: 5k run & bike ride, tractor parade, car show, kids carnival with the National Guard, hog roast, several music groups. Looking for more ideas. [Bob@ironwoodsprings.com](mailto:Bob@ironwoodsprings.com)

G. **OPERATION WELCOME HOME:** The dates are set for 2011: April 29-May 1<sup>st</sup> and September 16-18. May 20-22<sup>nd</sup> is the Wounded Warriors Retreat. \$275 sponsors a couple/family for the weekend. Plan now to get involved: fundraisers, volunteer, candlelight dinner. Help us spread the word to the military.

H. **RED BARN RENOVATION PROGRESS:** They just keep coming back! I am referring to Eaglebrook Church in Mpls. The walls are up, lots of siding is on, we're painting and staining, and now we are ready to work on the inside electrical and all the finish work. This should be a good winter project.

I. **ANNUAL APPRECIATION DINNER:** Tuesday December 7<sup>th</sup> with appetizers at 5pm, dinner at 6pm and program at 7pm. Our theme this year is '**An Old Fashioned Christmas**', and we are inviting all those who have donated in some way to the ranch this past year to come and enjoy a special evening to express our gratitude for your involvement. Your financial support, volunteering, donation of materials, have all contributed to another successful and fruitful year; we could not have served our community without your support. Please RSVP by November 24<sup>th</sup> by emailing Jode ([jode@ironwoodsprings.com](mailto:jode@ironwoodsprings.com)) and letting us know the number of people you will be bringing.

J. **OTHER: Fundraiser** for the ranch: [www.puzzleimpressions.com](http://www.puzzleimpressions.com) . **Haiti:** I am still collecting wheelchairs for Haiti. Two hospitals/orphanages outside Port-A-Prince are our contacts and they are in desperate need of chairs.

Spreading JOY-changing lives

*Bob*