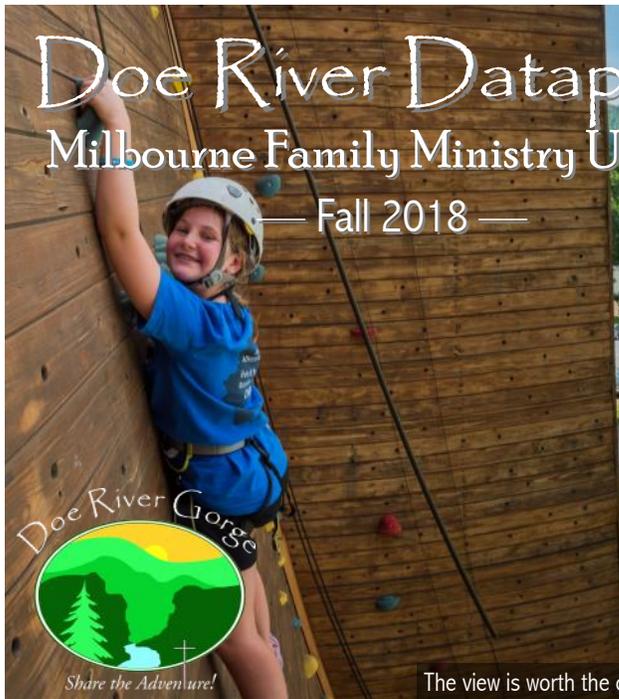


Doe River Datapoint

Milbourne Family Ministry Update

— Fall 2018 —



The view is worth the climb! A camper nears the top of the 60' climbing tower.

Adventure Quest 2018

Praise the Lord with us for another summer of changed lives!

In numbers:

- **190** students trusted Christ as Savior
- **369** students turned over past hurts and failures to God
- **495** made other significant decisions to advance their walk with God
- 1074 campers: Individuals and 11 groups from 23 states
- 9 weeks for DRG staff and about 65 college students serving as summer staff, plus 2 weeks of staff training

In words:

“DRG brought me closer to God and helped me accept Jesus into my heart.”

~Ethan, age 15, Mississippi

“I gave my life to God.”

~Taliah, age 13, Tennessee

“My parents got divorced and I always thought it was my fault. This week I was able to turn this over to God.”

~Hayley, age 12, Georgia

“This week I turned over to God my abuse both from my mom and dad, and all the friends who wronged me, and bullies at school. And I finally forgave myself.”

~Caleb, age 15, Mississippi

“DRG is a haven for adventure. It challenges & grows children in ways beyond their daily norm. It is a perfect combination between ‘being strong and courageous’ & ‘being still & knowing God is God.’”

~Hannah, Youth Leader, Tennessee



The 2018 Summer Staff “Family”.



Octoball: A hugely popular free-time activity.



Teachable Moment: Debriefing the *Leap of Faith* activity.

Family News

Winter / Spring

The kids continue **homeschool** classes, most via Kingsport Christian Academy (KCA) plus math online/at-home. **Nancy** continues her third school year as Speech Language Pathologist (SLP).

Holidays:

Thanksgiving family gatherings in PA. Christmas at home.

Over Christmas break Nancy finds extra SLP work at a local nursing/rehab center on a PRN (as-needed) basis.

March: **Spring break trip to PA** to visit Mom M and ministry partners.

April: **Weekend campout** with friends.

Summer

June: **Nancy's parents** celebrate their **60th wedding anniversary** by treating all (26!) of us (kids, spouses, grandkids) to a 5-day **cruise to Bermuda!** Photos on back page.

Jon (16) spends a week in **Honduras** on a **mission trip** with a group from our church.

Nancy resumes PRN work at the rehab center a few days a week for much of the summer.

July: **Jon** attends *LEAD*, DRG's 4-week **leadership program**.

Kate (15) **assists** staff with adventure activities and horses and helps lead singing for *Junior Adventure Quest*.

August: **Mark and Jon**, with friends John and Jacob Garner, take a joint Father-Son **trip out west**. Photos on back page.

Contractor change in Washington County Schools has **Nancy** looking for other **SLP** work for the fall.

Fall

Jon (11th grade) and **Kate** (10th grade) resume **homeschool** with a mix of KCA and co-op classes. **Nancy** begins **teaching** the U.S. Government class for co-op.

Nancy begins new **SLP** work in Bristol, VA. It is a bit longer drive, but just one day a week. She also still gets occasional hours at the rehab center.

Jon gets his **driver's license!** He now drives himself and Kate to their classes each week. He also has a **job** about once a week helping a contractor friend who does home remodeling.

Mark and Jon help staff DRG's 21st annual **Father/Son Retreat**. About 110 attended this year and Hurricane Florence's rain held off just long enough to allow most activities to take place.

Jon and Kate both help **staff** the *Day Quest* Saturdays that continue after the camp season into early September. In October they also help staff the annual Fall Family Fun Festival weekend and the annual fundraising banquet.



Part of *LEAD* is learning how to run activities. Here Jon belays a climber.

In September we make a quick trip to PA to catch up with Mom M who moved from assisted living to skilled nursing over the summer.

Shortly after this newsletter goes out we expect to make some preliminary **college visits** with **Jon**. He is interested in mechanical or civil engineering. We'll also be spending Thanksgiving in PA with Mom M.

Thanksgiving

It has been a very full and good year both ministry and family wise. By the time you receive this, Thanksgiving will be upon us.

We are ever thankful for God's ongoing blessing and provision in our lives and this year in particular for a new SLP position for Nancy after her former employer was suddenly unable to place her this fall.

We are thankful for the many, many, lives impacted this year through DRG programs and we are thankful for **your** prayers and partnership that help us help keep things going at DRG.

Gratefully,

Mark & Nancy

Bonus Pages: This has been a bigger year than usual both in terms of exciting DRG projects and family travel. Usually we're already being quite selective to fit a newsletter onto a single sheet, so this time we're expanding to a 4-page letter to be able to share more pictures and details.

Mark's Project Corner

New RR Coaches

A very big event on the RR this year was the arrival of two railroad coaches. These steel cars replaced wood cars that have had ongoing deterioration issues. Mark and volunteers made a big repair last year and were planning similar repairs on the other car when these became available. In April, Mark and others from DRG travelled to Oklahoma to inspect them and other equipment DRG hopes to eventually buy.

After some logistical challenges and delays, the cars arrived in late May by which time Mark and volunteers had to hustle to reassemble them for camp season. They also needed handbrakes added, which Mark designed. The cars are longer than the old and carry 50% more people.



Coach being unloaded onto DRG track.
Mark (blue shirt) helping to guide car body back onto it's wheels.



First test run of new coaches in the gorge!

New Phone System!

A very significant project for Mark over last winter was a new phone system. Over the past few years he had been re-researching new systems as DRG's old one was living on borrowed time. But this project was deferred due to cost.

Late last summer, Mark had a "chance" (providential!) encounter with Wilson, a former summer-staffer and camper, and found him now in the phone system business and very willing to offer DRG a much better pricing model.



Over the fall he and Mark set up a test system and Mark put together a proposal which was approved in January. Then came the real work of selecting the phones, configuring them and the many system details, and training of staff. Finally, the DRG phone number was cut over in early April, meeting the goal of having it in place before the busy season was starting to ramp up. In addition to long-term cost savings, the system has many new useful features and is much easier to manage.

AV Upgrades

Hi-def. 1080p. HDMI. These are all mainstream technology now and guest groups expect such when they have visual media to project. DRG has 4 meeting spaces with installed projectors, all older, low-resolution, legacy VGA connection which were growing dim and otherwise very much showing their age.

Last summer, DRG was finally able to begin funding upgrades and Mark upgraded the Big Top tent. Early this year he upgraded one lodge and the other two locations are in progress.

Shopping for a new projector takes time to match needed throw distance and brightness etc, but the bigger challenge is adding HDMI cable runs alongside the existing VGA. Even where conduit was installed, pulling new cable is tricky, but two locations have limited or none, requiring creativity in the first case and in the second, heroic efforts on the part of our facilities team to open part of the room's ceiling. Each upgrade required several days of planning and work.



New projector in Cedar Mtn. Lodge

Photo Feature next page..

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We'd enjoy hearing from YOU! Drop us an e-mail here.

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Attn: Milbourne Account
220 Doe River Gorge Rd
Hampton, TN 37658

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60th Anniversary

In early June, Nancy's folks celebrated their 60th in a BIG way, treating the entire family (5 kids and spouses, 14 grandkids and 2 spouses) to a 5-day cruise from Baltimore to **Bermuda**. What a great way to have extended family time together!



Very breezy view from Gibbs Hill Lighthouse



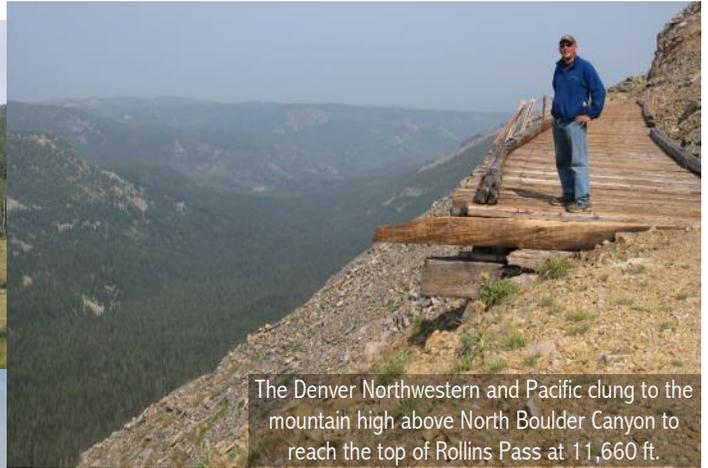
Horseshoe Bay

Man-cation!

In August, right after camp, Mark and Jon joined friends John and Jacob Garner on a father-son "train and mountain-bike" trip out west, riding/chasing the scenic narrow gauge RRs in Colorado and exploring other scenic and historic RR grades and sites. Biking at Moab, UT and Keystone, CO. Other stops included Grand Canyon (north rim), Indian ruins and Arches National Park. A wonderful, memorable trip!



Chasing narrow-gauge steam near the top of Cumbres Pass, elev 10,015 ft., on the CO/NM border



The Denver Northwestern and Pacific cling to the mountain high above North Boulder Canyon to reach the top of Rollins Pass at 11,660 ft.



Arches National Park



The famous Slickrock trail at Moab, UT



The very grand Grand Canyon