

TADMOR



VOLUME 9

ROOTED

A Publication of Camp Tadmor

From the desk of

BRIAN SMITH

A.K.A. STANG,
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

The dust has settled from the Summer, and the air is a bit crisper around here these days. We had 30 churches represented at camp in the 8 weeks of programming, which amounted to over two-thirds of our registrations for the summer! Talking with youth leaders, God had some serious work He was doing in the hearts of students all over the PNW and we love getting to hear about it! Our Summer Ministry Team was chalk-full of quality human beings who will have great impacts on their communities back home. We were so grateful for each one of them and their hearts to serve the church through being a part of this ministry.

Luckily, we get to stay excited because we are running straight into Growth Getaway! Speaking of our killer middle school winter event and running, say hello to the Tadmor Running Club! This is the theme for Growth Getaway this year! We'll be talking Hebrews 12:1-3 and running the race set before us! What's great about the Tadmor Running Club is we don't care how fast you are or how far you can actually run, which really makes us unique in the running world.

We ask for prayers for this event, the planning that has gone into it, the hearts of the people who are coming to attend and volunteer at the event, good weather, good conversations, and for God to move something REAL among everyone who joins us here on the mountain for Growth Getaway 2023.

Just because summer is over, doesn't mean we don't have a lot to look forward to! I'm going to try to sneak a nap and maybe watch an old western before we get to all of it though.

Praise God, y'all!



SUMMER MINISTRY TEAM EXPERIENCE



Julia Stiffler, aka "Binky"
SWAT Team

This summer at Camp Tadmor, God led me to really make my faith my own. This was my second summer serving on the SWAT team and it was my first time ever coming to camp without a member of my family to lean on.

Coming up made me anxious; I was anxious to be alone, that I couldn't make it through the summer, that I wouldn't grow in relationship with my team, and I was afraid to be away from the "safety net" that was my family. As the summer began, my anxieties melted into nothing.

Our SWAT team worked early days into the night, and though we got tired, we grew close together, and God blessed us and our work. As the summer went on, God proved every one of my fears wrong, until, all of the sudden, it was over and I was back home.

God taught me through the summer that my faith doesn't come from the people around me, not even my family. My faith comes from my love for Him alone. Everything I've ever done before, during, and after the summer came from the power of the Holy Spirit.

Even though faith doesn't come from other people, God poured into me through the other staffers. My team leads supported me all summer, gave me incredible advice, and even let me take up some leadership opportunities.

My friends on SWAT, SALT, and the rest of SMT taught me vulnerability, resilience, and showed the love of God through it all. God carried me through the summer at Camp Tadmor, and I am confident that He is the ultimate comforter and safety net for me and you through the rest of this earthly life, so long as we put our faith in Him and Him alone.



Taylor Ballard, aka "Brisket"
SALT Team Lead

This summer I had the privilege of serving at Camp Tadmor as one of the S.A.L.T. leads (Service And Leadership Training team). I had never been to summer camp prior to this, and God opened the door for me to serve at Tadmor on just 11 days' notice.

I was extremely excited to do focused discipleship for an entire summer, but I was also so nervous. There were so many unknowns for me going into it. Over the last few years, I have struggled with a multitude of health issues and I had no idea how I was going to keep up without my health sliding backwards. Well, camp started, I met my co-lead and my team, and I knew God had me in the right place.

Throughout the summer I got to be a part of and witness so much of God's goodness, provision, and redemptive love. My co-lead and I helped the team learn how to share their testimonies, work through questions,

practice Gospel fluency, grow in their dependence on the Lord, and model what it looks like to live in Christ-centered community. Being part of their growth also stretched me and grew me in all those same ways, and I can't express how much it has impacted me. It has equipped me for the current ministry I am working with, and I can't imagine doing it without the experiences God gave me over the summer.

The theme that kept coming up throughout my time at Tadmor was the idea that God equips where He calls. From scheduling and staff issues being solved without any logical explanation to me having the least amount of health issues I had had in years while working the hardest I had in years. This summer I learned the importance and power of trusting the Lord and letting Him lead in all that I do and not taking the lead myself. I'm so grateful for my time at Tadmor this past summer.



CIRCLE T

WITH MIRANDA SMITH
a.k.a. Rizada, Circle T Coordinator

Circle T 2023 is in the books! It was amazing to see God working in the lives of the campers who came up as well as in the summer ministry team who served so well this summer. Our Circle T Summer Ministry Team crew was made up of 7 individuals who came together to put on an amazing program to show campers the love and grace of Christ. Each and every one of these staff were pushed and stretched in sharing the gospel with campers and learning what it means to be a follower of Christ.

Circle T is unique in that SMT members get to try out many skills on the campers including leading games, running activities, sharing the gospel, and being a counselor. This is such a growing time for the SMT as many of them have never been put into positions like this before, and to see them at the end of the summer with so many new skills and a confidence in who Christ has created them to be is the best part of the summer for me! It is always Tadmor's goal to push our SMT back into their home churches to continue serving wherever Christ is

leading them. Many of the SMT who served at Circle T have reconnected back with their home churches and one has started a two-year mission with Logos Hope.

At Circle T this past summewe had the privilege of serving many churches across the Northwest! Nine of these churches registered and attended as a group with their own leaders. We love providing a space and programs for churches to have meaningful experiences with their kiddos. We partnered with these churches in presenting the gospel to around 390 campers this summer!



JOY SCHLICHTER, BRIDGETOWN CHURCH
PASTOR OF KIDS AND FAMILIES

"Our kids ministry had an amazing session at Circle T this summer! We noticed our kids growing in community: establishing deeper friendships with one another and opening up for real conversation about life and following Jesus. The Summer Ministry Team provided flawless programming so we were able to fully focus on being with our kids and leaders. The activities were engaging, safe, and fun, helping kids step just a little out of their comfort zone and into their risk zone - which is the sweet spot for preteen discipleship! Our kids and leaders left Circle T feeling more connected to each other, more tethered to our church family as a whole, and eager to get to know the God who loves them."

FIXIN' CAMP TADMOR

WITH ZACK BROWN
AKA "GRAMPS"
DIRECTOR OF MAINTENANCE



Fall means it's time for winterizing our facilities at Camp Tadmor! This includes turning off outdoor water, putting up storm doors, maintaining furnaces, securing buildings, and much more.

As Director of Maintenance at Tadmor, my goal in this next season is to update our facilities in ways that improve upon what Tadmor is able to offer. This is evident in the projects we've been working on for the past year. Through this fall and winter, I will be continuing Meadow Ridge improvements, working with different subs to turn Meadow Ridge's kitchen into a full, commercial kitchen. This will include putting in commercial-use appliances, changing the HVAC system, and other updates to the building to bring it up to commercial kitchen standards. I have already been meeting with these subs and work will begin very soon.

In the spring, we were able to finish closing in the Meadow Ridge pavilion by adding doors so that it can be used by rental groups year-round. God has blessed Tadmor through His abundant provision and we know He will continue to do so with our other projects.

Some other projects that have been in the works over the past year are the ADA improvements we've started, and which are funded through our partnership with Outdoor Schools and the OSU Extension Office. The Log Cabin project is nearing completion but still needs some funding. Many churches have



partnered with Church Venture NW and Tadmor to help provide this retreat for their pastors.

Finally, the two new staff houses, one of which will be replacing an old double wide trailer on camp, is a big project in its early stages. This project will allow us to hire the full-time staff we need to run Tadmor's ministries well.

If you have any questions about these projects, feel free to email me at zackb@tadmor.org. Tadmor thrives in its current state because of the partnerships we have with churches and individuals who have invested in Tadmor's ministry over the years. Camp Tadmor doesn't exist in a vacuum and you are important to us! If you or your church would like to give to any of these projects, go to Tadmor.org/give. We're so grateful for your continued support of Tadmor!



GUEST SERVICES

WITH DIRECTOR OF GUEST SERVICES
ERIK TUNEBERG, AKA “E”

Hello all! After another great summer of serving the local church and campers we have transitioned into our rental season. For those who don't know, outside of the 2+ months of summer, Tadmor is available to rental groups for the other 9+ months of the year as a place for groups to utilize Tadmor's grounds.

From the end of August through early December, Tadmor will have hosted 34 Groups. Of those 34 groups: 2 will be college groups, 4 Outdoor School Programs, 5 miscellaneous groups (Family Reunions, Choirs, School Retreats) & 23 churches!

We are continually blessed by having a variety of groups that utilize Tadmor where we can serve these groups.

As we bring new people onto full-time staff at Tadmor, we wanted to honor Cora Tuneberg and her countless hours devoted to the ministry of Tadmor through her role as registrar.

How long did you serve at Tadmor?

This was my tenth summer before being hired as a full-time staff member.

What roles did you fill during your time at Tadmor?

In 2012 and 2013 I was on the SALT Team. During the summers of 2014 and 2015 I was not onsite but served during the rental seasons (fall-spring) cleaning and working in the kitchen. In 2016 I was on the Program Team as the Office Assistant. In 2017 and 2018 I worked closely with

Lastly, we are excited to have Meadow Ridge become a true year-round rental facility. This will be a great addition to our rental calendar, giving groups another option for utilizing God's Creation at Tadmor year-round. Meadow Ridge is an exciting option with more traditional housing (yurts) and the added bonus of RV/Tents sites, while providing a central gathering space with bathrooms and a Full-Service Kitchen. We are beginning to book Meadow Ridge for Spring 2024.

If your church or ministry is interested in checking out our Meadow Ridge Facility, feel free to contact me at erik@tadmor.org.

Jennifer Bertz as Associate Registrar, beginning the training process of becoming the Registrar/Office Manager. I came onto full-time staff in February of 2019.

How did you come to work at Tadmor full-time?

In between my summers at camp, I created a business that refinished furniture for restaurants and private clients. I really enjoyed the work, fulfilled by the results that woodworking can bring. During my third year in the business, I got an injury that caused nerve damage in my dominant arm. After a year of trying to work despite the injury, it came time for me to close down the company as I wasn't getting any better. As difficult as that was, right around the same time is when I was



ERIK TUNEBERG (E)

approached by former Registrar, Jennifer Bertz, to succeed her in the role as she was nearing retirement. This job provided new opportunities at just the right time for me.

Think back to your Tadmor beginnings. How did you hear about Tadmor? What were your first experiences here?

I first heard about Camp Tadmor when I was 16 and attending a new church. Their youth group was planning to bring students to serve alongside the SWAT Team during a week of the summer. While on this trip, I met a group of kids my age

serving at Tadmor who seemed serious and excited about their relationships with the Lord, which was a new experience for me. It made such an impact that I went full-on into the next summer at camp, finding the community I had been searching for.

In what ways do you feel like you grew during your time at Tadmor?

Working at a camp for so long has given me many opportunities to learn new skills. From communication of all kinds to housekeeping and cooking in a commercial setting, Tadmor gave me a true hands-on education. Adding the faith aspect to this has provided numerous chances for

discipleship through deep conversations with those on each Summer Ministry Team. I feel I've grown in listening with empathy, sharing about my life with kindness, and public speaking with a sense of freedom.

What did you love about your time at Tadmor?

I loved the opportunities I had to build relationships, disciple, and be disciplined. I still have close friends from my first summer.

What does the next season of life hold for you?

I've taken a couple of months off of work to rest and evaluate what direction I want to head.

There are possibilities for a career change which could mean some kind of schooling before I land in the field I want.

THREE FUN FACTS ABOUT CORA'S TIME AT TADMOR:

- 1) I've lived in three different houses on camp.
- 2) I came up with Tadmor's motto: Rooted in Relationship.
- 3) It was ten years before I learned that the paint color of all of the buildings is not, in fact, brown. "Evergreen" means "GREEN" and I may be colorblind.



UPCOMING EVENTS

GROWTH GETAWAY
NOVEMBER 3-5 & 10-12, 2023

WINTER YOUTH
FEBRUARY 16-19, 2024

Tadmor is a ministry of Church Venture Northwest, and we see the success of the local church as our highest priority, as is reflected in the change of how registration rolls out. This provides time for youth leaders to register their youth first and come to Tadmor together as a youth group, ensuring that youth leaders can join in the camp experience with their students. We encourage individual campers to connect with a local church and come with a youth group! Through our experience campers undergo radical growth at Tadmor and this is better experienced within an ongoing community, wherein that growth can be nurtured. We look forward to seeing you in the summer of 2024!

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION OPENS:
CVNW CHURCHES: NOVEMBER 13TH
ALL CHURCHES: DECEMBER 4TH
INDIVIDUALS: JANUARY 1ST