

Undiscovered

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST

MARGARET LACKEY OFFERING FOR STATE MISSIONS

1947 GARAYWA CAMPER NOW PAYING IT FORWARD

The year was 1947, Garaywa's first summer to host missions camp. Elaine Cade boarded a bus with four other girls from Unity Baptist Church in West, Miss. to attend a week of camp at Garaywa. She had no idea that her life was about to change.



Her experience that week was so momentous, in fact, that Cade recently spearheaded a fundraising effort at Unity to scholarship campers to attend Garaywa this summer.

"Garaywa was the most wonderful thing that had happened to me up to that point," she recalled. I learned so much about mission work and what God was up to all over the world that week," said Cade, who had just made a profession of faith the year before attending camp.

"I remember Dr. and Mrs. Tyler from Blue Mountain College were counselors there. They seemingly took a special interest in me and what lay ahead for my future. They saw something in me that I didn't see in myself. Things were happening in my life really fast, and for some reason the Tylers took time to pour into me that week," Cade said.

The Tylers began to talk with Cade about going to college, something Cade saw as

impossible. "I wasn't thinking about college and my family could not have afforded to send me to college even if I was. I was a little country girl from a large family with no finances to provide for things like this," she said.

A few months after she had been home from her week at Garaywa, her mom got a visit from Wilfred Tyler, informing her that he had made arrangements for Cade to receive a full scholarship to Blue Mountain College.

"He told her that he could see the Lord was doing something special in my life. That was one of the most touching, unrealistic things that ever happened to me. That was a special blessing that would not have happened if I had not been at Garaywa at the particular time Dr. Tyler was down there," Cade recalled.

Garaywa changed Cade's life, and with the help of the Margaret Lackey offering it continues to change the lives of girls all across Mississippi. Almost 2000 girls attend camp every summer.

"Garaywa really enables girls to look inside themselves at a greater depth. The quiet time that Garaywa offers of listening and observing what God is up to sets them on the right path. It's all about getting a better understanding of yourself and what you're really put here to do," she said.



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CENTRAL HILLS HAS 32ND SUMMER OF CAMPING DESPITE TORNADO

The powerful tornado that roared across Central Hills Retreat just a few minutes after midnight on New Years Day destroyed facilities and took down acres of trees but not spirits. Within hours, chainsaw volunteers were on site clearing the road for those visitors staying the night inside one of the camp's lodges.

With the help of the Margaret Lackey offering, disaster relief volunteers and supplies are on hand and ready when tragedy strikes.

"The volunteer groups who have come to help us have been incredible," said camp manager Jim Ray.

When Ray first saw the damage that Central Hills had suffered as a result of the tornado, his heart sank. But it wasn't long before new construction began and summer campers began to register for another summer camp experience. Last summer, more than 200 campers made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ as a result of their time at Central Hills.

"We saw this as an opportunity to make Central Hills Retreat even better than it was before the tornado," Ray pointed out.

Located in the deep woods of Attala County between West and Kosciusko, Central Hills has a full-size gymnasium, junior Olympic swimming pool, large lake, horseback riding, canoeing, regulation flag football field, rock climbing wall and ropes course, three lodges, a complete dining hall and kitchen, and a recreational vehicle park with 41 hook-ups, kitchen, showers, and assembly hall.

It is through the extraordinary efforts of volunteer teams, partnerships with selected contractors, and the dedication of the camp staff, as well as financial contributions to the Margaret Lackey Offering, that Central Hills is ready to serve Mississippi Baptists in 2011 and for years to come.

