

NOW WE TRUST IN GOD TO KEEP US BRIGHT AND KEEN FOR CHRIST,
BECAUSE WE LOVE HIM, BECAUSE WE WANT TO SERVE HIM, UNTIL WE SEE HIM FACE TO FACE.

The Batt-Men

The purpose of this newsletter is to invite boys ages 12-18 to join, inform people what is going on in Battalion, introduce some of the boys and leaders involved in Battalion, promote Brigade in the church, share news of future events, expose boys to the Gospel of Christ, request prayer. . . and to get a cool looking patch.

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A Typical Meeting

By Aaron Fleming

During a typical Battalion meeting we have a considerable amount of fun and also learn about God's Word. We are constantly making new friendships during the camp outs and occasionally a new member will join.

A Battalion meeting begins with lineup, where we all stand on one of the lines in the gym. Lineup includes Pledging Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, saying the Battalion watchword, and praying. After that, our leaders announce anything we need to know.

Once we have finished lineup we usually move on to small group, sometimes called squad meeting. During small group we read and memorize Bible verses and answer spiritual questions our Junior Leaders ask us out of the material they have. We end small

group by praying.

After we have completed small group, we head to the action portion of the meeting where our leaders teach us about the topic we are doing that month. Some of the topics that we have completed include: Occult/New Age Awareness, Fishing, Skit Production, Knot Tying, etc. Sometimes someone from the church, who is knowledgeable on the topic, will come and speak to us.

After action we usually play a game. Game time is a fun and exciting period of the meeting, where we get to let out our energy and build friendships with one another. Our favorite games are basketball, dodge ball, soccer, and weather permitting, kickball. On occasion we will try a new game.



Council Ring

Following game time is council ring. Council ring is basically a Bible study that addresses the spiritual aspect of our daily lives. It is a time of learning and renewal. Once we have finished council ring we pray and then have a snack which is donated by a member of the battalion who volunteered the week before.

The activities in Battalion teach us life skills and are extremely fun. Battalion is a great way to meet new friends and grow spiritually.

The Crew



If you are a young man aged 12-18 this could be you!

First Impression by Sean Porter

"I liked how we had to search around in other chapters for some of the answers."

Hello, my name is Sean and a couple weeks ago I was invited to Battalion. I thought, "This is probably going to be like any other youth group I've been to," of course throughout my time there I found it was something much more. First off, we lined up and said the Pledge of Allegiance, an opening prayer, and listened to some announcements. After that, we went to a small room

where we were given sheets of paper that said "Interest Area" on them with a whole list of topics. I skimmed down the sheet until I saw something that I never imagined a youth group would do, hunting. After I saw that, I immediately circled it as something we should do. Then we moved on to reading some scripture and answering questions about what we read. I liked how we had to

search around in other chapters for some of the answers. After that, we had a short game time followed by another meeting where we discussed how keen observations can lead to success. For the last few minutes we hung out and had a snack. After being dropped off at my house I told myself, "Wow, I can't wait until next time."

Below are answers given by some of the boys in Battalion when asked the question, "Why do you like Battalion?"

"It's a good way to meet new friends and to learn about the Bible and stuff."

-Aaron Fleming

"It's fun and there is good food (when people don't forget the snack) and friends."-Sam Benedict

"I like Battalion because of all the boys and leaders in it. It's awesome!" -Ben Carsten

"Battalion is great because we have a lot of fun and we learn about Christ and the Bible too!" -Taylor Fleming

"I like Battalion because of the games that we play, the friends, and the bible lessons. It's a lot of fun!" -Danny Carsten

Every month the guys in Battalion learn about a subject, and after a month of study receive a patch to put on their shirts.

A Sci-Fi Parable by Samuel Benedict

February 2010's monthly activity was skit production, the guys were given the task of writing and performing a skit.

After a long winter, the members of Lafayette Alliance Church gather together in March for a talent show called "Cabin Fever". This past year our battalion participated in it by performing a skit which took a couple months of rehearsing and preparation for us to complete. Our skit, which was based on the Parable of the Tenants, was identical to the parable except that it was a Star Wars version.

In the parable, there is a Master of the house who rents out his vineyard to some tenants. Later, he sends servants to collect from them what he is owed. The tenants beat one, kill one, and stone the other. Again, the Master sends servants, which produces the same

results. Finally, he sends his own son. The tenants kill him, too. We tried to make our skit as similar to the parable as possible.

In the first scene, the Master Jedi rents out a planet to Darth Vader and Darth Sidious, better known as The Emperor. The Master then sends out his servants, armed with laser guns, to collect the rent. The two Sith Lords kill the servants, but one escapes to inform his Master of the tragedy. The Master sends out more servants, this time accompanied by a Jedi Knight. The Sith kill them all except for the Jedi, who barely escapes with his life. After this, the Master sends his son to the evil tenants. Darth Vader kills him too. Eventually,

the Master himself confronts the tenants. He destroys the two Sith Lords and takes back what is his.

There was only one fluke, though it was probably for the better. When the Son walked onto the stage to demand the rent, Darth Vader's helmet tumbled from his head right into the Son's hands. As the audience laughed, the Son placed the helmet back on his head. Other than that, everything went great.

The skit was extremely fun to perform, and the audience seemed to like it. It took a lot of hard work, but it was definitely worth it. Next spring, we plan to create another skit, even better than the first!



Darth Vader, one of the characters from Star Wars who also appeared in our skit.

"It took a lot of hard work, but it was definitely worth it."



Darth Vader, the Emperor, and the servants.



The landowner, the Son, and the servants.

During one of the meetings one of the leaders, Richard Stanford, told the guys his story. They held a competition to see who could write the best article about it, and the winner won a prize and his article is featured below.

Mr. Stanford by Samuel Benedict

“The Lord definitely worked a miracle in his life.”



Mr. Stanford

Recently, I heard the testimony of Mr. Stanford who is one of our Battalion leaders. I've known him for a while now, but I had never heard his testimony.

Several years ago, in 2001, the Lord brought Mr. Stanford through a tough ordeal. It all started in April, when he developed a rash. Although unassociated with his condition, the rash brought him into the doctor's office. While there, Mr. Stanford informed the doctor that he had been having trouble

insert the stent that would drain away the fluids. They didn't want to rupture the cyst, but that's just what happened, and Mr. Stanford's brain expanded back to its normal size.

One day later, Mr. Stanford had a massive seizure that lasted a terrifying two hours before rendering him comatose. The doctor wasn't sure if he would make it. Meanwhile, the church gathered together to pray and ask God to deliver Mr. Stanford from his coma. Four days passed before the he emerged from the coma. He was alright, though he had to spend three more weeks in the hospital.

with his memory and hand coordination. After hearing this, the doctor sent him to get an MRI, which is short for magnetic resonance imaging, and the results were surprising.

Apparently, Mr. Stanford had suffered a mini stroke that disrupted his memory. Two days after this, Dr. Cohen told him that he had an arachnoid cyst and described the problem, "There are three linings in the skull, one of which has broken. Brain fluids have collected in the gap and com-

pressed the brain down to two-thirds of its original size." Mr. Stanford had to be put on medication, in the hopes that the cyst would shrink. The doctors didn't want to completely remove the cyst because if they did, the brain would expand too quickly. They thought it would be best for him to have surgery.

From that point he began to have several seizures a day. Mostly they were minor seizures that lasted only a couple minutes, but others were more intense and painful. They continued all through the summer and in September, while he was preparing to go camping, his fingers acquired an unusual twitch. Mr. Stanford went once again to the hospital, and once again he was given medicine to stop the twitch.

After this, he went for a checkup with Dr. Kent, who gave him two options: he could either put up with the seizures, or have another operation.

Mr. Stanford prayed about it and decided to undergo the surgery, which took place in May. After drilling a hole in his head, the neurologist started to

The operation would be difficult, and there was a good chance that he would lose the use of his arm and/or his speech. Again, Mr. Stanford did nothing before seeking God's advice in prayer. The seizures didn't come back.

Mr. Stanford hasn't had a seizure for years. He still has some short term memory loss, but nothing serious. He is thankful to God for bringing him through this frightening event in his life. The Lord definitely worked a miracle in the life of Mr. Stanford.

The guys in Battalion go on many camp-outs and retreats, including Camp-O-Rama, the February Father and Son retreat and the August Camp Out.

Camp-O-Rama by Nick Kolceski

There are several activities that we do outside of Battalion, the biggest is Camp-O-Rama. Once a year, Battalions from all over New York State meet at Camp Hickory Hill to compete in many different challenges that have to do with physical ability, biblical knowledge, and other skills. Our Battalion is three years old and fairly new to the competition, but we

have placed in the top three in quite a few competitions. In our first year at Camp-O-Rama, we placed third in a Bible quiz on the book of Daniel. At our second Camp-O-Rama, we placed first in the Bible quiz and third for our skit, both of which were based on the book of Ecclesiastes. This year we had two squads instead of one and we earned a total of seven awards. We

placed first and third in the cardboard canoe race, first in "Bible Baseball" where a "hitter" is asked a question of varying difficulties, first in Bible verse memory, second in fire building, third in the leaders division of wiffle ball, and second for "Best Overall Battalion". This year we hope to flourish in not only the competition, but also our spiritual walks with the Lord.



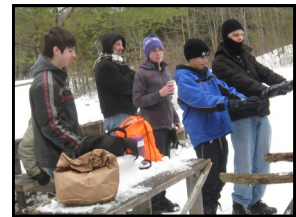
At Camp-O-Rama we stay in tents.

Father-Son Retreat by Caleb Benedict

The 2010 Father/Son Winter Retreat was extremely enjoyable. We arrived at the Path-of-Life camp on Friday night. On Saturday morning, we sang about cheese for a while, ate a delicious breakfast, and set out for a hike through the woods where we identified animal tracks and collected

firewood that we would use later. By lunchtime we had arrived in an open area with a fire pit and a frozen pond. The Battalion leaders instructed us to stay off of the pond to prevent cracking the ice and plunging into the frigid water. We created a snowman and had a snowball fight. Then, we

cooked hot dogs over the fire we had built using the wood we had collected. After we ate lunch, we walked back to the camp using a nearby road. We did other things too, including sledding, playing games, and telling jokes. On Sunday morning we packed our things and headed home.



Warming up by the fire.

2010 August Camp Out by Caleb Benedict

In August of 2010, our Battalion unit went to Vanderkamp for a three day camp out. One of the main things we did while we were there was play games. We played wiffleball after we arrived and flashlight tag that night. The next morning we ate breakfast and then headed out for a hike in the woods. We came across sever-

al sassafras plants and learned some interesting facts about them. Two of the things they are used for are root beer and tea. Afterwards, we marched back to our cabins to eat lunch and then proceeded to the swimming area. Besides swimming, we fished, canoed, and constructed sand castles. The following night, we played

Ghost in The Graveyard, which was a favorite because of the suspense of walking down a path without knowing when someone was going to jump out and shout, "Ghost in the Graveyard!" Later that night, we settled down in our beds to sleep and left the campgrounds the next morning.



Eating lunch.

Cardboard Canoes by Taylor Fleming

“When the race drew near we knew we were ready.”

During their preparation for the events at Camp-O-Rama 2010, the Lafayette Alliance Battalion was given the task of making canoes out of cardboard. A race with the hand-made boats was one of the main events at the competition. They received tremendous results, after working hard and spending a lot of time building the boats.

In March, we were informed by Mr. Hubbell, our senior leader, that one of the competitions at Camp-O-Rama (which is in May) was going to

had to use a type of glue, called Liquid Nails, to speed up the process. As we got even closer, Mr. Maloney took the boats to his house and worked on them so that we would be able to spend the last few meetings painting them. After the paint dried, they were finally ready to race.

At Camp-O-Rama we were all excited for the canoe race. We had some free time before the race and since some of us had not ever canoed before, we took some real canoes out onto the pond and practiced.

ceived third place and my squad took first. All of our hard work paid off.

We did excellent in the competition, because of many hours of work and a lot of fun. We appreciate the great help and leadership from Mr. Maloney, Mr. Stanford, Mr. Hubbell, and Mr. Reed. I also believe we would never have done as well as we did without first going out on the pond to practice. It was a great time for everyone involved.

be a cardboard canoe race. The canoes had to be big enough to fit two boys. Along with cardboard we were also allowed to use glue, duct tape, paint, and a three foot by three foot piece of plastic. The next meeting we started planning. After thinking about it, we decided that we would make the back of the boat flat like a rowboat and less like a canoe.

Someone from the church, who works at Wegmans, was able to supply us with more than enough cardboard. We quickly realized that it would

When the race drew near we knew we were ready. The race was not really a true race, but more of a timed race, where the officials would time how long it took each squad to complete four legs. Each leg consisted of paddling out and around a buoy and then paddling back to the dock. Since there were four boys in a squad, the paddlers were switched out at the dock and the canoes were sent out again until four legs were completed. We watched the other teams go and saw some canoes that

be very expensive to use store bought glue, so one of the leaders, Mr. Maloney, looked online for a glue recipe. Starting with one piece of cardboard, we covered it in homemade glue and carefully set another piece of cardboard on top of it. We did this until we had three or four layers. Since we had ten boys in our battalion we needed to make two canoes. When we started to make the next boat we decided that it only needed to be two layers thick instead of four. As we got closer to the Camp-O-Rama we

were good competition and some that were not so good and others that sunk. Our first squad, led by Ben Carsten went second to last. They had a great time, definitely in the top three.

Then it was my squad's turn. We paddled as hard as we could and even though we had a tough time getting started, we had an excellent time. We knew that we had either second or first place. The next day, at the award ceremony, we were all very excited. As it turned out Ben's squad re-



Taylor Fleming (left) and Caleb Benedict.



Sam Benedict (left) and Aaron Fleming.



The Champions! From left: Caleb Benedict, Nick Murgia, Mr. Maloney, Danny Carsten, Aaron Fleming, Taylor Fleming, Ben Carsten, Sam Benedict and Nick Kolceski.

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The Batt-Men


Battalion

Pictures



Going Canoeing at Vanderkamp.



Cooking Potatoes at Camp-O-Rama.



Snowball fight at the Father-Son Retreat.



Putting the cardboard canoe into position.



Washing off after a muddy hike.