



CHRISTIAN ACRES CHRONICLE

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A Life Poured Out: Remembering Rick Mathena

45 Years of Faithful Service

Camp Manager • Professor • Mentor • Friend

There are people who leave their mark on a place... and then there are people whose life becomes the place.

For 45 years, Rick Mathena did not simply manage Christian Acres Camp, he lived it. His love, laughter, leadership, and faith are woven into every corner of this ministry and into the hearts of the thousands of children, families, volunteers, and churches who have passed through its gates.

Rick went home to be with the Lord on December 21, 2025, closing his eyes for a nap and opening them to the face of Jesus. While our hearts ache in his absence, our hope is anchored in the life he lived and the Savior he served.

Rick's life reflected the words of Jesus with a steady, beautiful faithfulness — loving God deeply and loving people just as sincerely. He carried responsibility without ego and leadership without show. No task was beneath him, and no moment too small. Whether he was opening Scripture, solving a problem, cleaning a cabin, or staying late with a mop after everyone else had gone, Rick met each moment with the same quiet devotion.

And if you ever worked beside him, you know it was never really about the work. Rick had a way of turning simple tasks into something more — slowing life down, making space for conversation, laughter, and presence. Those were the moments where you learned the most, even if you didn't realize it at the time. Because of that, the everyday rhythms of camp life became deeply meaningful: quick trips into town, putting together each Chronicle, early morning devotions, borrowed books, Friday pizzas, playful competitions, Sunday registrations, holiday meals, late-night talks, and all the unplanned moments in between that quietly shaped hearts of camp volunteers.

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FINANCIAL REPORT FOR CHRISTIAN ACRES — DECEMBER 2025

BEGINNING BALANCE:		\$69,003.62
Grandview Christian Church		\$335.00
Laurel Fork Church of Christ		\$250.00
Church of Christ at Pettry		\$50.00
Rocky Gap Church of Christ		\$225.00
Pikeview Christian Church		\$75.00
Peterstown Christian Church		\$200.00
Mount Hope Christian Church		\$147.28
Mid+Way Christian Church		\$300.00
Macedonia Church of Christ		\$200.00
Chilhowie Christian Church		\$650.00
Linside Christian Church 2nd Half		\$1,000.00
Memorial Church of Christ		\$293.47
Eddie Almond Mem: Rachel A. Kirkham		\$50.00
Eddie Via		\$50.00
Anonymous		\$1,000.00
Rick and Joanna Mathena		\$610.00
Wayne and Tessa Nelson T-Club		\$10.00
Bill and Joyce Fox T-Club		\$10.00
Ronnie and Beth Mullins T-Club		\$20.00
Doug and Janet Noel T-Club		\$10.00
Doug and Janet Noel Jesus Birthday		\$100.00
Grandview Primary Church KEY		\$10.00
Joe and Pam Mooney KEY		\$20.00
Bobby Duncan KEY		\$50.00
Gary and Trish Bugg KEY		\$20.00
Terry and Nancy Kornegay KEY		\$50.00
Anita Barilla KEY		\$50.00
Dickie and Janet Meadows KEY		\$10.00
Roger and Beverly Dalton KEY		\$20.00
Danny and Bonita Meadows KEY		\$10.00
Danny and Bonita Meadows Jesus B.		\$50.00
Tim and Cindy White T-Club		\$10.00
Paul and Sandra Adams T-Club		\$10.00
Mac McCarty T-Club		\$20.00
Philip and Janet Weiss KEY		\$20.00
Bozoo C.W.F. KEY		\$50.00
Roger and Debbie Whitt KEY		\$20.00
Robert O'Neal KEY		\$40.00
Charles Smith		\$1,000.00
Charities Aid Foundation America		\$90.00
Falls Mills Christian Church		\$400.00
Goodwyn's Chapel Church of Christ		\$143.00
Seneca Trail Church of Christ		\$25.00
Springville Christian Church		\$300.00

Bozoo Christian Church		\$200.00
Glen Lyn Church of Christ		\$107.09
Cedar Grove Church of Christ		\$125.00
Williams Chapel Church of Christ		\$800.00
TRANSFER FROM GYM FUND		\$20,000.00
TRANSFER FROM GYM FUND		\$15,000.00
Larry Poteat Gift		\$26,250.00
Steven and Vicki Morris		\$50.00
Rick and Joanna Mathena		\$361.00
Greg and Lisa Pruitt		\$50.00
Sylvia Stalvey KEY		\$50.00
Crossroads Church of Christ		\$100.00
Claypool Hill Church of Christ		\$250.00
Anonymous		\$700.00
Maple View Church of Christ		\$500.00
Church of Christ at Montcalm		\$250.00
Anne Shrewsbury T-Club		\$10.00
Athens Church of Christ		\$376.00
Dublin Christian Church		\$209.00
Tannersville Church of Christ		\$150.00
Aryss Jones		\$100.00
Anonymous CASH		\$50.00
Anonymous		\$100.00
Eddie and Winnie Newberry KEY		\$15.00
Larry Stiltner KEY		\$20.00
Mike Honaker O/L		\$75.00
Bob and Ruth Smith O/L		\$50.00
Teresa Wills O/L		\$20.00
Brice and Ashley Marden O/L		\$30.00
Karen Leonard O/L		\$500.00
Jean Owens O/L		\$53.00
Leslie Melvin O/L		\$100.00
Lael Dunn O/L		\$300.00
Ima Jean Brooks		\$50.00
Susie Stauffer O/L		\$60.00
Scooter and Dori Breisch O/L		\$25.00
Chester and Edie Bratton O/L		\$10.00
Jeffry Anderson O/L		\$50.00
Joshua May O/L		\$100.00
Riverfront Restaurant O/L		\$20.00
Elizabeth Long O/L		\$12.00
Karen Leonard O/L		\$100.00
Jay Meadows O/L		\$125.00
George and Benita Taylor O/L		20.00
Michele Thompson O/L		100.00

Mike Honaker O/L		\$75.00
Sarah Tuggle Edwards O/L		\$20.00
Karen Turner O/L		\$200.00
James and Megan Davis O/L		\$100.00
Jeffry Anderson O/L		\$60.00
Cindy Steele May O/L		\$50.00
Adam Maxwell O/L		\$100.00
Nicole McKlarney O/L		\$100.00
Lecia Smith O/L		\$1,000.00
Karen Leonard O/L		\$400.00
Adrean and Michelle Harris O/L		\$100.00
Carol Frazier O/L		\$500.00
Andre Lester O/L		\$50.00
Jay Meadows O/L		\$125.00
Marcy Thompson O/L		\$100.00
Mike Honaker O/L		\$75.00
Mike Honaker O/L		\$100.00
Travis McMurray O/L		\$100.00
Steve Stansfield O/L		\$100.00
Wanda Crawford O/L		\$25.00
Laurie Cooper O/L		\$100.00
Stephanie Bragg O/L		\$25.00
Connie Monk O/L		\$25.00
Anthony and Kathy Bertozzi O/L		\$200.00
Sharon Armistead O/L		\$200.00
Mary Wyrick O/L		\$50.00
Joseph and Kristin Pennington O/L		\$100.00
Elizabeth Long O/L		\$12.00
Justin and Patty Douthat O/L		\$2,300.00
Monthly Income:		\$82,018.84
Sub-Total:		\$151,022.46

LESS DISBURSEMENTS

Rick and Joanna Med. Supplement		\$664.69
Federal Tax Payment		\$1,915.14
State Tax Payment		\$324.00
Zack Health Insurance		\$1,063.58
Bank Service Fee		\$5.00
Bank Transfer for Foam in Gym		\$45,000.00
USPS	18483	\$119.56
Zack Thompson	18484	\$378.94
Bailey Counts	18485	\$594.30
Russell Mathena	18486	\$793.97
Zack Thompson	18487	\$600.00
Bailey Counts	18488	\$600.00
Russell Mathena	18489	\$600.00
Sam's Club	18490	\$2,423.28
Bluefield Sanitary Board	18491	\$65.36
Lusk	18492	\$128.05
Komax	18493	\$109.39
Frontier	18494	\$100.10
Lowe's Pro	18495	\$16,951.00

Russell Mathena	18496	\$1,110.00
AEP	18497	\$1,367.01
Zack Thompson	18498	\$379.34
Bailey Counts	18499	\$594.30
Russell Mathena	18500	\$793.97
Zack Thompson	18501	\$379.34
Carolina Carpets	18502	\$1,564.65
Aaron Boothe	18503	\$2,020.00
Bailey Counts	18504	\$594.30
Russell Mathena	18505	\$793.97
Bailey Counts	18506	\$594.30
Aaron Boothe	18507	\$1,000.00
DLL	18508	\$80.00
Cameron Coppola	18509	\$3,150.00
Zack Thompson	18510	\$379.34
Zack Thompson	18511	\$390.00
Walmart	18512	\$861.35
Bluefield Sanitary Board	18513	\$65.36
Frontier	18514	\$100.10
Sam's Club	18515	\$3,689.00
Russell Mathena	18516	\$793.97
Russell Mathena	18517	\$2,467.00
Aaron Boothe	18518	\$700.00
MONTHLY EXPENSES:		\$96,313.56
CHECKBOOK BALANCE: 1/1/26		\$54,708.90
BAM SAVINGS: 1/1/26		\$18,476.48
PROJECTS: \$2,576.00		
PICKLEBALL COURT: \$6,481.00		
GYM FUND: \$260.00		
SCHOLARSHIP TRUST:		\$51,000.00
GYM FUND: 12/31/25		\$602,858.00
HISTORICAL RECORD SINCE 1968		
TOTAL INCOME: \$8,861,187.66		
TOTAL EXPENSE: \$8,806,479.10		

DECEMBER SPECIAL GIFTS:

Memorial Gifts

In Honor of Virginia Helmondollar and the Memory of Curtis Helmondollar

By Justin and Patty Douthat \$2300.00

C/A received a gift from the Larry Poteat fund for \$26,250.00. This was the last payment from his estate.

A full list of the 2025 Jesus Birthday offering will be listed in the February Chronicle, to date we have raised over \$11,000.00 for our 2026 projects. This is the largest Jesus Birthday offering since 2010!

We will list a current list of Scholarship Memorial gifts in honor of Tricky Ricky in the February Chronicle.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

(continued from page one)

Rick had a special way of truly seeing people. He offered patience when things were hard, wisdom when decisions felt heavy, and grace when mistakes were made. In the middle of ordinary days, his steady care made everyone feel noticed, valued, and at home. And woven through it all was his unmistakable sense of humor.

Rick believed laughter was good for the soul. Whether he was leading a room in laughter, sharing one of his classic stories, or repeating a joke you'd definitely heard before — and still hoping it might somehow be funnier this time — "Tricky Ricky" never lost his love for making people smile. He reminded us, again and again, not to take ourselves too seriously and to find joy even in the work. Beyond camp, Rick poured his life into the Kingdom as a professor at Bluefield College of Evangelism, teaching Greek, English, History, Youth Ministry, and Revelation. He shaped generations of students, preachers, and leaders, weaving truth, humor, and wisdom into every lesson. His influence stretched across churches, revivals, seminars, and classrooms throughout the East Coast. But perhaps his greatest ministry was simply how he loved. "Rick was love in motion — and he loved well."

His love was bigger than offense. His forgiveness was constant. His care was unconditional. He did not just serve — he shepherded. He lived servant leadership before our eyes, reminding us that serving Jesus is not about recognition, but about faithfulness. At his service, a phrase was spoken that now echoes through our hearts: Live like Rick. Live with joy. Serve without being asked. Forgive quickly. Love deeply. Laugh often. Show up faithfully. Lead humbly. And never miss an opportunity to point someone to Jesus. And as we live like Rick, may our lives point where he always did — straight to Jesus. Because that is the story behind every good thing Rick ever did. Not his own strength. Not his own wisdom. But a life fully surrendered to Christ. If we follow his example of faithfulness, then the work at this camp, the ministries in our churches, and the lives of our children will continue to echo the Gospel he loved so deeply. And that is the legacy Rick would want most — not that we remember him, but that we know the Savior he served.



CHRISTIAN ACRES

1351 Evangelism Road
Bluefield, WV 24701

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February 20th 7:00pm

General Board Meeting at Maple View

Join us for camp updates, gym updates, and discussion of the 2026 Project list