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## LAKEVIEW MINISTRIES

5/27/2020

Greetings Camp Family,

It is with a heavy heart, at the direction of the Lakeview Board of Directors, that we announce that our regularly scheduled programs for summer 2020 are cancelled. This decision has been gut-wrenching for our board and staff. We know that sharing this news with your children will be difficult, and we grieve alongside you as we inform Staff, Junior Staff, and even our own children. However, the hope we have in Jesus Christ is real and powerful, and we will continue to follow God's direction to serve you, our camp family, in any way we can.

The decision to cancel all summer programs was delayed because we hoped we could provide as normal of a summer camp experience to as many kids as possible, but recent information has made it clear that we won't be able to do that this year. Last week, the State of Indiana updated their "Back on Track" plan which didn't reference overnight summer camps being allowed to open until July 5th. Specific operating guidelines for overnight camps in Indiana still have not been released. The social distancing guidelines that have been discussed would make it extremely difficult to operate at anywhere close to our normal capacities. These factors make us unable to meet our checkpoints for moving forward. Therefore, we have determined that it would be best to make this difficult decision and begin planning alternative programming to best serve you and your family.

Speaking personally, for the last month, every day I come home from camp, my kids ask me if camp is still on for the summer. I hate that I am now going to have to answer that question in a way that none of us wanted to hear. It is difficult to take away another activity from their lives...especially one that means as much as camp does. Our staff has assembled some resources to assist our camper parents in having this discussion with their kids. These can be found on our website linked under the Covid-19 resource page. We hope that this will be helpful in talking with children about the loss of their summer camp experience. Please know that if you are a camper parent, we are here for you and want to walk this path with you as a camp family. If there is anything we can do to assist your family through this time, please let us know, and we will see how we can help.

Having made this decision, our staff is now able to transition into planning additional ministry opportunities (which can comply with current health and safety guidelines). Getting these programs underway will provide some additional revenue for camp, but, more importantly, will give campers an opportunity to get out to camp—even if the experience is a little different than usual. At this time we envision the two main avenues for alternative programming as General Family Camping and Youth Day Camps throughout the month of July. We hope to release more information concerning these opportunities in the coming weeks and pray that they will be a blessing to your family.

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Of course, this pandemic will have a financial impact on Lakeview Ministries as it has for so many individuals, businesses, and other organizations. Since the beginning of this journey, the Board and staff have been careful to preserve financial resources wherever possible. Even so, our current losses due to COVID closures/cancellations total nearly \$200,000, and this number will surely grow with the complete loss of summer camp income. Income from summer camp fees make up over 65% of our annual revenue. Over \$375,000 already paid to camp in registration deposits may need to be returned. Camper families will be asked to consider transferring their payments into a donation. Those generous donations will help, but without additional assistance, our future ministry could be crippled by this pandemic. If you are a Lakeview Partner or a donor to camp, thank you for your support. We are forever grateful for what you have provided to camp in the past, and we hope that you will continue to partner with us so that the ministry can be sustained long into the future.

I would like to close by sharing these Bible verses from Habakkuk 3: 17-19

Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines,  
the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food,  
the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls,  
  
yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.  
GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's;  
he makes me tread on my high places.

I can't get the thought out of my head that fig trees should bear figs, vines, fruit— and summer should have summer camp! Can you even think about a summer without camp? It's so sad to consider all of the children who will not be able to have the camp experience they look forward to and all of the summer staff and junior staff whose lives are changed through their time on staff. We mourn these losses together.

BUT we still rejoice because we know that whatever takes place this summer (or throughout our lives), our Salvation is secure in Christ! Even though we feel the attack of more and more things being taken from us, Christ, ultimately, CANNOT BE TAKEN FROM US. He will take our brokenness, sadness, and emptiness and make us whole. He has given us His Grace, which is sufficient for us! He will lead us forward as He has led this ministry for over 50 years.

God's Blessings, and I look forward to seeing you at camp soon!

In Christ Alone,



David Vandercar, Executive Director