

Great Things are Happening!

06/09/2020

In Times of Uncertainty, He Still Reigns!

What a year to remember. We were on track to set a record for total number of campers for the 2019/2020 season. With a record breaking summer of 717 campers, and on track for 1,300 campers for the winter season, it all came to an abrupt stop on March 9th, due to the COVID-19 virus Pandemic..

Who would've ever thought that we would find ourselves facing such a time like this.

With our rental groups all canceled, generated income came to an abrupt stop. Thinking things would soon change back, we kept planning for summer camps.

April rolled around and it became obvious that we could not hold summer camps and comply with the ever changing rules and guidelines. It was a difficult day when I had to contact all our summer staff to inform them that I was releasing them from their contracts due to the decision the Board had made to cancel summer camps. It was the only decision the Board could make to ensure the safety of the campers.

Next came notifying all the parents and refunding deposits and payments made for summer camps. I can say, it was a difficult time in our lives to see Camp shutdown for the first time in our 76 year history.

To make things worse,

I was now making a financial plan to submit to the Camp Board with financial triggers for staff payroll cuts, and layoffs, including my own.

I sat down with the Maintenance Manager and his wife along with my wife and went over the plan I was going to submit to the board. It was unanimous, we all decided we wouldn't leave. We would look for part time jobs and burn up what we had in our savings to weather the storm.

The following day, before I had a chance to submit the financial plan to the Camp Board, God informed us that He already had plans for us in this uncertain time. With a financial gift from an estate, and a few gifts from friends of Camp, we had what we needed to make it through, and get some needed work done.

The only response to this news was to worship Him! No other response would do. They say He owns the cattle on the hills, and He just sold some for Camp.

After multiple meetings with the Camp Board, they have decided how these capital improvement funds will be used.

Pine Lodge has served Camp well for many, many years. But due to the cost associated with repairs and updates, it has been determined that it would be

more cost effective to replace the building with 6 new small cabins, like the ones we currently have, and then build a new shower house. We would also be looking at building 4 new staff cabins for our summer camp directors, camp speaker and volunteers.

With these capital improvement funds that our God has provided, we will be able to get much needed work accomplished. It won't allow us to do everything we need to do, but a lot of the desperately needed repairs will be accomplished, once all the approvals are granted by the forestry.

Meanwhile, your financial support for the day to day operation expenses are still very much needed, especially now with the lost of generated revenue. Your support has allowed this Camp to share the gospel with thousands of people over the 76 years it has existed. Some who have come over the years as campers are now ministers, missionaries, worship leaders, Sunday School teachers, campus ministry leaders, and lay people sharing their faith in the work place.

Be assured, our God is alive and working here at Camp Bethel even during uncertain times like we find ourselves in today. May God be praised!



6103 W US HWY 14 / PO Box 70
Dayton, WY 82836

Office (307) 665-7021
Email campbethelinc@gmail.com
www.mountaintopexperience.org

Camp Bethel seeks, through its camps and programs, to meet the spiritual, social, physical, mental, educational and recreational needs of its campers by providing Biblical instruction, social interaction, recreational activities, good food, rest and mental stimulation to the end that campers will have a personal relationship through Jesus Christ and experience growth in their Christian life.



After more than 76 years Camp Bethel is still a thriving Christ-centered place to learn, grow, and have fun! Between summer camps, church retreats, and events there is a place for any age to spend time relaxing and enjoying camp in the beautiful Bighorn Mountains.

Your help is still needed

After prioritizing the work needed to be accomplished, we ran short of funds for one very special project.

We are asking for your support to do the needed repairs to the chapel. The annex floor replacement, roof repair, foundation repair and some log replacement needs to be done.

The cost for these repair will be approx. \$25,000. If you are able to give a gift towards this special project, it would be greatly appreciated. You can make your check out to Camp Bethel, and write "Chapel" in the memo.

Finally, I would like to thank you on behalf of the Camp Board for your faithful support of a very special place that God has used to touch so many lives on top of the Big Horn mountains.

Prayer request

- ⇒ Wisdom for the Board
- ⇒ For needed approvals so we can get started on the needed work during this down time.
- ⇒ For our summer staff as they are all looking for work and ministry opportunities
- ⇒ That the Holy Spirit would direct campers to a church in their community so they can get Biblical instruction this summer in place of Camp
- ⇒ For the families living at Camp as they face a very different summer

Staff Update

The Dooley family left camp in March, and moved back to Casper where their families live. They are all doing well and enjoying being around their families. They served well, and will be missed.

The board hired Micaiah and Abbie Huff to fill the open positions after the Dooley's left.

Micaiah will be our new Facilities Manager and Abbie will be our new Camp Registrar and Administration Assistant.

Micaiah has his certifications in Outdoor Recreation through CWC and NOLS. He is also trained as a wilderness EMT. He served as the Youth Pastor at the Story Community Church prior to coming to Camp.

Abbie has her Associates Degree in Arts, and worked as the Children's Ministries Director at Story Community Church prior to coming to Camp.

Micaiah and Abbie met here at Camp while serving as summer staff and married here at Camp on June 2nd, 2018.

Please feel free to send a letter of welcome to them at the Camp's address above.