



May 29, 2020

Dear Camp Friends and Family,

It is with a heavy heart that I write to inform you today of some difficult news regarding our remaining summer youth camps. Over the past several months all of our lives have been greatly impacted by the global pandemic caused by Covid-19. Our schools, churches, communities, and the camp have not been immune to the effects of this crisis. Thank you for being patient and understanding as we navigate these uncertain times together.

In April, we pushed back the start of our summer camps to June 26th hoping to give us time to adjust to new regulations and prepare our facilities and staff. Last week we received our first guidelines from the CDC and Indiana State Department of Health. Our Staff and Board of Directors reviewed these guidelines, consulted with medical professionals, and state and local health officials; we have prayerfully determined that it is in the best interest of everyone to cancel the remainder of our summer camp sessions for 2020. We are deeply saddened to make this announcement, as we know this will be a tremendous disappointment to our campers and their families. Please know that we will greatly miss you this summer and that we love you.

Some of the deciding factors were recommendations such as social distancing and the wearing of face masks that would hinder the camp atmosphere and our purpose to "promote community and spiritual transformation in a natural setting." We also do not have a concrete date from the Indiana State Department of Health as to when we could possibly open. Another deciding factor were the guidelines that campers should not be permitted to attend from out of state. Nearly a third of registered campers are from neighboring states. These deciding factors coupled with our high priority of maintaining the health and safety of our campers, only second to preaching and teaching the Gospel of Jesus, have shaped our decision.

While we are cancelling our summer camp programs for 2020 we are not cancelling the ministry of Lake James Christian Camp. Early on we committed to keeping on our summer staff no matter if we had camp or not. Discipling our staff is one of our key ministries and God is providing the funding to make this happen. There are 5 key areas that our staff will be tasked with during this extraordinary summer of ministry. Some of those areas of ministry involve camper and family care, facility improvements, encouragement to our supporting churches, encouragement to our community and local non-profits, and encouragement to those in ministry. As we are able to open back up and guidelines are lifted we will explore opportunities for future programs and ministry.

Since 1929 we have had camp programs and events on these grounds and we are now serving the 4th and 5th generations of summer campers. Lake James was birthed just prior to the stock market crash and the Great Depression. Our founders and supporters made great financial sacrifices to keep the camp ministry sustainable through these past difficult times. While the camp ministry was in good financial position at the start of this pandemic, with savings and no debt, we are anticipating challenging days ahead as our summer revenue represents nearly a third of our operating budget for the year. We know that many families are struggling with a decrease in income and job losses; know that you are in our prayers and we do not want to further burden you. If your family has not been negatively impacted financially through Covid-19, we ask that you prayerfully consider a donation to the camp ministry so we can be here to minister to future generations.

Full refunds are available for those who have made registration deposits for summer camp. To request a refund or to donate all or half of your deposit as a blessing to the camp ministry, please go [HERE](#). You can also reach us by phone beginning Wednesday, June 3rd.

Please continue to join us in prayer for our campers, families, staff, volunteers, churches, donors, and communities. We are all in this together and together with God's leading and provision we will get through this.

With Love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Matt'.

Matt Love
Executive Director