



The Anchorage

Camp and Conference Center

August 2024

Berean Baptist Church
517 Glensford Dr.
Fayetteville, NC 28314

Dear friends at Berean,

As you probably know I had a rather significant accident just prior to the beginning of summer camp which kept me on the sidelines for most of the summer (I am healing well thanks to the prayers of many friends such as you). It was weird not to be with the campers fishing at daylight every day, or sharing with them at meals, supervising the climbing wall, or introducing the new mini-golf deck to sponsors and campers. But though drastically different from any summer camping program in my previous 45 years it was clear that the Lord was in control and molding the camp for future ministry. It is no secret that we are involved in a generational leadership shift. Having never been through a transition plan before I really didn't know what the summer program would "look like" (there is lots of margin for error). The accident took the issue completely out of my hands so that I had no choice but to watch and advise. Dave Bradshaw and Thad Berrey more than adequately filled their positions confirming once again that this leadership move is the right one at the right time with the right people. I am even more confident in the good operations of the camp for future ministry.

The summer camping season concluded about 4 weeks ago. We had an excellent season with good, steady numbers and solid results (approximately 40 made professions of faith). The seasonal summer staff, mostly college and upper high school students experiencing their first foray into ministry, are a key element to any successful camping season. The Lord blessed us with one of the most balanced summer staff teams we have experienced in some time. Although my accident early in the summer kept me from having the hands-on input that I would normally have, it was a privilege to observe their growing passion for applying the truth of scripture through word and deed to the campers and sponsors that were a part of each camp session. Our consistent prayer for the summer staffers is for them to continue in serving the Savior faithfully as they establish their lives as young adults in whatever church or vocation the Lord has for them. I trust that this summer's experience prepared these seasonal staffers for further ministry.

Our major development project over the past 2 years has been the mini-golf and Gaga Ball activities deck attached to the rear of the gym/skating rink structure. Though its conclusion is in sight we are now into the "putsy" part of the project. Lots of time and effort with little readily perceivable progress, burgeoning finish expenses, and the natural antsy-ness of being almost done makes for some unsettling days, especially as we look down the road towards other projects. We were, however, able to utilize much of the deck throughout the summer with very enthusiastic feedback from all age groups who have utilized it.

Programs continue to grow and diversify. By year's end we will have hosted more than 30 adult-centered programs—young adult, couples' retreats, family camps, ladies' and men's retreat, various conferences, or similar. Expanding adult camping opportunities has been high on my priority list for some time now. We have purposefully developed the facility over the years to accommodate adult outreach opportunities. I am increasingly thankful for those who joined our vision through giving of their time, skills, finances, and prayer support to make these opportunities happen.

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By the time you receive this we will have hosted more than 1200 campers since the end of summer camp. Many Christian schools use the early weeks of school for a 3-to-5-day program of special spiritual emphasis, incorporating new students and faculty into the school, and establishing the theme for the school year to the entire student body. For many years these programs have proved to be a very profitable, spiritually enriching school experience. Since Covid the attendance at many of the schools we serve has greatly grown. During this season we host some of the largest camping groups we ever see, far beyond what we can reasonably accommodate during a week of summer camp.

The biggest facility obstacle to realizing the optimum outreach of the camp is the need for adequate commercial kitchen and dining room space along with a dedicated chapel space. The current kitchen/dining room was never designed for efficient operations at the capacity it has functioned at for some years now. To be able to sustain good operations at the current levels of quality in a new generation is going to require substantial expansion and upgrades.

Since the camps' inception more than 50 years ago the chapel area has been the multi-purpose game room/main room. We find it increasingly hard to protect "*the primacy of the preaching*" which is so necessary to any spiritually successful program. It will be very hard to replicate the quaintness associated with the current chapel area, but the increasing size and multi-purposing of the facility and programs demands a greatly expanded preaching venue.

Of necessity much of the advancement efforts over the past several years have been in program expansion. The addition of the target area (ax throwing; air riflery; archery), the development of the Lee's Creek Park with expansion of the adjacent deck, a new boat, and the construction of the golf and Gaga Ball activities deck have consumed a great deal of our time and attention. However, once the golf and Gaga Ball deck is completed we will have to focus like a laser beam on construction of a new kitchen & dining room complex with attached chapel. We have formulated a plan and have gotten enough consultation to believe that it is workable. Funding will be daunting, probably at least \$2M. The Lord has led us through numerous daunting times throughout our history so I am confident in initiating the serious planning stages for this project. We have been able to make a small, initial inroad toward this cost (approx. \$40,000.00) through the sale of some property donated to the camp a few years back. I am grateful for this confirmation that we are on the right track.

We have recently initiated a podcast which we will be updating approximately weekly through this final year of my tenure as director with particular focus on the Lord's hand on the camp from its inception to the present. If you are interested in hearing how the Lord has directed the camp and has guided my thoughts and plans through His Word during the 45 plus years that I have been privileged to be a part of please tune in to: ***The Anchorage Podcast on Spotify.***

Continued safety is a major request. School choice vouchers, etc., have changed the face of Christian school enrollment practically guaranteeing that many of the students will be lost. Please pray for us as we navigate this busy time of year, especially for power in presenting the gospel.

Yours for the cause of Christ



David Ulrich-Director