

HIGHLAND LAKES BAPTIST CAMP REPORT

Jim Shields, Team Leader

You've seen that sign; especially if you live in Indiana. "Loose gravel-fresh oil"—a warning sign to let you know that there is some work being done on the road ahead. The sign is placed to indicate to you that there could be some areas on your journey where you could lose traction; where you could lose control of your vehicle and face damage and/or injury. That sign should have lit up the sky beginning January 1, 2020, to give us all fair warning as to the coming year. What a year.

Normally, in this section of the book of reports, I have the privilege to tell you about the wonderful summer, with the exciting and transforming camps. I get to tell you about the lives that we know were changed, about the crowds of people that spent time at Highland Lakes, about the Summer Missionaries and how great they were.

Well....not this year. "Loose gravel" - Covid-19 wreaked havoc. In April, after much prayer and consultation with the HLBC team, with constant deliberation regarding ISDH and CDC changing guidelines, even with conversation with Dr. Box of the ISDH, I had to make the decision to close camp for the summer. That was the toughest decision I have had to make as Team Leader for the camp; however, I believe without a doubt that it was the correct one.

So, without camps or retreats from March to August, things were pretty quiet. However, your team at Highland Lakes kept busy with maintenance, upgrades, and policy reviews (thank you Covid-19). We were also able to make some progress on the construction of the much needed Activity Center.

To date, we have received nearly half of the \$180,000 needed to construct the facility. With that, we have moved trees, stumps, and hills in order to prepare the site for construction. We have seen a hill literally moved from one side of the Log Cabin to the other, in order to create the foot print of the building. Truck loads upon truckloads of gravel have been deposited, smoothed out, and packed down to form a firm foundation for the center. We now are ready to begin construction and completion; however, we need the balance of the funding in hand to move forward. We are

anticipating that you, our partners in this endeavor, will help us to reach this goal soon. Your camp is debt free, and we want to stay debt free; so we are dependent on the generosity of our church and individual partners to see this through.

And where are we as of right now, regarding the use of Highland Lakes? We are open and hosting retreats, camps and conferences once again. We have studied the available information from the Indiana State Department of Health, the Center for Disease Control, the Christian Camp and Conference Association, and the Southern Baptist Camping Association to enable us to move forward in a “Covid-conscious” manner. Some of the precautions we have enacted include:

1. We have “socially distanced” all seating in the dining hall and banquet hall. If we need additional seating, we can add tables and chairs in the Rec area.
2. We have “socially distanced” all seating in the Worship Center. Hand sanitizer stations have been added to the front foyer of the Worship Center.
3. All hand sanitizer stations have been checked and filled as needed.
4. Face coverings are available for those who do not currently have one. These are non-medical and donated by the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief.
5. 6 foot distancing spots have been placed for the serving line in the dining hall.
6. Our team will be wearing the o-so-fashionable Highland Lakes neck gaiters, or a non-medical mask, whenever we are in contact with our guests.
7. Our team will be monitoring our individual temperatures on a daily basis, as we have been for the past few weeks.
8. Our kitchen servers will be wearing face shields.
9. All utensils for dining are prepackaged or in dispensers.
10. Salads will be prepackaged. Milk will be in individual cartons, as will juice and condiments.
11. An EPA list N disinfectant for Coronavirus will be administered in common areas, such as the Worship Center, the Dining Hall, the Welcome Center, and the restrooms in each of those buildings.

We are making every attempt to comply with state guidelines, while maintaining as enjoyable and interactive an atmosphere as possible. Challenging? Yes. But Paul's admonition to the church of Philippi continues to guide our thoughts. We know the secret to being content...Christ is enough, and in Him we find our strength.

The future still holds great promise because of He who holds the future. We will continue to move forward in His strength and guidance to serve as a resource for others to Discover, Develop and Deploy a Transformed Life in Christ! Bring on the Fresh Oil!

On behalf of Director of Operations Rick Porter, Office Manager Sarah Wickersham, Food Service Director Linda Collier, Maintenance Guru Craig Kratzer, and all of our part time help, thank you once again for your continued prayers, your continued volunteer-ism and your continued financial support.

Covid 19
Highland Lakes 21
We Win.