



March 26, 2020

To: Friends and Supporters of Camp Peniel

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your past support for Camp Peniel and to update you on the ministry of Camp at the present time.

We are facing challenges as individuals, families and communities such as many of us have never experienced. There is so much uncertainty in our lives. These difficult times are having an impact on the ministry of Camp Peniel, like all non-profit organizations. The Board of Directors, in consultation with our staff, is working to navigate the issues facing us. We are thankful for the leadership of Kerry Crowell, our Interim Administrative Director and all the work she is doing to keep Camp Peniel running smoothly. We are thankful for Emily Goodwin, our Summer Camp Director for 2020, who is receiving applications for staff and, with the help of Board Members, conducting interviews. Pray for these ladies as they give leadership to Camp Peniel.

We are moving ahead in our plans for the summer season, while at the same time, recognizing that these plans are subject to change. We will follow all government directives and will be discussing what the summer will look like at an online Board Meeting on April 2nd. We will be keeping the churches and public informed of our plans for summer camp.

We are facing financial challenges as a camp, and we know that many of you are feeling the impact of the global pandemic, as well. We began 2020 with an operating deficit in our Line of Credit of approximately \$21,000.00. Revenues for 2019 were lower than we anticipated based on giving from other years. We need to resolve this Line of Credit debt and are working to do that.

We have also been forced to renovate the washrooms that are attached to the exterior of the Lodge. There was extensive rotting and water damage to the floors. We have had a major donation towards this project, and are very grateful for that, but the costs are higher than expected in order to do the job correctly, and avoid similar issues in the future.



Our Spring Auction has been rescheduled once and will most likely have to be rescheduled again. We will keep you informed as to when and how we will move forward with this annual event.

With all of these challenges it would be understandable and very human for us to be afraid for our camp's ability to continue operating. As I considered this the words of Nehemiah 6: 9 and 11 came to mind. Nehemiah was facing threats and challenges to his work on the walls and temple at Jerusalem. He responded by saying, **"For they all wanted to frighten us, thinking, 'Their hands will drop from the work, and it will not be done.' But now, O God, strengthen my hands...."** ¹¹ **But I said, "Should such a man as I run away?"**" (ESV) I believe that the ministry of Camp Peniel is vital for our youth, our churches and our region. I believe that we need to pray that God will strengthen our hands. I do not believe we should run away in fear.

We, as a Board and staff, covet your prayers for the work and ministry of Camp Peniel. We also ask you to give prayerful consideration for a donation to Camp Peniel at this time. Every gift, large or small, is essential and greatly appreciated. Paul's words seem especially appropriate for the present situation. He said, **"Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. ⁷ You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."** (2 Corinthians 9: 6-7,NLT)

May God bless you and your families and keep you safe in and through these difficult days.

In Christ,
Rev. Dr. Jim Rhyno,
Chairman, Camp Peniel Board of Directors