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The Impact of COVID 19 & Our Response

Over the past 3 weeks our Board and Executive Director have been in conversation and prayer about the COVID 19 situation that’s affecting all aspects of our society today. We continue to read and watch as the majority of the United States has gone to social distancing, our schools and churches have had to close their doors and we find ourselves taking it one day at a time.

We are trying to do our best to help “flatten the curve” and be responsible with our interaction and social distancing on the grounds. Our first cancelled retreat was the weekend of March 15th. Over the past 3 weeks that date continued to extend through the middle of May.

***CAMP PROGRAMS***

This past week our County Health Department made the decision that all campgrounds close until July 1st. As a result, many of our programs this spring and early summer have been greatly impacted.

* All camp programs from now until July 1st are cancelled
  + Retreats
  + Delta JOY
  + Delta Men’s Retreat
  + Haven Camps #1, #2, #2.5

This past week, a difficult but unanimous decision was made by the Delta Lake Board to also cancel Family Camp 2020. The July 1st date already took out the first half of Family Camp. Our inability to bring in any summer staff members until July 1st also makes it extremely difficult to be prepared to run a program of that magnitude.

If you are currently registered for Family Camp 2020, you’ll receive information shortly about how we plan to move forward.

As a leadership team, we are keeping a close eye on things to be able to make wise decisions about the rest of our summer. We are in communication with our County Health Department to make sure we are going about planning wisely. Our youth camp programs must be certified through the Health Department to operate.

The current decision by the Board is to request cottage owners to hold off on coming to open up their cottage until at least May 15th. While the Health Department has closed our programs until July 1st, the statute does not cover our cottages. However, they have strongly recommended that no one arrive until the July 1st date they’ve designated. This date could also change as we get a better sense of how this is progressing.

Those cottage owners that do come prior to July 1st will be required to continue to practice social distancing and no group gatherings onsite will be allowed.

This continues to be a fluid situation and we are in constant contact with our local leaders to determine what are the wise and prudent steps to take. These decisions are being made with everyone’s best interest in mind…our guests, campers, cottage owners and full-time staff. Please understand that we want to be able to welcome and serve guests, but we also must be responsible.

***FINANCES***

Financially, this has had a very negative impact on our ministry. We were poised for one of our strongest years on record with a full retreat calendar and an incredibly busy summer with guest groups every day from June 6 – August 30. Now that can’t happen.

We have cut down our expenses as much as possible. Our decision right now is to not lay off any of our workers and pursue the stimulus assistance for small businesses. That would be able to cover our most necessary overhead expenses while we wait to open our doors and begin holding retreats, camps and conferences.

As you feel led and are able, any and all gifts to Delta Lake during this time are very much appreciated and sorely needed.

***PRAY***

Please pray that our staff and families remain healthy and away from the virus.

Please pray for our finances during this time with no camp programs and lost income.

Please pray for wisdom in being good stewards of this wonderful ministry.

***STAY CONNECTED***

We encourage you to stay connect to all that’s going on at Delta Lake. We’ll continue to keep you updated on projects taking place around the grounds and any updates about this summer’s camp programs and beyond.

Follow us on our Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts. You can also email our Executive Director, Steve Clark, for more information at [director@deltalake.org](mailto:director@deltalake.org),

Our hope remains in the Lord and our confidence is in Him! He is always faithful and will see us through this challenging time as we seek to follow His Will for Delta Lake.