



Greetings in the name of the Lord! We pray that your year has been full of good work, health, and most importantly, growth in the Lord. Here at CBX, things are going really well! The camp has been busy with groups at camp almost every weekend this fall enjoying all that CBX has to offer. After several slow years, it finally feels like our operations are back and that the camp is being fully utilized year-round!

As the year winds down, I would like to take this opportunity to share with you several important happenings at CBX. We are hard after the Lord's work here and want to include all of you in the way he is leading and working in this ministry.

- 1) **Summer Ministry** - This past summer, our camp program was full with numerous kids on the waiting list. Most of these kids came from the foster care system, broken homes, group homes, and other difficult situations. Each week, the campers had an amazing time in the lake, ropes course, zip line, mountain bikes, and many other activities. Most importantly however, the campers had the chance to hear the Good News taught twice a day from our Bible teachers, Jacob Posey and Summer Quiring. It is our goal to completely saturate campers in the truth of Jesus Christ. We want them to know after a week at camp that he is their only hope and their only salvation!
- 2) **Facility Improvements** - Several years ago, the Board of Directors committed to fortifying the existing structures at CBX. This meant that we would not be building new buildings and activities for several years. Since 2016, we have completely restored the log exteriors of Alpine and Eagle Lodges, made significant improvements to the furnishings and interiors of Alpine Lodge, replaced the back deck of Alpine Lodge with a new covered wrap around deck, renovated the camp entrance, repaired several major needs on the ropes course, planted a new apple orchard, and installed new water and septic systems. I recently hosted a past staff member who hasn't been to the ranch in 20 years. They marveled at how cared for and well-kept CBX appears to be. Our goal is to continue to pursuing this good work in 2024 with a front porch and office access to Eagle Lodge and hopefully (we are still raising funds for this) an entire interior/kitchen renovation of Eagle in 2025. Please be praying for the \$50K we need for this renovation.
- 3) **Legal Protection** - In early 2023, I contacted a Christian attorney that specializes in preserving Christian Liberty for non-profit organizations. Our guidance to them was to evaluate CBX holistically so that we can maintain the freedom to stand firm on God's truth in a culture that increasingly attempts to thwart such endeavors. We have taken several measures to preserve this liberty for CBX and according to our attorney, are well situated to stand firm for God's truth well into the future! Praise the Lord!
- 4) **Inflation and Insurance Woes** - As most of you are experiencing, inflation is a punch in the gut. This is especially hard for small non-profits such as CBX because a) the things we need to run camp are more expensive and b) charitable giving takes a dip as folks wrestle with how to pay for things themselves. Our general giving for 2023 has dipped significantly. We anticipated this happening and took measures to cut costs earlier in the year, nonetheless, things are looking lean as we come into the end of the 2023. To make matters worse, we were just notified by Church Mutual Insurance that because CBX is in a high-risk fire area, they will no longer provide all of our insurance coverage. This is the case with most insurance providers. The best quotes CBX has received more than quadrupled our premium. This new premium would be equivalent to one third of our total annual budget for the entire ministry. Please keep this in your prayers as a couple of quotes are still pending.

- 5) **New Statement of Faith** - CBX is committed to the faithful ministry of reaching the unreached youth of the Southwest for the glory of God! It seems like this is increasingly not the case with many Christian ministries. Compromises on truth, mission, and sin are far too common when organizations are pressed for what they truly believe. At CBX however, we are doubling down on the truth of God and His commission to reach the lost. In mid 2023, the CBX Board Of Directors approved a new statement of faith for the ministry. This statement is now a robust document that provides clarity on key and central theological and cultural issues and sets the camp up for many more years of purposeful work. You can review this statement on the CBX website at www.crossbarx.org

6) Matching Giving Opportunity in 2024

We are excited to announce that our Board of Directors has personally committed to match up to \$12,000 of new giving in 2024. This means that they will match dollar for dollar all new and increased giving from any current CBX supporters as well as any new supporters in 2024. This is a great chance to extend your support for CBX and to help this ministry continue to flourish for years to come! If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, please make sure to write "2024 matching giving fund" on any donations you make in 2024.

One last story I would like to share with you. Just last week I was helping facilitate a large ropes course group from the local middle school. There were approximately ninety 7th graders out for a day of learning and growing on our adventure activities. During the day a young lady came running up to Cora (my 15 year old daughter) and me. This young lady was a familiar face to us as she has been a camper for the past 5 years. She was a ball of energy as she approached us and before we could even get a word out this young lady shared that she was about to be adopted! 5 years prior this young lady had made her way to CBX shortly after being removed from her biological mothers home that was full of violence, drugs, and other dangers. She was angry, defiant, and difficult as a camper that summer. In the years that followed, we made many in roads with her, but it was always difficult as she was regularly being moved around to various foster homes.

This past year, at the age of 12, she has settled into a solid home and for the first time in her life is in a loving and stable environment. As we chatted about her pending adoption, she shared that CBX was a place of safety and refuge for her during those difficult years. It was where she started her foster journey and she wanted to make sure that we would be there on the day she stood before the judge and was adopted into her new family. Of course will be. The work for CBX will continue with this young lady for years to come. She has a family, praise the Lord! For the past five years we have faithfully pointed her to Jesus as her only hope. She has read her Bible, asked questions, interacted with her counselor, and expressed an interest in growing in faith. This work will continue in the coming summer and for as long as the Lord allows us to work with her. Please pray that the Lord calls her into his eternal family just like he has so graciously provided an earthly family for her.

Thank you for your support of CBX. We are blessed with a faithful base of financial and prayer supporters. Without the Lord using you to support this ministry, we could not do it!

God Bless you all!



Tim Miller
Executive Director
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