

Over the years, I have had many 'catchphrases.' My very first summer as the Program Director, each time I would exit the stage from an announcement, I would leave with the phrase, "Love ya, bye!" What started as a phrase that I would share with select summer staff quickly became synonymous with my presence that summer.

An idea that goes back just as far that remains just as true now as it did at the beginning is how much I love this work. There is something unmistakable about the way the joy of the Lord is different when the work is being done in love and through ministry partnership with God. I often think of Colossians 3:23-24, which says, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." What a gift it is to know and serve the Lord!

January has kickstarted another fun year of ministry at Lake Beauty! This month, we had guest groups, hosted the camp board, and some of us took part in the Midwinter conference in Denver, Colorado. Progress has continued on our plans to have a dual zipline on the spot of the old one and hiring has continued for summer staff. We have found ourselves busy in preparation for the coming months.

I can hardly contain my excitement as I share with all of you that summer camp registration is open! Summer camp is something that we all look forward to and so it is always a joy when we reach milestones that draw us closer. Our Pathfinder interns and I have plans to go out to around 20 of our partner churches over the next three months, sharing vision for summer and garnering excitement for what is to come.

We have also received nearly all of our data from the Power of Camp study that we took part in this past summer. It is always our goal to make Lake Beauty the best, safest possible experience for all who attend. Our results were very encouraging, offering insight into what we are doing well in and what is worthy of some more of our attention.

We are also gearing up for our Marriage Retreat, February 14th-16th. There are still available spots and registration is open through February 11th. Consider joining us for some great worship sessions, meals, and fellowship.

I hope that you are able to join us here at Lake Beauty this coming year to see what we are up to. Thank you for your continued support and prayers!

Cheerfully in Christ,
Jodi Bertrand