



Mission Friends,

It has always been my desire to serve God in whatever ways He makes possible. Seven years ago, when Brian Alnes, then the Executive Director of Lake Beauty, approached me about becoming Program Director, I was reluctant to step away from my youth pastor role. Yet through prayer, I sensed the Lord leading my family and me back into camping ministry. What followed were four unforgettable years, some of the most stretching, joy-filled, and faith-shaping years of my life. From the daily rhythms of raising a young family while serving hundreds of youth and families, to navigating the complexities of a global shutdown, to facing the sudden and heartbreaking loss of Brian, I learned to trust God's provision in deeper ways than ever before. That trust eventually led me into another season of uncharted waters: accepting the call to serve as Lake Beauty's Executive Director.

These past three years in that role have brought immense personal and professional growth. It has been a humbling gift to continue the legacy of those who built and nurtured this place long before me, and to serve the churches, youth, and families who affectionately call Lake Beauty their "second home." I've learned new rhythms of leadership, embraced challenges that helped me grow, and treasured countless moments like walking the grounds during Family Camp, washing dishes alongside summer staff, singing silly songs before chapel, and listening closely as campers discovered God's purpose for their lives. I've walked with many through both heartbreak and hope, and I've been continually reminded of the goodness and power of the God we serve.

Throughout my time here, I've tried to keep my hands open, willing to say, like Isaiah, "Here I am, Lord, send me." And now, after much prayer and discernment, my family and I believe God is sending us into a new chapter, serving campers and staff in Oklahoma. I have informed the Board of my intent to resign as Executive Director at the end of the year. This decision was not made lightly. It does not come from a lack of love for Lake Beauty, its mission, its people, or the work I've been privileged to do.

I am profoundly grateful for the years we've shared, the ministry we've built together, the memories formed, and the countless ways God has moved in this place. Lake Beauty will always hold a special place in my heart. As we step forward in obedience to God's leading, my prayer is that Lake Beauty continues to flourish as a place set apart where lives are transformed by the love of Christ.



Phil Tolbert, Executive Director

Year-End Giving Update

Earlier this year, after taking a careful look at our budget and financial trends, the Board and I recognized a pattern: rising costs and lower-than-expected attendance meant that Lake Beauty was borrowing from itself during the winter and repaying those funds when revenue increased in the spring. To move from “getting by” to truly thriving, we launched a Year-End Giving Campaign to raise \$100,000—an investment that will strengthen our ministry heading into 2026 and beyond. Many of you received a letter inviting you to partner with us in this effort.

We are thrilled to share that, thanks to the generosity of donors, **over \$40,000 has already been given!** We are deeply grateful for every gift, every prayer, and every word of encouragement.

There is still time to give, and we would love to see the full goal reached by December 31st. What a tremendous blessing it would be to finish the year strong and position Lake Beauty to flourish in the season ahead. Even though I will be stepping away at the end of the year, my heart remains fully invested in seeing this ministry thrive.

Would you prayerfully consider joining us?

Every gift—large or small—makes a meaningful impact. If you didn’t receive a letter or would still like to participate, you can send a check or give online at [Donate](#).

Together, let’s help Lake Beauty continue to be a place where God changes lives.