

The Lenten season kicked off the other night; many could not go to their local services around here because of the impending snowstorm that stretched across the nation. I never grew up celebrating Lent or ‘actively’ giving anything up for the cause until I went to college down in Nashville. I remember sitting in a Wednesday night Bible study when Lent began and was asked what I’d be doing to celebrate the occasion; I was slightly dumbfounded by the question and did not have an adequate reply. I know some people use this time to reflect and give up something they think is getting in their way of following Christ closer; others choose to give up something they feel is necessary and try to live without it, like Jesus did giving up food in the wilderness. The Lenten season begins the ‘Road to Easter’ in the Christian liturgical calendar.

I like to think of it as the beginning of the summer camp season. It’s when many of us, myself included, are out and about on a Wednesday or Sunday at one of our member churches. Though this is a busy season, I enjoy getting to know those who support camp with finances, time, or registrations.

I look forward to hearing stories from all generations about how their time at camp changed their life, usually for the better! For example, I just had this experience at a church the other day. I stayed a little after the service ended, talking with somebody who told me about how they and their kids came to know Jesus for the first time at Lake Beauty; it was a special and sobering moment.

Knowing that Lake Beauty has been impacting lives for 60 years is awe-inspiring. We have done this through our traditional summer camps, family camps, guest group retreats, LBBC programmatic retreats, and within the last decade, with our Solid Rock School of Discipleship. These programs could not have endured their longevity if it weren’t for the many supporters—both churches and individuals—who bought into the mission of Lake Beauty Bible Camp. We are all a part of ‘Proclaiming Jesus and reflecting his love through a high quality Christian Camp experience.’

It has been a month since I’ve officially taken the role of Executive Director at Lake Beauty. I am thankful for Keith Krueger, whose interim role formally concluded at the end of February; he helped keep the Lake Beauty ship afloat during this season of transition; we owe him a debt of gratitude. To say that I have been drinking from a firehose is also an understatement! I wish there were more hours in the day to learn how to be the servant leader God has called me to be for this place, which is so special to us.

I was looking at our end-of-the-year statement from 2022 just recently and saw that Lake Beauty had raised just under \$20,000 for camper scholarships last year! We utilized that to allow campers to come to camp who may have needed it to be able to do so. Thank you to those that generously gave to the cause. I challenge us all to double that amount this year. To see how many campers, guests, and Solid Rock students we can get out here to experience the living God in such a sacred place! Please contact me if you want to know how to partner with us on this. I am all for furthering God’s Kingdom in many ways.