

As I prepare to head out on a long overdue vacation with my entire family, the thing that has been on my mind the past couple of weeks is getting the word out to our own churches and reminding them of the Pastor and Ministry Staff Family Retreat that happens every summer at Lake Beauty.

I want to be loud and clear; we offer this for your pastors and their families at no cost because we LOVE healthy churches and healthy pastors. For many this is their biggest break; for many this is their only break. Your church can give the gift of time to your pastoral and ministry staff, not as vacation, but as well deserved retreat to refresh and renew. Our prayer is that more churches would add this retreat to the expectations of their staff. There aren't many options for pastors to get this kind of a retreat with their families without cost. As we partner together we want to help make sure that your staff are healthy.

Just a reminder, The Northwest Conference is the ONLY conference that does camping right. The churches own the camps. We are here for you! What we are providing at Lake Beauty is being encouraged at our conference camps. Pastor and ministry families are spreading the word! Take a moment to hear about the experience of one pastor and his family.

Summer 2014 was the first time my wife, two-year-old daughter and myself attended the pastor's family retreat at Lake Beauty. As a youth pastor I go on many retreats and trips, and as I look back on these past few days the word "good" was written all over it. It was good to have a retreat specifically for us (we do retreats with students all the time at camp; why don't we pastors get one?). It was good to be on vacation with my family. It was good to hang out with other pastors who were old friends or became new friends! It was good for my wife and kid to hang out with other pastor's wife and kids (can't tell you how significant this was!!!). It was good to swim in a gorgeous lake again! It was good to relax and have fun at the camp. It was really good food (I mean it). It was good that it didn't cost us hundreds of dollars in lodging and registration (in fact, our family spent a total of only \$80 the whole trip which included getting some Lake Beauty swag)! This trip for my family was so good that we already are planning on coming back next year; and we strongly encourage you and your family to join us to take advantage of the opportunity to invest in yourself and your family in such a simple and good way next summer!

I second everything my husband shared! 2014 was our first time to Lake Beauty all together, and it was amazing! I was so encouraged by all the family friendly activities and children's activities.(example: Bikes with helmets, mountain boarding, lake activities, gym, etc.). I appreciated how you helped families make the most of their short time at camp by giving opportunities for horseback riding and zipline, but still allowing the freedom to roam. Meals were great...I really want the recipe for the spinach pasta dish we had on the second night!!! Bathrooms were amazing! Thank you for putting the extra time and money into making those so wonderful! We stayed in cabin 1. I loved that there were campfires right there, which allowed us to put our child to bed, yet we could stay close by. It gave us further opportunities for one on one time with my husband, which was so nice. We had a wonderful time! I can not begin to

express what a beautiful opportunity Lake Beauty provides for ministry families to connect, make memories, and build relationships. Thank you for this blessing! I hope this is a ministry that can continue for years to come!

2019 (same family, 5 years later)

The Pastor and Ministry Staff Retreat at Lake Beauty Bible Camp (LBBC) is the highlight of our summer family trips each year. It's the perfect way for our family to "end summer" as we get ready for kickoff at church.

We come because it is relaxing; the whole family can come; we get to spend time with people we don't see too often, and it's free! We are so blessed by the staff, such servant hearts. And, we love opportunities to talk about their summer and how God touched the lives of campers young and old alike.

Our daughter loves getting to hang out with her new friends by playing games at the park or swimming in the lake. She likes staying in cabins, rock climbing, and seeing the horses. Our youngest loves exploring the beautiful campus.

We also enjoy getting to spend quality time with ministry friends and their families. There are lots of fun memories made around bonfires, board games and lengthy conversations about life and ministry.

This year's Pastor and Ministry Staff Family retreat is August 17-20, 2020. We want to see all of our pastors here to refresh!