

“Iron sharpens iron, and one person sharpens another.” Proverbs 27:17

This proverb is one that most are familiar with, even outside of Christian circles. This idea that “iron sharpens iron” relates to the reality that we are sharpened (think refined or improved) by those relationships that call out and affirm the good in us and challenge those things that do not serve a higher purpose.

I take a lot of joy in months like this past January, February, and March as they offer the opportunity to be surrounded by like-minded ministry folks. Back in January, I was able to attend Midwinter. In February, our staff attended the CCCA sectional at the beautiful retreat center that is Lake Geneva Christian Center. Then, midway through March, three of us on staff were able to attend what is called an “advance” for the first time. Each of these events serve to provide us with opportunities to be encouraged, challenged, and sharpened by our peers in camping (and general) ministry.

Specifically, at the Spring Advance, that took place at Camp Shamineau, I was able to share some of my challenges in working out summer camp programming. It can be scary to be vulnerable- to feel like I don’t have all the answers for the position that I was hired for . But, it wasn’t scary. It was honestly quite the opposite. To be surrounded by others- some who have served in their positions longer than me and others even greener- provided a great deal of encouragement. It was incredibly affirming to share my struggles and get real-time feedback and ideas... and then to be able to speak advice into other’s struggles.

Iron really does sharpen iron.

However, far and away, I think that the most encouraging thing to come out of any “advance” or workshop or conference is confirmation of the reality that we are doing all of these things to serve a much higher purpose. God really is so good to us.

We are so excited out here at Lake Beauty to welcome youth campers in less than 70 days! Please continue to hold Lake Beauty in your prayers as we seek to fill our final summer staff positions, find the volunteers that we need, and lift up our campers that they would come to know Jesus even more deeply this summer.

Thank you for the ways you support Lake Beauty!

Cheerfully in Christ,
Jodi Bertrand