

God is good...all the time.

I will be honest, like many of you, I've hit points looking at things at Lake Beauty and wondered, 'Will things ever progress?' I have heard from many who attend our Family Camps during the summer of their desire for new and updated outbaths that reflect a sense of thriving, not just the bare bones of a structure. I've taken each suggestion, request, and hopeful desire to heart, and believe me, as the Executive, I never want either our guests or staff to feel like they are second-rate and that we do not care to provide for them.

Things hit me at the last annual meeting, where conversations about 2025 and beyond addressed this problem head-on. Many there, who admitted to attending at least one of our family camps in the past, lamented the issue at hand. This was not the only issue Lake Beauty has been dealing with, but it is one of the easiest to point out. After that meeting, I sat down with members of the Board of Directors, where we came up with a few ideas and wants for Lake Beauty in the future; new/revised outbaths were to be on that.

We have also since added a couple of 'low-hanging fruit' items. Thanks to a generous donation from an LLBC-supporting marina, we found a reliable speed boat and lift at a lower cost that would be safer and usable for this summer and future summers.

We were also able to come up with a more efficient and effective way to cool our chapel in the summers. I am sure many of you have been packed in there on a closing session and wondered, "How did our kids survive here all week?" Let's be honest: it was very hot in that building, and it caused our campers to lose focus on what God was trying to tell them through our speakers. Again, with the help of our HVAC company, which is willing to serve and give back to Lake Beauty, we will have some of the best AC in mid-Minnesota (for a 60-year-old building).

These examples are just a couple of stories of how God is moving directly at Lake Beauty and indirectly through those who love and abide by the mission. I hope to have more stories for you about the progress God is making in the lives and property of Lake Beauty.

Whether with our new outbaths or other capital projects in the works, I know that I am looking first to God to take the lead, but I am also looking forward to sharing how he can use improvements to these buildings to help his Kingdom.

Though I don't have exact numbers, please pray and seek the Lord's guidance if you consider giving to the projects. You may think, "Phil, I'd love to see this through even though I don't have kids to send." This is one of those ways that you can help Camp Change Lives.

Speaking of how Camp changes lives, we surveyed our Junior and Senior High campers this summer, involving both the campers and their parents before and after their camp week. 91% of parents stated that their child was strengthened in their faith while out at Lake Beauty.

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Phil Tolbert, Executive Director