



Dear Camp Zion Friends:

From the first day of camp over 77 years ago, Camp Zion has been dedicated to life-change, and has impacted thousands of camper lives through the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Dedicated volunteers and generous donors play a critical role in achieving that mission.

We believe that Camp Zion's best years are ahead of us. **However, at this moment, we have a significant financial hardship that must be overcome.**

We are certain that God led us to begin developing the Gathering Place Dining Hall & Fellowship Center 15 years ago, and he has continued to guide the discussions and plans all along. This wonderful facility will give us desperately needed dining and meeting spaces for current and future needs.

When we began construction 2 years ago, a majority of the funds were already in hand. Then, we encountered a perfect storm of unprecedented obstacles:

- Covid drastically reduced worker availability, impacted the supply-chain of materials, and negatively affected construction timetables.
- Super-inflation caused costs to skyrocket, adding over \$1M to the total.
- A large, \$1.2M bequest from a generous friend is not forthcoming due to legal challenges.
- A small group of neighbors fought our project in court, causing us to incur substantial legal fees.
- Halting a modern construction project mid-stream would create even greater negative consequences. **The building is 2/3 complete; we have to press on.**
- Taking out a loan is an option, but is not a healthy one. We do not want to burden future generations of camp leaders and supporters with crushing debt.
- The immediate goal is to complete the essentials of the building before winter. We are currently value-engineering certain features out of the plan in order to save money in the short term. However, for the building to be fully functional and attract groups to camp, those features will have to be completed later, which will no doubt be more costly the longer we wait.
- We have been delaying major repairs on our south waterfront pier for years, but have been advised that we cannot wait any longer, or risk losing it altogether. The \$215,000 repair job could not have come at a worse time, but it must be done.

Despite these trials, we know that God is still in control. *"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."* – *Philippians 1.6*

The **GIVE TO GATHER** capital campaign asks you to **help us finish strong**. Earlier this year, \$300,000 was given by several generous donors. **Will YOU accept the challenge to help match that amount before December 31 with a sacrificial and generous gift?** Spread the word! You may know someone who loves Jesus, cares about kids, and might like to see camp thrive and be sustainable.

Thank you in advance, and God bless you for your support of the life-changing ministry of Camp Zion!

Blessings,

Dale Stewart
Executive Director