



May 2, 2020

Dear Camp Otyokwah Family,

It is with a heavy heart we need to inform you that the Camp Otyokwah's Board of Trustees and Staff have made the very difficult decision to cancel all June camps (through July 3) of the 2020 Summer Camping Season in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Due to ever changing guidelines and regulations with regards to the pandemic, a desire to keep our campers, staff and their communities safe and healthy, as well as a commitment to being good stewards of this ministry center, we do not see a way to proceed with camp as usual this summer. We are making a difficult and painful short-term sacrifice to ensure the long-term mission of Camp Otyokwah for years to come.

Camp is antithetical to social distancing. What makes camp so special and important is the community aspect of it. Living in cabins together, eating meals in the dining hall, playing group games on the field, worshipping together ...all of the things that make camp what it is- cannot be done and still practice social distancing to a satisfactory level.

We know this decision will grieve many campers and their families who look forward to their time at camp and view Camp Otyokwah as a second home. Know that we are heartbroken with you- camp is not meant to sit empty! It should be filled with the sounds of campers and staff talking around the picnic tables, energetic all-out camp games, playing at the gaga court and worshipping the King of Kings, whether inside or under the stars.

As you can imagine, not hosting the 2020 summer camp season will necessitate significant adjustments in the operations of Camp Otyokwah. This greatly effects the camp's financial position as well as leaves many families who were looking forward to this camp season with yet another cancelation on their calendars. If you have already registered for a week of camp directly and paid deposits or payments we will be contacting you in the coming days with options for refund, credit or donation.

Know that we are praying for you. We also humbly ask for you to pray for us. There is no playbook for how we navigate these new waters, but we are certain that the way we get through these challenging times is together, unified by our faith in Jesus Christ and our confident hope in the new life found in the resurrection. Instead of choosing fear, anxiety or worry, we are encouraging our Camp Otyokwah families to stand firm on the spiritual foundations that we know to be true: God is Sovereign. God is good. God wants what is best for us...and He can be trusted. Camp Otyokwah Board of Trustees and Staff will keep you informed of changes and updates in the coming weeks.

In the Old Testament, God commanded Israel to practice the Year of Jubilee- a year of renewal and restoration- a time when the community reset itself. It is our intention to use this season that at first appears as lost time as an opportunity to make Camp Otyokwah better than ever before. Our leadership team is not taking the summer off- we will be hard at work going over and improving our organizational structure, our programs, and our facilities as we seek to make Jesus' Name famous in our community so that summer 2021 will be the best summer in the history of Camp Otyokwah.

Trusting in God's Faithfulness with you,
Camp Otyokwah Staff & Board of Trustees