



## Looking Back

Almost exactly a year ago we had a group come from a church in Wisconsin to run a winter retreat. A couple of the students from the church were wearing masks and there was a lot of talk about a new virus we all needed to be worried about. A week after that group left the world shut down and life changed in a drastic way. 2 weeks later our Operation Center burned down and we lost everything we needed to run camp for the summer. We were faced with a lot of challenges and some crazy unknowns. We definitely don't want to live through those days again, but looking back it is so encouraging to see how God was constantly providing for us. Like the Israelites, we were always given what we needed for each day. Somedays it was financial. Somedays it was an encouraging word. Somedays it was the group that didn't cancel... Whatever it was, God was constantly in the moments that put together this past year. We learned a lot and are grateful for what He has given us over the past 12 months.



March 20, 2020

## Winter Update

Last summer we started getting calls from groups wanting to cancel their winter retreat due to COVID. As the fall clipped by those cancellations sped up and we had no idea who would come this winter. Then something amazing happened. New groups started calling looking for dates! Other camps had shut down for the winter and several churches needed a place to come with their students. As it turned out, we had lots of openings and were able to book everyone that wanted to come! We went from a fairly empty winter to having a group here almost every weekend. We were able to serve almost 650 students and staff over the course of 2.5 months. The snow and ice were fantastic this winter and the groups that came were able to connect with their students in some pretty amazing ways. We were able to handle COVID well and we heard of no outbreaks from any of the churches that brought a group. Even though our total winter attendance was down about 65% from the previous year we are so thankful that ministry was able to happen and students were able to connect with God and each other.



March 10, 2021



# Compass

This Compass year has been one of our favorites. The students are all fantastic and Jill, Conner, and Elaine are doing an amazing job leading the crew. The students recently returned from a trip to Ecuador where they spent a couple weeks serving alongside a local missionary. They were able to experience life in the jungle and learn more about international missions and how the Lord is moving in other countries. This year continues to be life changing for everyone involved and we will all be sad to see it come to an end in a couple of months!

Please keep the students in your prayers as they continue to learn and grow and discern what is next for their lives.



## Looking Towards Summer

Sometimes it feels like all we do each year is get ready for summer! Those three months are by far our busiest season and we spend a lot of time prepping for it each year. Equipment needs to be repaired and updated. Staff needs to be hired. Schedules need to be built. Not to mention the spring projects we always try to fit in! What makes this year unique is that we are pushing forward with summer prep like normal but we don't really know what summer will look like. At this point we are feeling optimistic. We have a number of groups booked and almost all our staff hired. While there are still a lot of unknowns, we are moving forward as if summer will look more similar to 2019 than to 2020. We are hoping and praying that we can have another packed season of ministry!

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### Note from Director - Steve Higgins

But you, O Lord, will be exalted forever (Psalm 92:8)

The above verse is what I've written on all the thank you letters that have been sent out this month. My desire for this year has been to be in a place of constant praise and steadfast faith. Philippians talks about straining forward and pressing on toward the goal. Running this race of faith takes effort! The Christian walk isn't supposed to be easy. The image of pressing and straining doesn't make sense unless something is pushing back against us. My prayer is that this year you will remain STEADFAST. Stand firm. Stay focused on what you know to be true. And above all...

**KEEP THE FAITH!**

## Prayer and Praise

We have so much to be thankful for! This ministry continues to grow and more students are coming to know the Lord. God continues to provide and we are trusting him to continue leading us.

### Praise God for:

- Our staff. We are so thankful for the EU Family
- Financial Provision. It's been a hard year but we have been blessed abundantly.
- Consistent Groups. We know that not every camp has been able to stay open. We are thankful we get to continue doing ministry.
- A new building that is even better than the last one
- Healthy families
- A great year with the Compass students
- Supporters who have committed to pray for this ministry daily.
- His steadfast love

### Please Pray for:

- Wisdom and safety as we approach summer
- The staffing gaps we still have
- Unity among staff. Division has been a huge problem within the Church this year and we don't want it to creep up here.
- Staff members that are not yet fully supported.
- Summer group commitments.
- The hearts of students who made commitments of faith this winter.