

Dear Parents,

Camp is just around the corner! I hope that gets you as excited as it gets me. One of the best aspects of Student Ministry is the opportunity to take a group of students to camp where they get to hang out with one another and other students from across the nation, experience authentic relevant worship, receive great Bible teaching, and experience God move in their lives without the distractions of normal everyday life.

As you all know, for the last several years our students have attended Reach and Quest Camps at Ouachita Baptist University. Although those camps have both been quality camps, and God has definitely moved among our students at them, this year we felt was time to explore new doors of ministry opportunity. As a result we will attend Student Life Camp this summer at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, OK. Neil McClendon will be our speaker, and Billy and Cindy Foote will lead us in worship each evening. In my past experience I have had the privilege of working with Student Life in several different venues and events, and I have always been thoroughly satisfied with the quality of their ministry.

The dates of this year's camp are July 20-24. As we get closer to that date, we will make sure that you are well-informed of our itinerary. We do ask that you begin now praying for camp. I am excited as I think about what God is going to do this summer with our students.

With all this in mind, and in light of our current economic situation, I felt it necessary to encourage you to do one of two things to ensure that your student does not miss out on this great camp experience. Many of you have already paid a deposit of \$50 for your student to go to camp, leaving you a balance of \$209. If that is the case, you could begin making monthly payments from March through July of about \$41.80 per month to complete your balance. If you would prefer not to do that, then you could begin to save that amount each month so that when we ask for the balance in early July you will have it set aside. Although many have paid deposits, several have not. This leaves you a balance of \$259 for your student to go to camp. Again, you could make payments of about \$51.80 per month from March through July, or you could save that amount each month.

Recently I was asked about why camp cost so much. To that I reply that an investment into the eternity of our students is not so much a cost thing, but rather a priority thing. Think about it for a moment--we send our students to sporting camps, cheer camps, band camps, and other camps to help them be successful at all sorts of other things, should not our concern about their spiritual condition trump all of these?

As always there are a few scholarships available for camp, but if your student needs scholarship help, please let us know ASAP so we can ensure that we have enough scholarship funding. Thank you for allowing me to partner with you in ministry to your student!

In His service,

Grady McDonald