

# OUR DECISION TO CANCEL CAMP2020

## SUMMARY

Agreed by the Board of Directors and Genesis Staff (Core Team), the 2020 Summer Camp Program for Pioneers for Christ—and supporting Counselor Training Program (CTP), have officially been cancelled due to concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic spread throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic sectors of the country. Pioneers for Christ's Camp Program expects to resume in 2021.

## A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Since I began as a junior counselor in 1989, with the exception of one summer, I haven't missed a single season of Pioneers for Christ's summer ministry. In fact, even in that one missed summer, I remained engaged throughout the preparatory months leading up to Camp. In reality, the entirety of our team is deeply passionate about Camp each summer, and for most of us, it's a given that we will be at Camp, Lord-willing, each year.

*But this year is different.*

At the start of the pandemic, the PFC Board of Directors and Core Team agreed that we need to be on the “right side” of decision-making on whether or not to continue with Camp in 2020. So, when the outbreak began in America, we watched, studied, referenced expert counsel, and discussed options. We spoke to medical professionals on the front lines. We spoke to leaders at other camps. We spoke to others in ministry. We prayerfully waited as confirmed coronavirus cases increased (and they *continue* to increase daily).

As you may be aware, Camp consists largely of children from all over the country—particularly, the Mid-Atlantic region. We now reach as far as 10 states—sometimes, stretching across both coasts of the United States, but a large part of the Camper community resides in the *current epicenter* of the pandemic—and the Camp location itself is situated between two very large cities that have been impacted heavily. Regardless where you sit politically, or even scientifically, on the current state of our national crisis, our Board and Core unanimously agreed that, to be on the “right side” of decision-making, we need to take extreme measures to ensure the well-being of our Campers as our first priority.

## OUR DECISION

In light of the above, we officially decided to cancel Pioneers for Christ's Camp2020 program and our Counselor Training Program (CTP), in order to remain true to:

- The **parents** who entrust their children to us each year; we are so grateful for the over-arching trust and relationship we have with so many of you.
- The **children** entrusted to us annually; we deeply care for each of our Campers' well-being—the risks to their safety and health were the primary factors in our decision.
- The **team**; it is critical to ensure *their* safety and health as well—many of them parents, teachers, doctors, business professionals, and ministers, themselves, who cannot risk exposure to their own families and extended communities.
- The **program**; we believe that sustaining a viable social distancing “policy” is

virtually impossible in an *overnight* camp ministry that thrives on connections, counseling, mutual sharing, growth, and a deep experience of personal and communal worship and fellowship—while sharing the same rooms and restrooms in close quarters.

- Our **values** and **mission**; other retreats, churches, and camps are welcome to disagree, and although it may not seem much to the outside eye, to those involved, the time and resources that are invested by each team member *voluntarily* each summer results in a very integrated series of overlapping values and initiatives—any disruption to our approach must be closely examined with respect to its impact.

Of course, a lot of children and youth (and you, as parents) will be disappointed by our decision; please understand that we prayerfully took this into account. Nevertheless, we believe that our conclusions are sound and real—and our decision is for the glory of Christ, as we rely on His sovereign and shepherding hand over His people.

#### WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2021

In April 2021, we will open applications for our Counselor Training Program, and, Lord-willing, in May 2021, we expect to resume registrations again for *both* weeks of Camp. We will post next year's Camp dates shortly through our web and social media channels; in the meantime, you can bookmark *similar* date ranges to our current weeks of Camp.

#### IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR FEEDBACK

Please do not hesitate to reach out by emailing us at [questions@pfc.us](mailto:questions@pfc.us). We look forward to connecting with you again, and we pray that you and your children will not forget Pioneers for Christ in your plans next year. Please remain safe—while all the more pursuing and leading your children to “know Christ, the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings (Philippians 3:10).”

Providential Blessings in Christ.

On behalf of our Board of Directors,  
The Genesis Staff (Core Team),  
Pioneers for Christ,



Donny Cho  
*Executive Director*