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As we roll toward the end of summer and the beginning of the school year, it is eerily quiet in Gallagher's Cove. Although we have had beautiful weather, we grieve the loss of opportunity to serve our student and family campers. I'll paint you a picture:

As I walk from my house to the office, I usually see blue sky, some clouds and the beautiful Pacific Ocean. On the horizon to the North and East, the mountains are visible (most days) and there are the ever-present seagulls, pelicans and sometimes eagles. At different times of day, we see fish jumping and, of course, many boats of all sizes for the enjoyment of fishing, paddling and other leisure activities. Along with the sound of ocean, boats and birds, we occasionally hear a fox yelp, deer tramping all over camp, and bees buzzing – this year we have had hundreds of honeybees (not yellowjackets). Although our cove is alive with the sounds of nature, there is a great void and we miss the delightful sound of children and adults playing, talking, eating and (especially) worshipping together. It is the same wonderful place, without the wonderful people that make it a memorable camp experience.

Before I make it all sound too sad, let me declare enthusiastically that God is in this place. He has not been quiet, instead He has faithfully led us through a COVID spring and summer. He has provided protection and mercy which has enabled us to maintain camp and complete projects so we will be ready when allowed to host campers again. InterVarsity has been gracious to cover our bills and keep a few of us employed through the year, even without any service related revenue.

At the beginning of summer some of our staff family were laid off, a few others were furloughed until we are able to reopen and there are four of us employed with regular, though reduced hours. Our total focus is preparation to reopen in a strong way, with new COVID sanitation and "distancing" protocols in place. We are guided (and restricted) in this effort by the LA County Health Department. We are strengthened daily by our Lord – who informs me regularly that He is not finished using this camp for His glory.

Here is my request:

- Please pray for all of our staff family - whether laid off and seeking other jobs, furloughed, or working with reduced salaries.
- Please pray for continued negotiations with the Catalina Island Conservancy as we seek to continue this ministry.
- Please pray for the renewal process of our Conditional Use Permit with LA County (and if you are aware of an architect who can help with this, please let me know).
- Please pray that we will soon be able to serve campers in a safe and enjoyable manner. God is faithful. He hears and answers our prayers.

As we look toward 2021, we are eager to see all that God will do. There are many hurdles – the largest pertain to COVID (health department restrictions, confidence of parents and guest group leaders to allow retreats and camps to take place) – yet there are also many opportunities. Planning is beginning for student conferences, marine science classes, Family Camp, HS/JH Combo Camp and (we hope) many church and school retreats. As CBS becomes an independent ministry, we are encouraged to dream of all that God might bring our way. We are grateful for you and all who will participate and lead Campus by the Sea into the future... so we can continue serving campers for God's glory (our mission) for generations to come.

Hal Hill
Camp Director