



Indian Lake Nazarene Camp

Edward D. Richardson, Interim Executive Director

February 2015

It has been awhile since my last update and I appreciate all of the people who have asked, "How are things going?" It is so exciting that people want to know about progress at Indian Lake Nazarene Camp (ILNC) and are already looking forward to Summer 2015! First I'd like to share with first time "ILNCers" that ILNC has been around since 1926. Our Michigan District Assembly approved the purchase of our first land in 1926 and the first camp meeting was held in the summer of 1927.

Just as a reminder that "things take time," the first resolution to start this camp was noted in district minutes in 1921 as a resolution submitted by I. E. Miller to have a "District Camp meeting." It was noted again on September 9, 1922 to form a "Camp meeting Committee with authority to act." Four years later the District Assembly approved the purchase of land in a District Assembly held in Flint, MI. The purchase of our first 32 acres of land, about 2 acres we call "The Point" and 30 more acres of vacant land on Indian Lake in Vicksburg, MI was made August 18, 1926. Churches were asked to raise \$1.00 per member to purchase the land. We now own about 232 acres. We should not forget we have ILNC because somebody thought about it, somebody prayed about it and somebody provided the funds to purchase it. We are the beneficiaries of their sacrifice, best thinking and God seeking.

Now back to today. One of the concerns over the past two years was our financial condition. It was true that we had some debts outstanding and participation in youth camps and other programs were down or moderate. Donations were down as well. Many maintenance issues loomed. It was time to implement changes.

It remains important to recognize that many people, including the previous camp boards, directors, lay leaders and staff at ILNC did much to keep ILNC alive and witnessing, through the many years of service, challenge and change. Let's never forget their work. Even with the best efforts of those at the time, new issues called for new responses. Many of you wanted to know how we are doing on some of the challenges of a year ago. Here is an update on these matters.

1. The annuity payments on the 180 acres of previous farmland were about 8 months behind. We reached a written agreement with the party owed the annuity. All back payments were paid up-to-date (with interest) and have been paid every month since.
2. We had a great summer of participation starting with Fourth of July Weekend (Remember we lost electrical power and had to stop folks from coming to the campgrounds until the electricity came back on. When it came back on many folks immediately came to ILNC and we had a great weekend celebration!) Thanks for everyone for their flexibility, hard work and support.
3. During Family Camp week we had about \$15,000 given to ILNC to our general fund. (The MI District started a "Family Camp Fund/Supt Club" that virtually pre-funded the camp itself. That money goes to the Michigan District for Family Camp expenses. If you haven't yet made a contribution to the Michigan District Church of the Nazarene for "Family Camp," please consider sending your contribution to the Michigan District Church of the Nazarene and mark your check or letter as "Family Camp/Supt Club." If we continue to "prefund" Family Camp, all offerings and fund-raising during the week of Family Camp could come to ILNC.
4. Steve Butler, as the Financial Officer of the ILNC Governing Board, has been handling the repayment of a previous improvement project known as the "WaterFront Project." It had a debt balance of approximately \$630,000 to complete the repayment. Your contributions and three-year commitments of \$60 per month have significantly reduced the "principal owed" by over \$100,000. That was about the same principal payoff as the previous 10 years! I can't wait to hear the new paid-off amount this summer!
5. Over the past summer there were a number of improvements and renovations completed on the grounds. Some of them include:
 - a. New concrete around the snack bar and outdoor patio.
 - b. Re-surfacing of the "main streetscape" in front of the dining hall.
 - c. The Prayer Cottage and Welcome Center painted.
 - d. The tabernacle lower base painted gray.
 - e. The Paul Moore Museum base painted and roofing repairs done.

- f. The entire campground planted with new flowers.
- g. The RV Showers repainted.
- h. The snack bar had guide wall installed, the back area widened and new booths added.
- i. The basketball backboards were painted w/camp logo.
- j. Donors & volunteers improved the Dorm landscaping in honor of Larry Smith.
- k. Numerous electrical and heating improvements were made behind the scenes.
- l. Trash bins were added during busy weeks and much more that are not listed here.

Let's be clear. Most of this was accomplished by volunteer labor and the hard work and supervision of our staff. Generous people, the income from camp usage, and the support of our district churches funded the improvements.

- 6. To summarize the financial progress of the past year so far, as of today, all past debts due have been paid and all ILNC payments are current. Please know that we have had close weeks where we did not know how we were going to be able to stay current. Our checking and savings accounts combined have fluctuated between \$1,700-\$90,000 dollars. Thanks to a slight increase in campers (about 630 total campers up around 30) and camp income, individual giving, on-time payments from our residents and the support of the Michigan District Advisory Board, we are making it! We should all rejoice in God's goodness and the commitment of the supporters of ILNC!
- 7. All this makes me continue to believe that Indian Lake is going to continue to be a place where God speaks to us! If the Celtic Christian idea of "thin places" has any merit, I think ILNC is one of those places (a thin place is a place where heaven and earth seem to be very close together)! Perhaps more theologically accurate, I believe the Kingdom of God has come! Our Lord, Savior, Messiah and King came in the form of the fully-God, fully-Man baby Jesus. He took away the power of sin and death on men and women, so we are now forgiven (Christ's sacrifice) and do not ever have to be out of God's presence ever again (eternal life/no death). Do you see the Good News here?



Emily Compton is ILNC's Reservations & Marketing Manager. She will help you plan any activity you have in mind at Indian Lake. Her previous background in teen ministries is very helpful in supporting our camps. Give her a call to plan your next camping experience, personal retreat, church meeting or overnight stay at ILNC!

Camps & the future of ILNC

Much is new for our camps. First, we were so excited when **Jon Croft** returned to the Vicksburg area as our **Director of Camp Programming and Mission Partner Relations** last summer. He, along with **Yolanda Oliver, Registrar** and numerous others, provided fast camp registrations. Even more exciting is the fact that Jon will join us full-time in May of 2015.

We welcome Jon to the ILNC team and love the fact that he will bring wife Annie, daughter Lucy and son Jonas with him. Annie already donated so much volunteer time last year. We appreciate who she is and what she contributes to ILNC unasked and unexpected. Welcome back Croft family!

The Michigan District NYI and SDMI are working closely with our ILNC Director of Camp Programming to have a great camp celebrating and learning about God's "Great Outdoors!" Each camp is learning about God and God's creation! What a great time to study God's word and enjoy his creation!

Jon Croft (left) is the new full-time Director of Camp Programming & Mission Partner Relations

