

Mephibosheth leaders, volunteers and staff have wrestled with whether or not to have camp this summer. With a lot of thought, consideration and prayer, we've decided that camp will have to wait until next summer. We are all disappointed about it, but the safety and health of our campers and volunteers are our greatest responsibility.

The guidelines and requirements from the CDC informed our decision. Here's how:

### **The risk for infection is high**

According to the CDC, our campers are at the highest risk of complications in the event of contracting the virus because of disabilities and related medical conditions. Also, a large number of our volunteers are high-risk with age and underlying health issues.

We are blessed to have campers and volunteers from many different parts of Indiana. However, traveling from different geographical areas increases risk of spreading the virus as well.

### **Our ability to maintain the guidelines is low**

Per the CDC guidelines, extensive safety procedures would need to be followed to ensure the health safety of our campers and volunteers. At this time, these would include wearing masks while indoors, social distancing of 6 ft. between campers and staff, and staying in small groups with limited interaction between groups. Meals would need to be in small settings rather than all in one room.

We agree that these are necessary measures to ensure the safety of campers. However, the limitations would fundamentally change how we "do camp." Since fellowship, as well as following a normal routine, is very important to our group, difficulties could arise with the changes that would need to take place.

### **While we wait, we can still celebrate!**

This summer marks what would have been the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of camp! Even though we will have to wait for next year, we can reminisce about past years with your pictures and stories. Post them to Facebook or email them to us and we will share them in various ways during the upcoming year. We will appreciate camp even more in 2021!

*<sup>12</sup> Be joyful because you have hope. Be patient when trouble comes, and pray at all times. – Romans 12:12 (NCV)*