

Grateful as a Season Closes

There are plenty of seasons that close with little or no hope: the Browns (or Cavs or Indians) limping into the offseason, the fall giving way to winter, or the last episode of Seinfeld. However, some seasons close as a new beginning for another: think winter giving way to spring or high school graduation leading to college.

For the past 7 years, Chapel Kids has hosted a 9-week summer day camp for kids. Through Camp Straight Street (renamed Camp Kafi for last season), many kids have met Jesus for the first time, other kids have been equipped to know Him more meaningfully, parents have had additional partners in discipling their kids, and numerous young people have grown as spiritual leaders serving at Camp. We thank God for many successful seasons and innumerable seeds that have been planted.

With grateful hearts and a bit of sadness, we're saying goodbye to Camp. For many of us, worthy memories, old lanyards, and remaining friendships will abound as we look back. The summer of 2012 just won't be the same without Camp.

For the past three years, we've increased our investment of creative energy, strategic planning, and financial resources into Camp while simultaneously experiencing annual declines in campers. When Camp launched, few other summer alternatives existed for working parents, and both the economy and employment were stronger. Additionally, a leaner kids ministry staff and a need to focus on our core ministries have made an assessment of our priorities essential.

Across three campuses, we have the privilege of serving, with several hundred dedicated volunteers, the families of more than 1200 children every week. This past summer at camp, we averaged about 100 kids a week, seeing 40% of those campers routinely.

Increasingly, we desire to help strengthen the fabric of our church by creating quarterly campus-specific opportunities for families to have fun together and build relationships. Over the summer these events will be monthly, and, this June, you can look forward to VBS on every campus. By refocusing our attention and effort, we're able to pursue these and other events, bolster our core Sunday AM and Wednesday evening ministries and even establish some margin to explore new places the Holy Spirit may lead us.

For all who made Camp so fun and engaging, we're grateful to God for your partnership. Please join us in thanking God for the work he's done through Camp.

To reminisce with some favorite pictures and videos from Camp, drop by the Facebook page. We'll miss camp.

The Chapel's Kids Team.