



South/Central Indiana District MEMO



Handle With Care

With summer in full swing and many things to do inside and out, we are all driven by so many things that call for our time. This summer I spent a week at Camp Mack as a co-team leader, there were 50 fifth and sixth graders in our camp and we had 8 wonderful counselors to help us provide direction and fun for the campers. Four of the eight were volunteers, the others were camp staff. I was grateful for the leadership these young people provided for our week at camp. The volunteers took time away from their work some even took vacation time to be at camp for a week; that is how important the camping program is to them. We spent the week showing the campers how to handle with care the creation God has given us.

More and more it is getting harder to find volunteers to council our campers. I know that your plans are all made for the year, but I would ask you to think now about your summer next year and carve out a week so you can get involved in the camping program. Our camp is in a time of transition and we all need to take an active role in the life of the camp. There is a capital campaign going on and I am sure you will be contacted soon about that. Not everybody is equipped to spend a week in a cabin with 7-10 young people, but there are many other ways to help at camp, you can volunteer to work in the kitchen or on the grounds. Our camping program provides a significant helpful future for the campers who attend. We are blessed to have a camp of the magnitude, and leadership that cares about our young people. In my 30 plus years of camping experience I have always blessed with great experiences at camp.

May 1970 was a challenging time for me, when my brother was shot on the campus of Kent State University. That summer I went to camp at camp Inspiration Hills in Northern Ohio. I remember it was a time when I felt the world around me needed to get back to whatever normal would be. My counselor let me use his guitar and showed me how to play the chords to a song that our cabin was singing at the talent night. I had never played a guitar and have not played one since, It was just great to have someone have confidence in me to allow me to play his guitar and show me how to do that. It was at that point and time that I knew I would be OK it was also at that point that I was able to move on with my life knowing that I would be OK and that with God I could get through anything that life will give me.

Throughout my life camp has been a place I have retreated to for direction and to get in touch with God. When I was called as District Minister, I spent three days in retreat at Camp. In those three days I read the New Testament, it was a time of great direction and planning. I have also spent the winter creating community with nine other men, creating community at the Quite Place. Whether it is taking time to be with children or time alone in retreat camp has been a place of direction and learning.

This summer the theme at camp is "Handle with Care" our lessons at camp focused on creation, and God's love for that creation, so much love that Jesus, God's Son came to earth to emphasize God's love for us. As you enjoy this summer remember to handle with care the creation God has given us, and share the love we receive through God's son Jesus. Have a great summer and remember lives are being changed at camp, and you can help.

Peace and Love
Allen R. Kahler