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Dear family and friends,

The last of our summer staff left three days ago, after spending several days working to deep clean each of the main camp buildings. As the buses rolled out, we closed another season at Barakel where we saw God work in many ways. Alyssa and I are very thankful for the summer that took place. Our roles this year allowed us to work much more closely with the summer staff, which we really enjoyed.

My first summer as the program coordinator went as smoothly as it could! This is a new role at Barakel, so obviously, there were some things to figure out along the way. However, I was very blessed to be able to teach and work with our two summer staff programers, Titus and Faith. Both of them did very well in their roles and helped the summer run very smoothly. My job was to come alongside and assist them as necessary, while still giving them space to make the program their own and grow in their skills. I was also the lead programer for each of our high school weeks this year, which was a blast! If you're not familiar with a Barakel high school week, they are a lot of fun. Instead of having the regular one to two programers like a regular week, there are four to five programers to assist with all the work. The theme this year was Spymasters, so our team worked together to create riddles and puzzles, set up various camp-wide games, and figure out which paintings were authentic or frauds in a masquerade banquet at the end of the week.

Alyssa and I were also able to serve as the YAPS (Young Adult Program Staff) coordinators, which might have been our favorite role this summer. This was also a new role for us, so we were also blessed to have Anna Southwell as our YAPS personnel assistant, who had already done a fantastic job in that role last summer. In this job, we hosted and taught Bible studies and meetings to help the YAPS grow in their relationship with Christ. Our Bible studies this summer were specific passages from Isaiah. We also hosted weekly YAP fun nights, where the goal was just to build friendships within the group. For those events, we did things like a fractured game room olympics, a Mario Kart tournament, and a cookie decorating competition for Christmas in July. We loved the opportunity to build relationships with them this summer. Taking on this role also meant that we were invited to be leaders for the end-of-summer Mackinac Island trip for the summer staff!

How have we seen God work recently?

- God provided us with a new car! I totaled ours when I hit a deer in July, and we were not sure how we would find another living in Fairview. Within a couple days, I got a call from a friend who said they had a 2014 Chevy Traverse for us. We were so encouraged to see God provide in this way.
- All in all, this summer went very well! There were a lot of staff working in new roles, but people worked together and handled difficulties well.
- In the provision of summer staff. There were a few weeks this summer that we had to turn away some YAPS because we did not have jobs or housing for them. We are amazed to see how God provided in this way.

How can you pray for us?

- Pray for rest during the next week. We are going into a time of vacation and rejuvenation for the RMS before fall retreats begin. Pray that we would return with more energy to serve well!
- We are a little bit short on support. Pray that God would continue to provide for us.
- Pray that God would call more staff to the ministry, both seasonal and resident staff. We need more people who are willing to serve up here!
- As always, continue to pray for unity among the resident staff, board of trustees, and the Barakel community.

Thank you for your prayers and support for this ministry! If you have questions, feel free to reach out. We love hearing from you!

Tim and Alyssa Elliott

Our favorite chapel song from this summer!



One of the random games I did with summer staff during cleaning week. I played some play-along videos on a tv screen, and then had them play their note on the head of the person in front of them.



Alyssa and I enjoying the Mackinac Island trip with the summer staff.



Our new car!



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