

# DVM NEWS

## FALL NEWSLETTER

### NEW LEAD TEAM

The Deer Valley lead team has some new members this fall:

- Joel (assistant director)
- Simeon (property manager in training)
- Lynda (food services manager)

They all have served at DVM previously and now join Tim in providing leadership onsite.

### SUMMER 2020

As many of you are already aware, this past summer was the first in our history to have no camps run. It was disappointing, but also is only one summer and God has much more in store for DVM fun the coming years.

We do want to thank our summer staff team for their hard work and positive attitudes during a challenging time.

### COVID UPDATE

We continue to offer our services with appropriate health restrictions. Many of our bookings are smaller or have postponed to a latter date. In every area of DVM Covid is challenging and none more so than finances. If you are considering a year end donation, please keep us in mind.



## THE PAST 8 MONTHS...

So much has happened since our last communication and we would like to share some of it with you in this newsletter. From shutting down, to partial re-opening, fully reopening (with Covid precautions), navigating what it means to operate in this new reality and so much more. It has been a crazy season at Deer Valley.

In our last newsletter, we shared that DVM closed its doors to guests due to Covid. At that time, we did not know how long we would be shut down. Due to restrictions it became clear that the camp season would be cancelled, we pivoted to offering RV sites and...



## DEER VALLEY: A SHIELD BEARING MINISTRY

In 1 Samuel 14 there is the story of Jonathan and his shield/armour bearer attacking a Philistine outpost. Jonathan led the two of them through difficult ground while seeking God's guidance if they should attack. They were outnumbered and at a disadvantage, being on the low ground. Yet Jonathan believed that the Lord was with them and his shield bearer stood by his side as he followed God's leading.

Shield bearers, in the time of this story, were considered great warriors and had the honour of bearing the armour for others, so that when the battle came the leader (such as Jonathan) was refreshed and ready for the fight. Shield bearers, as in this account, also joined in the battle and had the back of those they served.

This is a great metaphor of DVM. Local churches and ministries are the champions of Christ that we support. We have the backs of those in front line ministries. We provide resources and facilities that ministries could not afford on their own. We believe that God has a great plan for churches and other ministries and our role is to support and resource them.

This is a new way of communicating what has been in the heart of Deer Valley Meadows since the beginning. As we seek what the future holds for DVM, the pathway forward will be shaped by this heart.

...cabin rentals to families and cohort groups. The leadership felt that, as much as we could, it would be important to offer people a place to rest and find peace in the midst of the pandemic.

There are many stories of families, friends and even churches taking the opportunity to use DVM as a place to safely gather and reconnect. One church booked enough spots for 50 people to share a weekend together that culminated with an open-air church service. I (Tim) was privileged to join this service and was impacted by the fact that this was their first time gathering since the pandemic began and they were not planning any services again for several months. Sitting with those 50 people as they worshipped Jesus, I was reminded that Deer Valley exists as a place for people to connect with each other and even more so with our God.

This pandemic has been a season of perseverance and challenges for everyone. There are days when it is difficult to see hope in the midst of all the discouragement. As people of faith we understand that God is bigger than a virus, his plans reach much longer than this season and he is our source of hope and Truth. Deer Valley is a place for you to encounter Christ in the midst of a crazy world.



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## MORE UPDATES



### FACILITY UPDATES

During this past season we have begun to update our property, facilities and furniture. A few areas we have begun with have been the fireside room, dining hall suite and the fountain area. We have trimmed up the trees in the area by the auditorium, which will be great during Family Camp. With almost a quarter section of land and millions of dollars of facilities, the updates will take time and be ongoing as finances permit.

Our hope for the suite is that it will be a place for rest, retreats and study.

### HALL OF MEMORIES

As we renew our spaces, we are seeking to find ways to honour our past, while moving forward. We relocated the ABI/Gardner class pictures and memorabilia to the entrance hall of the dining room. You can now access the year books and photo albums easily. It has been great to watch people find their family members in the class pictures.

### WORSHIP SITES

With the sign installed for The Rock, the worship site team is now looking to begin work on the next site. Stayed turned for more details as this project readies to begin. Thank you for supporting these sites.