



CEDARS CAMPS SUMMER REVIEW



**PRAYER
WORKS!**

Thank you to our entire community for your strong prayers. We felt their impact in ripples of blessings.

INSIDE

- 02 SUMMER 2020
- 04 FRUITAGE GALLERY
- 06 CEDARS LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS
- 07 CARE HOUSE
- 08 ONGOING NEEDS

LESSONS FROM SUMMER 2020

Summer 2020 was different from anything CedarS has experienced in its 59-year history, and yet full of blessings. God opened many new opportunities for outreach and spiritual depth. Read on to learn more about the fruitage realized during this unique summer.

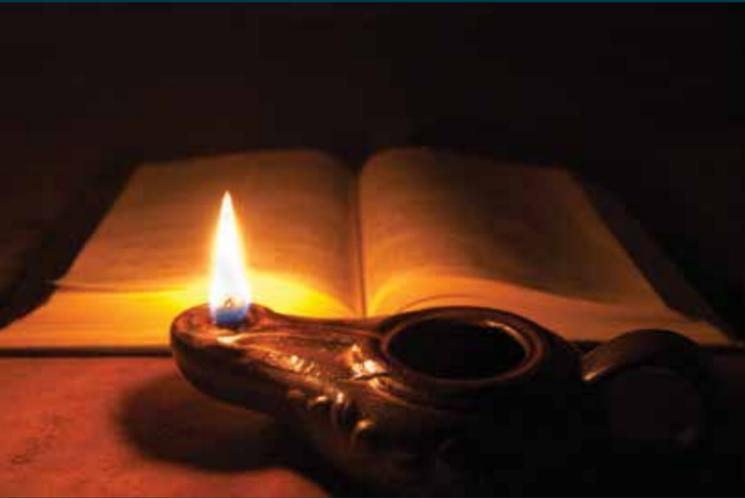
STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

410 Sovereign Ct. #8
Ballwin, MO 63011

NONPROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ST. LOUIS, MO
PERMIT NO. 462





THE OIL LAMP APPROACH

As state, county, and CDC guidelines constantly changed around us, we needed to become more childlike in trusting God's moment-by-moment direction for camp. Inspired by an oil lamp that Warren brought back from a recent trip to Israel, we gained a fresh perspective on the verse from Psalms, "Your word is a lamp to guide my feet" (Psalm 119:105). In Bible times, there were no electric spotlights to illuminate the far-off distance, but rather the soft glow of the oil lamp to guide just the next step. The oil lamp (God's Word) shows what we need to know here and now. Moving forward with the oil lamp, we demonstrated step-by-step patience, meekness, and trust. The oil-lamp approach helped us to exercise the very qualities Mary Baker Eddy cites in her definition of "oil," including consecration, prayer, and heavenly inspiration (*Science and Health* 592:26). When we tried to outline the future too far ahead, someone would gently state, "that's beyond our oil lamp view right now," and we would pause, and re-focus on God's instructions for the present need. Reflecting the all-knowing Mind, we found that we knew all we needed to know when we needed to know it.

"A RULE FOR MOTIVES AND ACTS"

Throughout the spring, we worked closely with "A Rule for Motives and Acts" from *The Manual of the Mother Church*, praying to let go of "mere personal attachment" to what camp should look like this year. We prayed to know that "Divine Love alone governs man" while adhering to guidelines from state, county, American Camp Association (ACA), and CDC policymakers. (See *Manual of the Mother Church* 40:4.) The motives that guided our summer decisions were to love our neighbor, reflect wisdom, and offer a camping experience consistent with our Christian Science foundation.

THE ONLINE CAMP DECISION

We canceled our May and June programs due to state restrictions, and by late June the governor of Missouri opened the state to Phase II, which allowed summer camps to operate. On June 21st, we brought our staff onto camp property for pre-camp training, fully intending to welcome campers in July. We prayed deeply as we observed the difficulty of following CDC and ACA guidelines with just the CedarS staff of over 100 in the dining room, and it became clear that it would not be wise to bring campers onsite or into the rural town of Lebanon this summer. As the CedarS Directors and Trustees used our oil-lamp prayer, we felt divinely guided to shift our camper programs online while nurturing our staff onsite.

CARE HOUSE TEAM

Throughout the summer, we maintained at least two Christian Science practitioners and two Christian Science nurses onsite at all times as our Care House team. We experienced a summer of excellent health, well-being, and safety. Even more, we saw in our staff a renewed spiritual hunger, rich discussions, and a desire to interact with the Care House team.

A NEW TYPE OF STAFF DEVELOPMENT

In a typical summer, staff members are so focused on campers that they aren't always able to pause and tend to their own needs. This summer, we encouraged staff to "slow the game," as explained by Larry Patterson, our full-time CedarS Ambassador and Specialist in Diversity and Leadership Development. This meant pausing to listen to others, praying in stillness and without an agenda, savoring each moment, and facing issues that we may have overlooked. Staff delved into ideas like forgiving ourselves and others, ministering to one another, asking tough questions, and spending time with the Pastor.

Although we operated in a "camp in a bubble" model, avoiding in-person contact with the general public, our community committed itself to embracing our world beyond the "CedarS bubble." Our staff had discussions devoted to healing racism, sexism, mental health issues, unemployment, and COVID-19. This summer's staff testimony meetings were very inspiring and rich with healing.



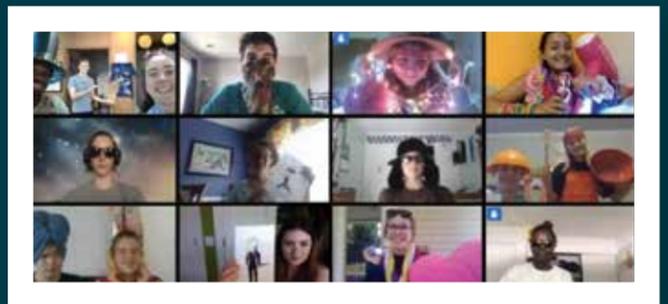
Staff voted to rename the Commanchero cabin to Pathfinders, in honor of Larry Patterson and the qualities we prayed with this summer.

Imagine eighty-five young people who had been isolated all spring because of stay-at-home orders coming together to train, serve, bond, pray, and play. This time included training in activity areas, preparing for and conducting online teaching, a week-long staff retreat, and service weeks. As one counselor explained, "Being in this community of practicing Christian Science has really been reaffirming for me. I have found an enlarged sense of happiness and peace." And while this summer may have been just what staff needed, they 100% want campers back next year!

CREATING A CEDARS-STYLE ONLINE CAMP EXPERIENCE

The CedarS staff launched into learning innovative ways to facilitate activities, discussions, and friendship-building online. Across the three weeks of online camp, we welcomed 273 campers from eight countries, including the United States, and we offered programs for campers who speak Portuguese and Spanish. A wonderful bonus was that 40% of online campers were first-time campers to CedarS, and many were newly or re-newedly interested in Christian Science.

Generous donors stepped up to provide laptops and hotspots to over a dozen campers in need so



that they could participate. Like at camp, campers earned credit toward their five-and-ten year awards, received a metaphysical theme t-shirt, and were presented with Quality Awards. And the onsite Christian Science practitioners participated in daily Bible Lesson study with cabin groups, made themselves available to online campers and their families, and witnessed wonderful healings.



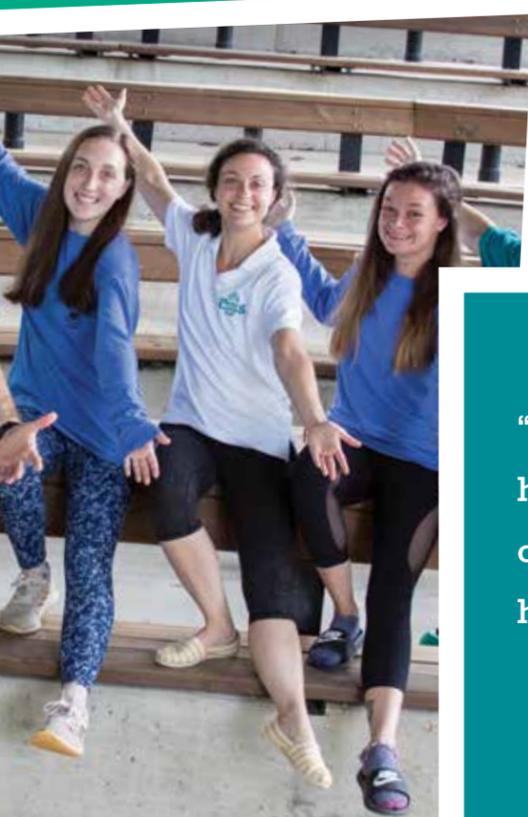
FRUITAGE

"... Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field. . ."
Isaiah 29:17



"The online camp fulfilled a need for social engagement as well as wholesome activity and spiritual growth. The joy I see [our kids] expressing makes me so happy!"
-Parent of Online Camper

"I cannot put into words how grateful I am to be at CedarS, to be at the place where I found Christian Science, and to be able to tackle these kind of scary and daunting challenges. It really has been healing for me."
-Counselor



CEDARS CAMPS SUGAR DRIVE

"This was my first time being in a group with other Christian Scientists my age. The counselors were really kind and good at keeping us engaged. I loved my counselors!"
-Online Camper

"Thank you for two beautiful weeks of CedarS at home. The daily Bible Lesson work, crafts, games, camp songs... it was all wrapped up in the Christ! It has been palpable in our home."
-Parent of Online Camper



GRACEFUL TRANSITIONS IN LEADERSHIP

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEDARS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board is grateful to announce that effective January 1, 2021, Holly Huff Bruland, Ph.D., will become Executive Director. Warren Huff will continue to serve as Executive Director Emeritus.

For some background, Warren was named Executive Director in 1978 by CedarS Board of Trustees when Ruth E. Huff, the founder of CedarS, was ready to “hand the torch” to the next generation. Ruth continued actively assisting CedarS and serving on the Board of Trustees until her passing in 2012.

In 1978, Warren felt called to step away from his work as a registered architect to return to CedarS and accept what he still considers to be the most important building project in the world—the building of spiritual values in the youth of our Movement. Warren’s leadership fulfilled CedarS’ mission by growing its summer and fall programs; envisioning and designing its wonderful, one-of-a-kind facilities; founding and editing the weekly Mets; and most importantly, by loving the CedarS family. Warren will continue to lead Bible Lands Park tours dressed as “Moses,” edit the metaphysical newsletters, provide architectural insights, and share his love of CedarS.

Holly has a lifetime of involvement at CedarS through participation at virtually every level. For the past five years, she has served as Director of Operations and has gradually taken on more responsibility for programs, staffing, and strategic planning. Holly’s clear direction during this “most different summer yet” certainly proved her readiness.

Lauren Stewart, Ed.D., will become the new Director of Operations. Lauren comes from serving as a Principia College Professor of Educational Studies with a specialty in outdoor and experiential learning.



This summer, Lauren was instrumental in preparing staff to teach effectively online.

Gay Huff will also be transitioning into a new role, with some extra time to devote to adventures in grandparenting. Gay’s tenure at CedarS began in 1966 as a Counselor-in-Training. Since then she has served continuously, fulfilling the various roles of Program Director, Riding Director, Housekeeping Director, Secretary to Ruth Huff, and Business Manager. Gay has provided unsurpassed attention to detail and sound business management while coordinating vast amounts of data, including travel, camper and staff records, payroll, and budgets. And she did it all with gracious hospitality and love.

Last year, Gay Huff was joined by Kim Howland as CedarS Co-Business Manager. Kim served 20 years at Principia College, with her most recent role as College Business Manager. Gay will continue supporting part-time as an Executive Assistant, while Kim takes the reins as Business Manager.

In their 100+ years of combined service to CedarS, Warren and Gay have touched countless lives. We are profoundly grateful for their service, as well as for the dedication of Holly, Kim, and Lauren. As Ruth Huff would always say, God has supplied CedarS with the “finest of the wheat,” (Psalm 147:14) and we are grateful for these harmonious and divinely guided steps in the management of CedarS Camps.

If you would like to share your gratitude for Gay and Warren’s contributions, please send comments and photos to kim@cedarscamps.org.

HYMN SINGS FOR ALL

Last March, we felt inspired to reach out to our community with an online hymn sing. We were humbly awed by the response—and have continued singing each Sunday at 7pm Central.

As a participant shares, “This weekly event has served as a consistent source of inspiration, joy, uplift, hope, and community. We feel more connected with the rest of the CS family than ever.” Participants have joined from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, England, Germany, Ghana, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Scotland, Spain, South Africa, Switzerland, and all 50 of the United States.

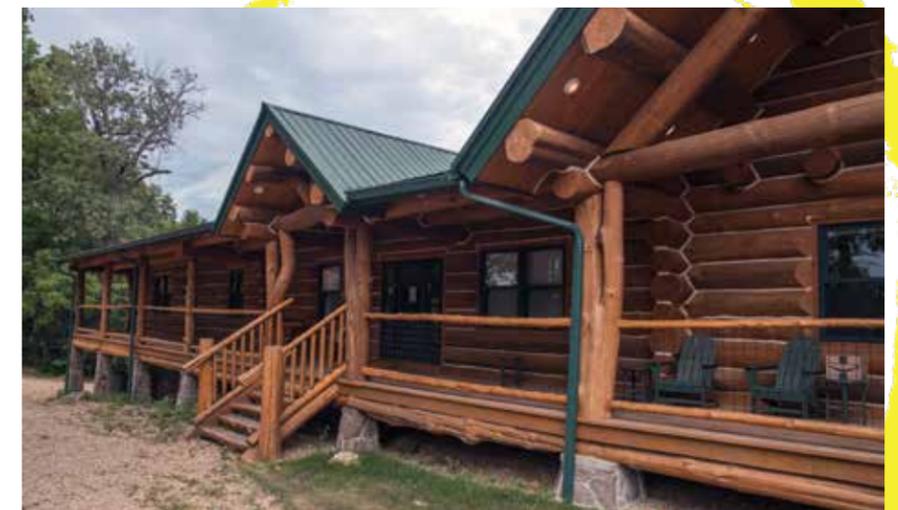
All are welcome to come sing with us! Email jennifer@cedarscamps.org or call 636-394-6162 for login details.

CARE HOUSE OFFICIALLY OPENS

In summer 2020, CedarS officially opened Care House, our new Christian Science care facility. It’s a three-story log cabin, designed by Warren Huff, featuring high ceilings, ample natural light, fireplaces, a spacious front porch with a view of the sports field, and a wrap-around back deck with views of the camp’s Mediterranean lake and cable ski park. Designed to reflect the simplicity and majesty of God’s Love, the building has already witnessed tender moments of healing, singing, and community building.

The facility also has seven patient rooms. This enlarged capacity meets ACA standards for the ratio of rooms to camp residents, correcting the primary limitation of the much smaller “PAL House” facility. The new building includes spaces for rest and study, individual care, onsite cooking, laundry, and group gatherings.

This summer, Care House was second only to Dawn Lodge in its level of activity. Staff loved to visit for Bible Lesson study, hangouts with the Christian Science practitioners and Christian Science nurses, church service preparation, soulful musical jam sessions, deep discussion, quiet listening, rest, and ever-flowing smoothies courtesy of the Christian Science nurses. Our gratitude for this mission-critical building is endless.



A RIGHT IDEA COMES WITH RIGHT SUPPLY

We are grateful to report that the expenses of this summer have been met, and we are now working to cover expenses through the start of our next camp season. Although we had less than 25% of our usual tuition income, we were blessed by many generous gifts from alumni, friends of CedarS, organizations, bequests, and a PPP Small Business loan to help cover a portion of seasonal and year-round salaries. Thank you for your continued support.

UNRESTRICTED GIFTS—**MOST NEEDED!**

Unrestricted gifts provide the greatest flexibility in meeting ongoing expenses, preparing for next summer, and being positioned to act on new inspired ideas. You can make an unrestricted gift online at www.cedarscamps.org/donate or using the enclosed envelope.

ADOPT THE HERD FUND—**MATCHING GIFT**

These funds help feed and care for our 70 beloved horses year-round. We have \$12,500 more to raise towards our \$75,000 goal. Make your gift by our fiscal year-end of September 30th and each dollar you give will be matched!

CEDARS ENDOWMENT FUND—**MATCHING GIFT**

The CedarS Endowment currently supports about 7% of what is needed to run our programs, pay our staff, and maintain our facilities each year. That means that we must raise the remaining 93% through a combination of tuition and contributions, requiring a lot of fundraising with a very small administrative staff.

Our goal is to grow the CedarS Endowment from \$4 million to \$20 million. This resource will support CedarS mission in perpetuity and ensure that CedarS continues to provide an uplifting environment, outstanding and spiritually-minded counselors, and engaging programs through which young people from all backgrounds learn to apply the Science of the Christ to every facet of life.

Right now, your gift to the CedarS Endowment will be matched, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$1 million to help in this important effort. We ask that you consider making any gifts to the CedarS Endowment Fund in addition to—rather than instead of—your annual contributions, as such gifts are still very much needed to open our gates next year!

For more information, please call our office at (636) 394-6162, email plannedgiving@cedarscamps.org, or visit www.cedarscamps.org/giving.



MAIN OFFICE

(September–May)
410 Sovereign Court #8
Ballwin, MO 63011
Phone: (636) 394-6162
Fax: (775) 264-6826

CAMP OFFICE

(June–August)
19772 Sugar Drive
Lebanon, MO 65536
Phone (417) 532-6699

WWW.CEDARSCAMPS.ORG