

URGENT MESSAGE

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April 11, 2020

A special word to each one of our valued Summer Program team leaders and team members-

These are truly difficult days—looking into a future that is at best “clouded and full of unknowns”. The world isolates in fear and confusion as to what “tomorrows” may hold. The “valuable” has been replaced with the basics of relationships, the reaching out of friendships, the simple tasks of befriending and caring, the quietness of unhurried living, and the moments of aloneness. We are experiencing a release from the demanding. But not without experiencing the great costs of change! YET, Our Great God stands with His PROMISES in stark contrast—His ever enduring PRESENCE, His constant PEACE and JOY, His undergirding STRENGTH and COURAGE, His calming VOICE whispering to each of His children “Fear not, I am with you always, even until the end of the age”, and His abiding COMMAND—“as you go, make disciples”. We are called to be ambassadors of the Kingdom of Heaven—even for such a time as this.

This summer will at best be difficult to engage each of our communities within the “large gathering” approach we are accustomed to taking. With this in mind, **DayStar is cancelling all of the regularly scheduled summer outreach programs** that have become so much a part of our commitment to each of our native communities. We do not know when each of the communities will be “open” again for individuals, not part of the community, to be allowed entry. With this view in mind—**PLEASE DO NOT PLAN TO HOLD THE REGULAR PROGRAMMING IN YOUR COMMUNITY.**

In keeping with this, we do encourage you in developing creative ways to interact with your community via social networking and technology, and future “small group” visiting. Some things to keep in mind -

- **Interact with parents/guardians/caregivers** asking permission before interacting with children—this gives us the opportunity to reach into the lives of both adults and children and also risk misunderstandings.
- **Personalize your communications** (puppet shows, Bible reading ‘skits’, craft lessons, songs) and other interaction—it’s easy to simply “forward” links to good programming and opportunities that are already online. Instead, make/remake them with your “faces” and use them to connect with the children, youth and adults.
- **Plan your interactions as an entire team**—use all of your giftedness, creativity, and expertise of your team — so you can connect with as many of the children/youth/adults as you would normally do through the summer program.
- **Use the “attendance” roster** and other personal information you have available to connect with each one of the children. If you do not have that information, please connect with Linda at the DayStar office and she will make that available to you. Many of the students have received ‘tablets’ as part of their ongoing education packets as a result of school closures. This may be a wonderful opportunity to engage **AS LONG AS YOU HAVE OBTAINED PARENTAL APPROVAL.**
- **Discuss the opportunities of “smaller groups”** visiting the community when the time is right. Discuss “creative programming” options that could be developed with these “small groups” - possibly “backyard” picnics, playground meetings, “picnic table” puppet shows/crafts/Bible story time, sand castle beach days, road hockey (other sports), hiking, etc.
- **Expand your “timeline”** - realizing that the summer months may not be available. Is it possible to “small team” (groups of 5-6) over the end of summer/fall/winter/spring months to interact with the community? Significant monies will be saved from the summer ministry that could be distributed over the next months to maintain contact.
- **Please pray** that God would awaken the hearts of each community **and be prepared** to walk into that awakening with prepared and skilled workers. God will give us the harvest as we prepare to labour.

DayStar’s commitment to reaching our native communities with the life changing Gospel remains the same. We are being challenged as DayStar staff to walk and engage in creative opportunities to fulfill that Commission as given to us by Jesus Christ. We encourage you to continue partnering with us in that journey. Change is never easy—but it will determine our successfulness. We trust God will give us great wisdom in these coming days as we labour together.

We would encourage “Zoom” meetings (or other formats) with your team over these next weeks as you discuss and plan. Shirley and I would much appreciate being part of those meetings, if possible, to both encourage and be creative with you. Please send us the email link for the meeting and we will join you in the adventure.

Continually in His Service no matter the times

Bernie Prinzen
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