



As we develop in our lives we change different aspects of what makes us who we are. This comes about from maturity, education, environment, relationships and technology. None of us do things in the same manner as we did twenty years ago. We are in a constant state of adapting to new things, finding better ways of doing various tasks and enjoying new developments. How many of us twenty years ago would have thought about carrying a telephone with us wherever we go and beyond that, being able to take pictures with it. Twenty years ago, most people did not seriously think about owning their own computer and today it has almost become a necessity in our day to day lives. We have come to be dependent upon them for communication, entertainment and information gathering. In business, they have become a necessity to remain viable in the market place in our society today. In that same way, Camp Christian has been in need of making some changes to be effective in it's ministry.

Things are not as they were twenty years ago, and especially not as they were nearly fifty years ago. While we all like to look back nostalgically and remember how things used to be, that does not keep them productive and effective today. The camp board has spent a great deal of time researching what works and what does not, praying and seeking wise counsel in determining changes that need to be made and what needs to stay the same.

One of the areas that has been and still is crucial to change is much of the physical aspects of the camp. The days of people wanting to stay in the shell of a building and not caring greatly about if it is heated or comfortable or not are long gone. It is one thing if you are out camping in the woods, but quite another when you are at a camp. To that end, we are in the process of up-grading the lodge, restrooms and cabins along with other amenities throughout the camp. It is a process that is limited by the amount of funds that are available for projects, but they are moving forward and God has been very gracious in His provisions.

Another change also was needed. For the second time, Christian professionals brought up something that the board has discussed from time to time, but wanted to wait on implementing until they felt the time was right. In 1959 when the camp began, the name and word "Christian" invoked a positive response from the majority of people in the community. Sadly, in our community today, that is not necessarily so. In evaluating what the camp is, in its truest form today it is a host facility that is developing its program to include more and more outreach. The name "Camp Christian" is one that does not express that we are more than simply a camp for youth in the summer. We are a year round camp and conference facility for all ages with a food service now that is on par with any excellent restaurant you can find. We have also found the name been has viewed by many as exclusionary. The question was recently posed, "Is it for Christians only?" The answer is of course, no, for if it were, we could never do outreach. For many reasons there was a reoccurring indication that there was a need for a name change.

**P.O. Box 182 Walterville, Ore 97489 \* 39545 Deerhorn Rd. Springfield, Ore (541) 726-7013  
[www.campchristian.net](http://www.campchristian.net)**

There was and is, a great sentimental attachment to the name “Camp Christian”, but that is not the proper reason to keep something the same. We are called to the ministry, not to keep things the same just because we might like it that way. Our first concern must be how everything effects the ministry and reaching others for Christ. If it is a barrier, then we need to examine how to change that. In examining other Christian camps, very few actually have the name “Christian” in them. Looking at Christ’s ministry, he did not preach to people telling them that He was the Son of God. He acknowledged that to His disciples but did not do so when teaching and preaching to the unsaved. He would have been received then much like someone would be received today if they were to claim that they were the son of God. Obviously, we have Scripture and prophecy to show us that Christ is the true Son of God, but that did not have a great deal of effect on the masses in His time either as most were unfamiliar with them just as most are today.

To that end, it was determined that a name change was in order. There was a desire to maintain continuity with the past and our heritage, but at the same time present an image that both reflects our Christian base without being a barrier to those we desire to reach. The result is that the ministry shall remain Camp Christian Ministries, Inc., but the site will be known from now on as Living Waters Camp and Conference Center.

This reflects Christ’s center in the camp as taken from John 4:10-11 and it further describes the camp as being more than simply a summer youth retreat while not being a stumbling block in doing out reach ministry. It also helps to signify that there has been a major change at the camp which has occurred and is continuing to do so. The ministry is expanding in the area of out reach with program development to a much broader range of people and ages with specific programs for specific groups being established. People are becoming excited about the ministry of the camp and it is taking on a dynamic that has not existed before. For the groups that have used the camp over the years it is well known, but it has been discovered that beyond those specific groups, the camp and it’s ministry are virtually unknown. There is a commitment to make the necessary changes which are already in progress.

Prior to making the change, in addition to a great deal of prayer, discussion and seeking wise counsel, the proposed name along with the reasons for the change was presented to a large number of people with various connections with the camp. These were people that range from long time supporters and volunteers to various user groups and others that have knowledge of the camp and an interest in it’s growth and future. The response was one hundred percent positive which was seen as a further confirmation that the time was right for the change. We are excited about the future of Camp Christian Ministries and Living Waters Camp and Conference Center and look forward to God’s continuing covering and direction.

In His service,

The Camp Christian Ministries Board