



Ridgecrest Foundation, Inc.
1 Ridgecrest Drive
Ridgecrest, North Carolina 28770

October 15, 2020

*And who knows
but that you have come to the kingdom
for such a time as this?
-Esther 4:14*

A Message from the Ridgecrest Foundation

On April 24, LifeWay Christian Resources announced that its board of trustees unanimously voted to clear the way for the sale of Ridgecrest Conference Center and Ridgecrest Summer Camps. Hundreds of us with a shared love of Ridgecrest – current and former staffers, pastors, conference attendees, alumni associations, volunteers, campers, parents, and congregations - began sharing memories and expressing concern through text messages, emails, Facebook posts, blog posts, and ZOOM calls. Mostly, we prayed. Despite assurances from LifeWay's CEO, Ben Mandrell, there was a tangible fear that the century-long legacy and vision of impacting lives for God's glory may be lost.

WHAT IS THE RIDGECREST FOUNDATION?

We are a newly formed non-profit ministry created by a kingdom-minded team committed to honoring the history and legacy of Ridgecrest. We have partnered with LifeWay to diligently and professionally oversee the transition of the Ridgecrest ministries. We are prayerfully marshaling all necessary resources to preserve and strengthen the Ridgecrest legacy for the next hundred years.

As memorialized in our founding corporate documents – “the specific purposes for which this Corporation exists are to share the love of God, as revealed through the life and teachings of His only son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the Holy Bible, God's Word; to be a steward of the legacy and assets of the Ridgecrest Conference Center and the Ridgecrest Summer Camps; and to support the ministries of the Ridgecrest Conference Center and Ridgecrest Summer Camps and their opportunities to impact lives for God's glory within a loving, servant-minded, purposefully hospitable, and gospel-centered environment. Christian principles found in the Holy Bible shall guide the mission of this Corporation and the ministries it manages and operates.”

Many of us wondered – in a challenging economic environment impacted by COVID-19 - is LifeWay truly committed to finding a new owner that will “continue to offer a Christian conference center environment and the operations of the boys and girls camps?” The answer is a resounding, “Yes!”

WHAT MORE CAN YOU TELL US?

We are a diverse group of men and women - including parents, former campers, staffers, guests, volunteers, friends, and others who have been personally impacted by the Ridgecrest ministries and passionately support the mission of the Ridgecrest Conference Center and the Ridgecrest Summer Camps. Our personal connections to Ridgecrest go back nearly 60 years and our personal connections with one another – through Ridgecrest - go back over 40 years.

Our Board and our partners have been blessed with a unique opportunity to use our professional experience - at a time such as this...and our team includes individuals skilled in corporate executive leadership; mergers and acquisitions; capital planning and investment strategy; financial planning and accounting; legal transactional strategy; non-profit advising; fundraising; risk management; local government; and ministry leadership.

We spent hundreds of hours on due-diligence. We weren't focused on a transactional opportunity or a "deal," but rather . . . how can we honor a legacy of stewardship? For we know, and we have always known, that regardless of a name listed in a ledger book, these mountains and this place always have belonged - and always will belong - to God.

WHAT IS GOING TO CHANGE?

The majority of the Ridgecrest leadership, staff, volunteers, conference attendees, campers, and parents should not notice any changes. The current executive director of Ridgecrest, Art Snead, will be the C.E.O. of the Ridgecrest Foundation. Ron Springs will continue as the Executive Director of Ridgecrest Summer Camps. Sharon Aylestock and Phil Berry will remain the Directors of Camp Crestridge for Girls and Camp Ridgecrest for Boys, respectively. We are here to empower this leadership team and strengthen these ministries for decades to come.

Ridgecrest Conference Center and Ridgecrest Summer Camps have evolved over the past 100 years. At the camps, mail call is now email call. At the conference center, reservations are filed online instead of on paper. In the coming years, changes will inevitably occur. The programming will continue to evolve, as it always has. The facilities will continue to improve. But our commitment to impacting lives for God's glory at Ridgecrest won't be changing.

SO WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? WHAT CAN I DO?

The Ridgecrest Foundation team has invested countless hours and is working feverishly on dozens of legal, accounting, capital planning, and fundraising projects. We are seeking to execute a transfer as smoothly as possible so that there is minimal impact on the thousands of employees and volunteers, campers and parents, congregations, and conference attendees at Ridgecrest. We are seeking to honor our

commitments regarding confidentiality and respect the exigencies of multiple deadlines. We continue to work closely with LifeWay, and anticipate a closing transaction before the end of 2020.

Please continue to pray for us and for Ridgecrest. In the coming months, we will begin providing additional information regarding our capital planning and fundraising efforts, as well as donation opportunities.

And so, God continues to answer prayers. Commitments continue to be honored. Partnerships are strengthened. And our bonds are growing stronger as we prayerfully lock arms and prepare for the next 100 years of Ridgecrest- for His purposes and His glory.

For His Glory,

Ridgecrest Foundation

October 15, 2020
Ridgecrest, North Carolina

For prayerful inquiries, please contact the Ridgecrest Foundation at ridgecrestfoundation@gmail.com.