

Coming Together



CAMP SMOKY & YOU

By Justin Johnson | AMS

By now, most of you have probably heard that we made the decision to terminate our Caretakers at Camp Smoky at February's Executive Board meeting. This decision was not made lightly as we knew the impact it would make on their family, the campus, ministry, and groups coming in over the next few months. This is certainly an adjustment that no one wished for, but nonetheless was needed.

It's been said that "if we do what we've always done, we'll get the same result". I realize that change is not always easy, but it can be the catalyst that moves organizations, onward and upward. Camp Smoky has been in a financial rut for quite some time now, and it's obvious that something needs to change. As a matter of fact, the people/churches in our future are counting on us to make the right changes today so that they can enjoy building upon the legacy. It's been said that "if we do what we've always done, we'll get the same result". I realize that change is not always easy, but it can be the catalyst that moves organizations, onward and upward. Camp Smoky has been in a financial rut for quite some time now, and it's obvious that something needs to change. As a matter of fact, the people/churches in our future are counting on us to make the right changes today so that they can enjoy building upon the legacy we left them.

Someone once told me that, in ministry, you're going to have to ask for help ... Association family, I'm asking for it. I know that we have many who are blessed and gifted in certain areas that would greatly benefit Camp Smoky, but we need to do a better job of bringing those people into the fold so we can utilize every resource to positively impact the Kingdom through this ministry. I hear story after story about how Camp Smoky was influential in the lives of our residents and Hal back in the day. It was the place to be. I sincerely believe that, with the help of our churches, they are greater things yet to come in more opportunities to glorify God with this gift is entrusted us with. Most everything needed to be done at camp at this point is cosmetic, but to get it all done it will take finances, volunteer work, & the willingness to see it through.

My vision for us as an Association is to develop an exceptional campus for groups in Sevier County and beyond to grow in their walk with Christ by providing opportunities for retreat, promoting spiritual, rejuvenation, & pointing others to Jesus. If you can get behind this vision & commit to supporting Camp Smoky, I will give you my best to ensure that this ministry thrives for generations to come.

Blessings,
Justin