



**12500 Prang St  
Jones, MI 49061**

888-899-7712 | blbc.com

**Experience  
Life-Changing  
Relationships**

---

Dear Friend of BLBC,

Several of you have asked and many more of you are probably wondering how COVID-19 is affecting BLBC. Thankfully this crisis has come during a season that is considerably less busy than our other seasons. We haven't had a group on the grounds since before the outbreak and the next six weeks of our guest group calendar were either empty or peppered with relatively small weekend groups.

This interval between a busy winter and busy spring has given us the luxury of studying the issues involved with COVID-19 from the best available resources and making slow and deliberate decisions about how we can best continue to fulfill our purpose of inspiring this generation to encounter God in the face of an international health crisis. We are continually reviewing the CDC guidelines and the mandates and recommendations of our federal and state health officials. The lull has also allowed us to establish and implement an additional disinfecting and sanitizing protocol above and beyond what we were already doing to keep campers and guests safe and healthy.

As a Bible camp that is rooted in Christ's Word, our primary desire is to love God supremely and love our neighbors as ourselves. As I'm sure it is with you, COVID-19 is challenging us to think of ways we can love our neighbors that had never previously considered and weren't even on our radar two weeks ago. Of course, biblical love often requires us to sacrifice our own resources to meet the needs of others. A secondary desire is to be good and responsible citizens who obey the governmental authorities God has sovereignly placed over us when obedience doesn't cause us to disobey our Supreme Sovereign, the Lord Jesus Christ.

After prayerful consideration and with a desire to love God, love others, and be good stewards of the Kingdom of God, we have made the following decisions as to how BLBC will move forward in the face of this crisis:

1. **We will review our calendar and make decisions on a rolling four-week basis.** In other words, we have already made decisions about the guest groups scheduled over the next four weeks. Each Monday, we will make a decision about another week's schedule. To the extent that these decisions affect BLBC events open to the public, we will announce our decision on our website and

through our social media channels. To the extent our decision affects a private guest group, we will communicate that decision directly to the group leader.

2. **We will comply with all governmental mandates concerning group gatherings and will give due weight and considerations to all recommendations that do not rise to the level of mandates.** Having said this, we will allow time for the government to revise its mandates and recommendations within the four week rolling window addressed above. For instance, if the government recommends canceling events of a certain size for the next eight weeks, we won't cancel that early. Rather, we will wait until the event enters our rolling four week window to allow us to see where we actually stand with COVID-19 and allow for the possibility of the government shortening its window. Our Men's Retreat falls in this category as it is seven weeks out, but the CDC is recommending canceling all gatherings of over 50 people eight weeks out. We will wait until four weeks before Men's Retreat to make the decision to continue with the retreat or cancel.
1. **We will plan as if summer camp will not be impacted by COVID-19, but prepare as if it will be.** Decisions concerning summer camps will be made with the principles addressed in 1 and 2 above.
2. **We will be as generous with our cancellation and refund policies as we can possibly be as good stewards of the resources entrusted to us.** All of our current cancellation and refund policies remain in effect with these potential outcomes based on COVID-19 driven decisions:
  - a. If we cancel an event or summer camp week, we will fully refund the guest group's or camper's registration fee and deposit. To lessen the financial impact on BLBC, we would ask that everyone who is able roll their deposit and payments forward to a rebooking within the following year.
  - b. If a guest group leader or a camper parent decides to cancel out of an abundance of caution not required by law or at our insistence, we will shift any deposit and payments already made to a rebooking within the following year.
  - c. If a guest group leader or camper parent decides to cancel under the circumstances in b. above and is unwilling or unable to rebook, the appropriate provisions of our cancellation and refund policies apply.

As you can imagine and like so many businesses and non-profit organizations in this time of uncertainty, we are bracing ourselves for the financial impact COVID-19 will have upon BLBC. We are a relatively small ministry that doesn't have months and months of operating expense held in reserve. The loss of guest groups of any size will negatively impact our bottom line. The loss of a BLBC-sponsored weekend retreat or a week of summer camp would be devastating. We know we have a God who owns the cattle on a thousand hills and the wealth in every mine who will faithfully provide for all of BLBC's needs.

**What can you do?** Please pray for us. Pray that God would stem the tide of this virus so it would not negatively impact our most basic and vital upcoming ministries - Men's Retreat and Summer Camp. Please pray for wisdom for our leadership team and Board as we make decisions moving forward.

If you have the ability, please give. I know this is a time when most of us are focused on providing for our own families. That's fitting and right, and should be our priority. But many still have steady incomes and abundance from which they could share to help ensure ministries such as Bair Lake Bible Camp continue through the tough times when the people we serve need us the most. While we haven't yet rolled it out, our ministry fundraising focus for 2020 is to challenge people to become monthly donors. Even if you can't afford to give a large sum at this time, would you be willing to commit to give a smaller amount on a monthly basis? Gifts of even \$10-20 per month would be extremely helpful to stabilize our revenue during turbulent times like these. Please see our website for [monthly giving options](#) or to make a [one-time gift](#).

Thank you for caring about BLBC! Thank you for encouraging, supporting, volunteering, coming, and sending your campers. We greatly appreciate your partnership and trust this information helps you understand where BLBC stands in light of COVID-19. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to email me at [drew@blbc.com](mailto:drew@blbc.com) or call my cell phone at 260.333.2928.

Yours in Christ for the Sake of the Gospel,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Drew A. Gardner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "D".

Drew A. Gardner, Executive Director