



Grace Brethren Retreat Center  
480 Forest Rd, Denver, PA 17517  
717-336-2541  
[www.campconquest.org](http://www.campconquest.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/WeAreCampConquest/>

### Celebrating a Sovereign and Personal God

July 1, 2020

Today, we should be enjoying time at the pool and having fun at the ga-ga pit. Today, we ought to be learning archery and enjoying crafts. Today, we are supposed to be singing songs and hearing a message around the campfire. Today, we are not doing those things. And that makes Mr. Ken sad.

Mr. Ken first came to Camp Conquest in 1981. He was a volunteer lifeguard while his wife, Mrs. Kathy was the nurse. For Ken and Kathy Keener that week of camp became a lifelong mission of evangelism and discipleship in the camp setting. July 2020 would have been Mr. Ken's 40<sup>th</sup> consecutive summer 'up on the hill' at Camp Conquest.

So, yes, Mr. Ken is sad. He knows that a week of summer camp is the best way to share the love of Jesus with children. In all his interviews for summer staff, Mr. Ken asks: Do you love Jesus? Do you love children? If yes, then you need to volunteer at camp!



Camp Conquest is an overnight camp experience and (at the time of writing) is not permitted to open. We don't understand why, and it makes us sad. But we serve a Sovereign God. He is in control of all things, and He will bring glory to Himself. What gives us peace is that our Sovereign God is also Personal. Because of Christ's life, death, and resurrection we can be forgiven of our sins and be in right relationship with God Himself. Within the context of that relationship, we can be at peace. We can have certainty in the midst of the uncertainty around us.

If you see Mr. Ken this summer, ask him about camp. He will tell you that he is disappointed, but he will also tell you that it's OK. God has a bigger purpose for us. God is doing something with and through us. And while Camp Conquest is not open for summer 2020, we along with Mr. Ken are looking forward to seeing how God will do His work of evangelism and discipleship *beyond* the camp setting.

Please be in prayer for Mr. Ken and the other staff at camp as we seek to understand how we can serve God well during this different season of ministry. Pray with us as we encourage others to find certainty and peace in a relationship with Jesus Christ.

The reverse side of this letter gives more information about this summer. We look forward to seeing all of you at summer camp 2021.



Serving with you and Mr. Ken at camp,

Michael R Gehlert, Executive Director

**Happy 40th Anniversary Mr. Ken!**

*Change Lives!*

*Be Changed!*

## Frequently Asked Questions – Summer Camp 2020 Cancellation, June 1, 2020

### **Is Camp Conquest offering Summer Camp programs in 2020?**

Camp Conquest has canceled all scheduled programs for June and July 2020. Once Lancaster County is in the Green phase and Camp Conquest is able to comply with related guidelines, Guest Groups may rent the facility and New Programs may be offered. Day Events are being planned for late July and August, please see website for updates.

### **Did Camp Conquest consider alternatives to canceling the entire summer?**

We did. We looked at a variety of options including starting camp later in the summer, reducing camper capacity, smaller cabin groups, changes to schedules to limit cross-interactions, eliminating large group gatherings, and different dining scenarios. We also explored multiple options for cleaning and sanitizing various areas. Ultimately, the Pennsylvania state mandates made it very clear that, because Lancaster County was not yet in the Green Phase, we could not open. In regards to Day Camp, we found the regulations that campers and staff would have to follow to be very restrictive. This would not be a good experience for anyone involved and many of the things that make camp fun would be impossible to do.

### **If guidelines/recommendations clear up during the summer, will you reconsider the decision to cancel summer camp?**

Unfortunately, we will not be able to change course mid-summer, due to the amount of preparation that goes into getting facilities ready and staff fully trained. Additionally, for our summer staff, it would be difficult for them to put everything on hold in waiting for us to go Green. Furthermore, Lancaster County {at the time of this writing} remains closed in the Yellow Phase. In order to open our overnight programs, we have to move to the Green Phase.

### **What about the fees that I have already paid?**

Camp Conquest will refund both your deposit and any additional pre-payments that you have made. However, if you are able, please consider one of the following options:

- Donating the deposit and pre-payments to the camp.
- Transferring your deposit and pre-payments to a future program
- Request a partial refund and donate the remainder
- Receive a full refund

Please contact the camp office, 717-336-2541, or [registrar@campconquest.org](mailto:registrar@campconquest.org), to discuss your deposit.

### **How can we financially help Camp Conquest?**

Camp Conquest is extremely grateful to have a community of supporters who believe that the camp experience is the greatest tool for evangelism and discipleship available to the church today. We rely on this support to provide life-changing experiences for campers year-round. You can make a donation online by visiting <https://campconquest.org/giving/> or you can sending a check with your donation to Camp Conquest, 480 Forest Road, Denver, PA 17517.

### **Will Camp Conquest survive without camp this summer?**

Lord willing, yes, we will. We do have some reserve funds to help us through this time, but they won't last forever. Please be praying for us, and our financial situation. The board estimates a \$90,000 loss related to the shut down.

### **Will Fall programming be happening at camp?**

We are planning for a fall season of retreats and rental groups as soon as we are in the Green Phase. Lord willing, our restrictions will be lifted and we will be able to move forward as normal. Visit our website and social media platforms for announcements related to new Fall programs. If you are the primary contact for a guest group and have questions about your retreat, please feel free to contact us for further information.