

Dear Friends,

“God is good, and Jesus love us.” This has been a phrase I have said countless times through every difficult season of adulthood. It has reminded me of the two basic truths that never change and themselves change everything. We are in a unique and trying time in the history of the world, unlike any most of us have seen in our lifetimes. Yet, God remains the same. His protection, provision and promises never change. Standing firm on this reality, we face these days with confidence, hope, peace, gratitude, and with a purpose!

What does Julian Oaks look like in this season? While the physical “camp” part of JOY Ministries is uncertain because of the current state guidelines, the “Youth Ministries” part has been in full swing. We have always wanted more consistent interaction with campers and alumni and these days have not only compelled us to move in that direction but have allotted more time for it! We have sent personal cards and postcards to foster families and have begun live streaming every Friday to share worship and give scriptural encouragement! Many campers are now joining us for online church each Sunday because our little Hillside Community Church is streaming from our home. They are recognizing that their camp family is their church family in many ways. The camp benevolent fund has helped some alumni with serious needs. We continue to help direct them to resources for shelter, food and spiritual growth. We are beginning to update our website to have many more resources for campers and alumni that will help them to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus! More to come on that later, but it is super exciting!

We ask you to join us in praying about summer plans as only the Lord knows what will happen come July and August. We are still moving forward with program planning and it is well underway. We held our first online streaming Counselor Training this past month! Good news: It is now recorded and available for future use. You might want to check it out on our new You Tube Channel. Because of systems recently put in place, contact with counselors, churches, foster families and social workers has become quick and easy! Whatever happens, we know God is providing new and creative ways to reach these children and their foster families or group homes that will endure way past these days.

Finally, a huge thank you to all who have continued to support this ministry through prayer and finances. We have been fervently praying for each of you. It has long been my (Tina) habit of giving thanks aloud for every gift that comes to camp. These days the prayers have been even more intense. We know that many have been affected with health crisis, job losses, stock market uncertainty and more. We do not receive lightly the sacrificial giving that is happening. We trust the Lord to provide for the ministry, for our families and for each of you. We have seen His bountiful provision and are humbled with each sign of it. Let’s continue to walk in confident hope, joyful obedience and prayerful resolve. His purposes will not be thwarted.

For His glory and the love of these children,

Tina and Tony Massa

Julian Oaks Directors