

July 2021



The Campaigners - on message

**Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess,
for he who promised is faithful. Hebrews 10:23**

Yesterday, the Campaigner Trustees decided to cancel this year's camp at Viney Hill.

This heart-rending decision was not taken lightly. Even though it is permissible to run our camp, the regulatory framework and guidance laid down by the National Youth Agency (NYA) places an inordinate burden on the camp staff team. The Trustees have a duty of care over everyone on camp including the wellbeing of the leaders who run it. The guidance advises that 'where there is doubt about the wisdom and potential to deliver an activity during Covid times, that activity should not take place.'

Whilst some of the rules on social distancing may well be relaxed shortly, the testing and isolation requirements will remain. Consequently, with rising positive Covid test numbers, the risk that bubbled members of the camp staff or groups of young people having to isolate or be sent home at a moment's notice is too high. This in turn could bring the camp to a premature end at a moment's notice.

Our local groups have had to live with the Covid rules for so long and now our camp has been cancelled for a second year in succession you will understand what a disappointment this is. At times like this, we try and find the positives that give us the reassurance that God is in control and has a purpose and plan for our ministry. Scores of promises from Scripture spring to mind that should give us hope, not least Jeremiah 29:11.

I sense that the optimism outlined in the last month's issue of The Lifeline is being tested. Nevertheless, we are the Campaigners. We are on a vitally important campaign with a Christ-centred purpose. That's the reason why we should hang on to the words of Galatians 6:9, 'Let us not become weary... for at the proper time we will reap a harvest'

None of us want to give up on that purpose and chuck in the towel because it seems we are swimming against the tide. I have no doubt that there is a fresh and exciting future for the Campaigners far beyond its existing borders. It's our desire to 'Carry on Campaigning' and indeed to 'Carry on Camping' for many years to come.

This exciting challenge is not a one-man-show. It will only work if we all work together with determination, creativity and a renewed vision to shape our ministry into our next 100 years. The next 6 to 12 months are a critical window for us to set in train this fresh vision. I therefore ask again, what can you, or those you know or have contact with, offer to help us re-imagine the Campaigners for tomorrow's world?

Tim Greenhalgh 30 June 2021

Prayers for The Campaigners

- **Viney Hill Camp:** Pray that the decision to cancel this years camp would not be detrimental to the future role of camps in Campaigners. Pray for Colin & Tracy Guy, Maureen Cottrell and the team who run the camp, that any disappointment would become optimism for next years camp starting 30th July 2022.
- Pray too for the children and young people who were booked into the camp, that they too would continue with their involvement with their Campaigner groups and be ready to come back to Carry on Camping next year.
- In your prayers, do also pray for The Viney Hill Christian Centre which is a charity that depends on schools and groups coming to use their facilities and activities. Pray that their needs would be met and that they would not be adversely affected by the reduction of bookings over two summer seasons.
- **Campaigner Centres** - pray for the groups that have recently reopened their week by week Campaigner nights - and for those who are planning to resume in September. Pray that the young people would return in even greater numbers than before and that the group leaders will have a fresh enthusiasm for the work.
- **The Campaigner Trustees** - Please pray for the trustees who meet on Thursday, 8th July. It will be the statutory AGM where the trustee will be looking at the leadership and resources needed to take the Campaigners forward into the forthcoming year. Do pray that new, and younger people, would respond your call to serve either as a trustee or to support the visionary centenary campaign.
- **The Campaigner Centenary Challenge:** In your prayers, continue to pray for the Centenary vision to focus on building God's church, for young people and young adults, throughout the UK and beyond. Pray against the things that would distract us from this goal or to water it down. Thank God for the hundreds of promises in His Word and that we would have the faith and confidence to claim them however impossible the way ahead might seem.
- We learned recently that the Campaigners at Bromwich Road Mission, Worcester has closed after a 62 year association with the movement. Do remember Sue Yuill, Gill Gardiner and the whole team of leaders in your prayers at this time.
- We have also learned of the death earlier this month of Barbara Hobbs, who has been involved running the Inters group at Belhus Park for at least 25 years. Do remember Alan and their family and friends in your prayers.



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