



**Mennonite
Camping
Association**

January 11, 2017

Dear MCA Members,

Hopefully your year ended well and you have been able to take a few moments to look back on 2016 and reflect on God's work through the ministry he has given you to lead. For our staff at Camp Luz we try to be intentional about taking a little extra time off around Christmas, knowing that January begins the "marathon" of recruiting, promotion, speaking engagements, retreats and other events that hit a climax with the summer program.

A mentor of mine has recently challenged me to regularly take time to reflect on Romans 15:13:

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

It is my prayer for you that God is filling you up so that the hope of Christ is running over and spilling down onto every part of your life and ministry.

A good way to make space for God to fill you up is to stay connected with MCA. The monthly newsletters give you a chance to be encouraged by all that the Lord is doing in the wider camping world, and MCA conferences are a perfect place to slow down, quiet down, and focus on Him. Through organizing camp days where you can recruit staff and providing a website so more folks can find your camp, MCA helps you carry out the ministry Jesus has called you to do.

I really hope you are able to attend one of the regional gatherings this spring at **Beaver Camp** (Lowville, NY, March 6-8) or **Little Eden** (Onkama, MI, March 28-30). Both events will provide fellowship with other Mennonite Camping folks, space for personal growth, educational seminars, and encouragement for the year ahead.

Finally, if you have any doubt about the value of being a member of MCA, please visit our website for even more reasons to renew: www.mennonitecamping.org/membership-benefits.html

An MCA Membership Renewal form is included. Thank you for being a part of MCA!

Sincerely,

Andrew Michaels

President, Mennonite Camping Association