

An Announcement About Foundations 2020

I have put this off, and put this off, hoping I would not have to write this. However, I cannot put it off any longer. Unfortunately, we will not be able to have Foundations 2020 (June 27-July 3, 2020) this year. Foundations has become one of the highlights of every calendar year for so many of us. Because of how much it means, I kept putting this letter off, thinking that things might improve enough for us to have it still, and proceed with confidence. However, some areas of concern will not be remedied in time for this year's program to occur:

- For the past few years, attendance at Foundations has been around 200 (not counting staff and their families). Although there has been a flattening of the curve of COVID-19 cases, in our judgment, it is too soon to bring in so many different people from so many different places, and try and squeeze them into the limited lodging space we have available here on the campus. The apartments are nice, but simply are not large enough to guarantee sufficient social distance for the health and welfare of the number of campers, staff/MSOP student families who would be staying in these apartments.
- Also, current shortages, and the potential unavailability of certain essential supplies/foods, makes this cancellation unavoidable. We cannot in good conscience invite visitors to our campus without knowing that we can accommodate their needs with proper supplies, including a sufficient food supply.

Now, for some good news. Foundations 2021 is scheduled for June 26-July 2, 2021. We will retain the same theme (*Do You See What God Sees?*). If this was the last year you were eligible for Foundations, age-wise, we have decided to make an exception for one year, and welcome you to attend Foundations 2021.

For all who have already registered/paid for this year's camp, you have some options:

(1) You can ask us to count your application and payment toward Foundations 2021, in which case you will already be registered and paid for next year.

(2) You can ask us to refund your money and delete your application, in which case, if you plan to attend Foundations 2021, you will need to fill out another application online, at which time you would submit payment for next year's camp.

(3) If you have registered but not yet paid, if you submit your payment by June 30, 2020 this will guarantee your place for Foundations 2021. If you do not submit by the due date, your application will be deleted and you will need to re-register if you decide to attend Foundations 2021.

(4) If you wish, you can donate the payment you have already submitted to a Foundations fund that will help us to cover more sufficiently the expenses of the camp from year to year. By design, we do not charge enough to cover all Foundations expenses, because we don't want to inhibit anyone from coming. Some campers, who cannot afford to come, may apply for a scholarship and still attend the program. In the past, some parents, who believe in the value of the program, and who have been

blessed financially, have sent funds to help us cover Foundations expenses. We understand that not everyone can afford options 3 and 4, so we are more than willing to refund the payment, or divert it to the cost of next year's application. For refunds, please contact Joyce Phillips, jphillips@msop.org, or call 901-751-2242.

We will miss you this June, and cannot wait until we can be together again! May God bless you!

His servant and yours,

B. J. Clarke