



## Note from Wrangler Matt



November 11, 2019

Dear Friends,

Psalm 127: 4 tells us, "Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth."

At the time King Solomon wrote this, every arrow was individually hand-crafted. If the maker of the arrow rushed through the process, the more likely it was the arrow would not fly straight and not hit the intended target.

Our homes are arrow factories. As parents, we hand-craft our children, the arrows we shoot out into the world.

As they grow, there are various targets we launch them towards. From a very young age, the target is healthy relationships...with siblings, friends, classmates and adults.

As they move into their teen years, we help them craft their unique gifts, abilities and interests, targeting a career or vocational interest that will allow them to become self-supporting and able to give back.

Although our crafting is largely done by the time they leave our nest, we still tend to the arrow, helping them to fly straight by offering advice and counsel as they select new targets.

At every step of the way, we are not alone in the process. Like it or not, there will be other influences trying to craft our arrows. Some good, others that may misguide our arrows.

I view Marmon Valley camps as one of those influences. We appreciate the opportunity to come alongside parents as they hand-craft their arrows. Whatever the target Mom and Dad are pointing them towards, we want to help their arrows hit the bullseye. At the center of every target should be Jesus.

At the center of relationships, career or parenting...we want to help kids discover the joy of having Christ at the center of everything they do.

The Lord has blessed my wife Kathy and I with five children...a quiver full. And I am learning that the handcrafting doesn't end just because we've finally released our grip on the bow string, launching them into adulthood.

We now have four wonderful grandchildren. And in various ways I see my children and their spouses hand-crafting their own arrows. I recognize some of our handiwork in the way they are going about it. And I am coming to realize I am in the process of helping them learn how to begin pulling back on the bow string and set their sight on the center of the target.

I look forward to watching each of my grandkids fly through life and I pray for each to hit the center of the target.

In His Service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wrangler Matt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wrangler Matt Wiley  
Board Member