

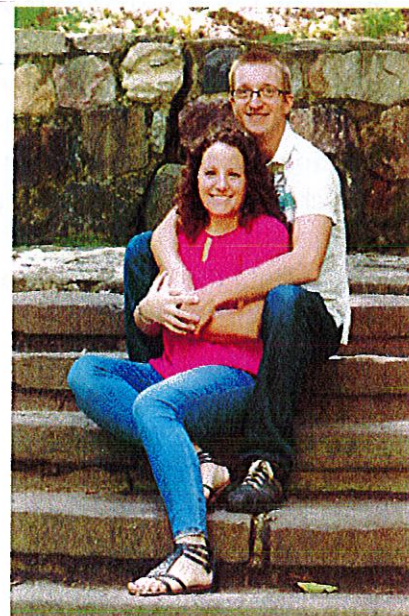
November 13, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are excited to share with you all that, on October 29, 2022, we were accepted by the Camp Barakel Board of Trustees, to serve there as full-time Resident Missionary Staff. Our names are Brandon and Christina Cooper and we currently live in Flint, Michigan. We have five children: Sean (9), Natalie (7), Landon (5), Emma (3) and Ian (9 months). Brandon is currently a self-employed residential painter and Christina is caring for and teaching our children at home. God began leading us to full time service at Camp Barakel a little over a year ago and we are overjoyed to, hopefully soon, be a part of the important ministry there. It is our desire that all who step foot on Camp property will be presented with the Gospel and that those who are in the Faith will be encouraged and refreshed in their walk with Christ.



Our history with Barakel spans decades of our lives. Christina first began coming to summer camp in 5th grade and either worked or attended summer camp for the next 11 years. She served as a Technician in high-school and as a member of summer staff through her first three years of college in 2008, 2009 and 2010. Brandon started coming to camp in 9th grade with his church youth group for winter retreats. He attended winter retreats through high-school and early adulthood, and served on summer staff in 2009, where we met and began dating later that year. We were married in the spring of 2012. Since then we have attended and served for many weekend retreats and helped out with various projects around Camp's property. Camp Barakel has had a tremendous influence in our lives. It has helped to strengthen our personal walks with Christ, provided many strong Christian friendships, and through God's providence, given us the opportunity to meet and begin the family we now have.



Serving at Camp as Resident Missionary Staff has been something that we have talked about at different points in our marriage, but it wasn't until the end of summer last year that we finally felt God calling us to that mission field. At that point, we began to have conversations with Paul Gardner (Camp's Director) about our call. In the next few months God truly solidified in our hearts the desire to enter the ministry at Camp. Our application was submitted and reviewed by Camp's Board of Trustees and, on Oct. 29th 2022, we were excited to hear that we had been accepted as Camp Barakel Resident Missionary Staff Appointees. We are now beginning the process of raising support so that we may then make the move to Camp property and begin to serve. Our roles at camp will be many. For Brandon, they will be focused on the building and maintenance of camp's property, with the possibility of training to drive the buses which transport summer campers to and from camp. For Christina, the main focus will be raising our five children while they are young, but she will also have responsibilities with cleaning assignments and bake days.

Camp Barakel is a non-profit organization. As such, it does not provide an annual salary for the resident staff members who currently serve there. Instead, they ask for those coming on staff to raise financial support from local churches and individuals. This accomplishes a few things. First, it allows for Camp to keep the amount it charges for its various retreats as low as possible, making it easier for more people to afford it. But more importantly, it enables the ministry to grow exponentially through the hundreds of people that support staff families. It mobilizes them to pray for the ministry, to encourage those who are serving, and to share with others the opportunities to come to camp, either to enjoy attending a retreat or enjoy the ability to serve.

This now leads us to ask two things of you. First, we ask that you would pray for us in our journey of becoming Resident Missionary Staff at Camp Barakel. Pray that God would bless us with the financial support that we need to be able to carry out the mission that He has given us. And pray for Camp itself, that its ministry may continue to grow and that many lives would be changed there. Second, we would ask for you to prayerfully consider supporting us financially, on a monthly basis. We would be grateful for any amount that you can give, but we would also encourage you to join us in stepping out in faith, to give all that God may be leading you to. We have included a letter from the Camp Director sharing more details about our support raising process.

If this is a step that God is leading your church to take, we would ask for you to reach out to us through the contact information below. We would love to hear from you if you have any questions, or are interested in supporting us. We would also be more than willing to come speak at your church, either to the congregation as a whole or to the council and/or missions board.

Until then "May the Lord Bless you and keep you, May the Lord make His face to shine upon you, May the Lord be gracious to you and give you His peace."

In Christ,
The Coopers

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