



N Tony Biasell

POSITION

Executive Director

CAMPUS

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Living in the Central California all of my life, there have been many people, mainly from the North Eastern States, who would make comments about we don't have any seasons out here. "Pitty-posh," I say! (Sorry for the strong language). Our seasons don't come from the maples or other trees, ours come from agriculture, grasslands, forests, and weather.

But everywhere and for everyone there are seasons, that have a beginning, middle, and an end. As for me, I am at the end of a season of ministry, that will have lasted 25 years at the end of August, at Calvin Crest.

Back in 1992, Rick Harrison, the new Executive Director, had invited Christel, my wife, to come up that summer to direct the staff choir for the end of summer celebration. Rick followed that with, "Oh, and Tony you can come up and be the staff counselor." I was teaching high school and thought that a summer at Calvin Crest would be a wonderful experience for me and the family. Later he told me they were looking for a new program director, and asked if I would consider throwing my hat into the mix for that position. Watching as highly qualified people came up to interview with years of camping leadership, a seminary education, ordained, and great hearts, I was confident I didn't stand a chance. But God spoke clearly to Rick and his team, and I was invited to join the staff at Calvin Crest. I was speechless. It started the new season of my life September 1992 as a part of this team and... a presbyterian!!

I am grateful that my family and I were able to serve with incredible young men and women for 17 years as a program director and the last 8 years as the executive director. Who would have thought that God would place us here for so long?

I wish I could take the time and space to name off all of the people who made a difference in my life as a staffer, camper, counselor, speaker, or the random people who came through the gates delivering packages, asking for directions or picking up their children. There are so many stories I would love to tell of how Jesus transformed people's lives during their time at camp. People who were wandering lost, met and began following Jesus and became disciples of the One who calls us to His way, truth, and life and puts us into service in the Kingdom of heaven here on earth.

Christel and I along with our adult children, Simon, Taylor, and Hillary are all grateful to those who listened to God's calling who founded or who came alongside us to love all of His Children in a most beautiful place, Calvin Crest. I love you and will be eternally humble and grateful for your trust, laughter, shared mourning and that which is yet to be.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tony".
Tony



From the Board of Calvin Crest:

Friends,

With gratitude for 25 years of service, wistfulness about the passing of a season and trust in God's providence for the future of our ministry we share with you the news that Tony Biasell is finishing his service as executive director August 31, 2017. We are immensely grateful for the way God has worked through Tony as executive director and program director for two and a half decades. It is our hope that you would join us in celebrating his tenure this summer and thanking God and Tony for the ways you have been touched by and through his ministry.

This summer Tony will be working with Joel Gist, our head of operations, and David Chumley, our head of programs to run the camp in preparation for this change in the fall. We would like to express our tremendous faith in Joel and David to lead the camp as we initiate a search for a new executive director. It is our intent that a new executive director would begin in Summer of 2018.

This timeline is the product of mutual discernment by Tony and the board. We as the board have been and continues to be supportive of Tony's leadership. Tony's commitment to the camp and his heart for ministry brought stability in the midst of some difficult seasons. Tony has been instrumental in helping to clarify a mission that preserves a gospel focus for ministry at 5,000 feet. Furthermore, Tony has hired and worked with many outstanding individuals who bring to Calvin Crest a breadth of experience and a commitment to our mission that were essential for Calvin Crest's survival. Tony has been the bearer of the heart and history of our mission. There is much to be grateful to God for and this is nothing more than an acknowledgement that a new season of leadership is in store for Calvin Crest.

Our mission and ministry continue in part because of the many selfless contributions by Tony. We trust that God will lead Calvin Crest into our next season and we know that the fruit of Tony's contribution will continue to be witnessed in the months and the years ahead. Thank you for your partnership and continuing support of Calvin Crest.

In Christ's love,

Rev. Pat Sheahan
Chair, Calvin Crest Board of Trustees