



STRAIGHT TALK

ministries



SEPTEMBER 2015 VOL. 12, ISSUE 3

Heart Change Life Change

It's Harvest Time!

I am not a farmer, but I imagine if I was, that fall would be the time of year that I would look forward to the most. Fall is harvest time! In the fall farmers get to see the fruit of all the time, energy and resources that they have invested. Harvest is always busy. Some farmers I know have told me stories of pushing so hard to get the crop off that they work all day and all night without a stop. They do whatever it takes to get the harvest in.



For me summer is harvest time! Summer camps tend to be the most fruitful times evangelistically. This summer was no exception and it was easy to trace the hand of God. First, there was the incredible way God filled the summer schedule with camps late in the spring. I spoke at five camps while Donna spoke at one.

Secondly, there was the amazing harvest. At every camp there were people who indicated that they surrendered their lives to Jesus for the first time. Some of the camps were small fields and some were big but there was always fruit. Camp Chamisall only had 66 campers but there were 5 who accepted Jesus for the first time.

Camp Qwanoes was the biggest field with 420 campers. At the end of my evangelistic message on Wednesday night that week I invited campers who wanted to accept Jesus to pray along with me. After the prayer I asked campers who had prayed with me to make sure they told their cabin leaders. Afterwards, Scott, the camp director came to speak with me. "Do you ever ask campers to publically indicate that they have accepted Jesus?" I told him

Real Men Kick the Boring Out of their Lives Too

While speaking to a mixed audience isn't new to me, using content from a book targeted to women was a bit different. In reality, men and women both need to live examined lives and make changes to realign their values with God's. I was pleased that many of the individuals who made a point of expressing their appreciation to me for making some truth clearer during my week as speaker at Green-bay were of the male persuasion.

In partnership with Randy, I had the privilege of praying for both genders over some very difficult,



even devastating situations. A man, whose wife had been unfaithful many times had finally left him. He was trying to give his family a good vacation without mom while insatiably drinking in every drop of spiritual truth and encouragement offered. A woman who suffered verbal abuse from her husband wanted to know how to represent Jesus to him in this hurtful situation. A mom, desperate to help her daughter heal from a traumatic experience needs a miracle.

Sometimes God gives us words of wisdom from

Did you know?

Since Straight Talk started keeping stats in the year 2005, 2005 people have said YES to Jesus! (That is not a typo.)

that I usually don't ask kids to come forward, stand, or raise their hands if they want to accept Jesus. In a camp setting there are a number of reasons I avoid this. Most of all, I want them to begin sharing that news with others; so I ask them to talk to their cabin leader. That way, the follow up process can begin right away with the person responsible for them that week.

The next morning in staff meeting cabin leaders began sharing about kids in their cabins who had told them that they invited Jesus into their lives. In the morning session that day I mentioned that I had heard a number of campers had received Jesus. I then asked the campers who accepted Jesus the night before if they might be willing to stand. There was no way to count, but it seemed like a lot. I have been guessing between 60 and 80. This morning I received the stats that Camp Qwanoes gathered from the cabin leaders that week. 50 campers made some kind of rededication and 110 made first time decisions to follow Jesus!

We are aware of 160 who made first time decisions to follow Jesus at the 6 camps we spoke at this summer. I am blown away by that number. Summer is a huge harvest time. The older I get the more taxing camps and retreats seem to get BUT it is worth it when students encounter God! Like my farmer-friends, I am willing to do whatever it takes to gather the harvest.

If you think of it, would you pray for those 160 students? They are all back at school and sometimes those summer decisions can get lost in the day-to-day stress and strain of life. Please pray that God would guard the fruit and that those campers will get connected to a local church/ youth group so they can continue to grow this year

Thanks for the part you play with your donations and prayer.

scripture to share and we see glimmers of hope in previously dull eyes. Sometimes just having someone outside their everyday world listen to their pain and pray over their situation with empathy is enough to breathe new life into sagging sails.



Why does this matter so much? Because when Christian families aren't strong, churches aren't strong, and the Great Commission simmers pathetically on the backburner. However, when individuals and families are healthy, they express the gospel in their daily lives. Churches can then fulfill their role as the body of Christ. Because you give, because you pray, we can be there to help Family camps like Green Bay fortify families. What a privilege!



Please join the Straight Talk prayer force. You can register to receive email updates by going to randycarter.org/prayer.

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heart change

life change