



Randy speaking at Camp Chamisall



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straight talk ministries newsletter

The Grace, The Gross, and the Grubby

Do you remember the TV ad where the woman is calmly walking down the street when the first of autumn's leaves falls at her feet? She suddenly screams like the victim of some heinous crime. I can relate to that. I hate to see summer's end heralded by the warning signs of approaching winter.

When Randy looks at his calendar and sees summer approaching I see the same look of panic in HIS eyes. Not because he dislikes summer, but because his summer is so demanding. He has to have 63 devotionals and sermons prepared, enough clothes ready to go for three weeks at a time—that's my job—not to mention being ready to direct 34 staff and 92 campers for a week in the Wiaparous. He has to be ready to preach, pray, take a pie in the face, or wrestle in a mud pit at a moment's notice. You'd have to be insane NOT to feel some trepidation at that prospect!

At camp, the Holy Spirit has an entire week to soften even the most truth-resistant hearts.

Randy has been, quite honestly, ambushed in paintball and baptized in water fights enough times

to last him well into his 10th decade. He continues to do summer camps, not out of a deep desire for the gross and the grubby, but because



Are you really licking whipped cream off his face?

they envelope such high yield ministry. The investment is high, but so is the return.

Of the total number of students Randy speaks to in a year, he intersects with 25% of them at summer camps. And he doesn't just speak to them once. The Holy Spirit has an entire week to soften even the most truth resistant hearts.

Many of us can look back at a scene in our youth by campfire or counsellor when we gave our hearts to Christ or made some other incremental or monumental step in our faith journeys. Someone prayed for you. Likely someone even gave sacrificially to a camp or a ministry like Straight Talk to pave the way for you to have that experience. Will you do that for the youths who will attend one of the five camps where Randy will speak this summer? (DC)



“God changed my heart at a retreat Randy spoke at and now my life is changed.”



Wyatt pulled a copy of the booklet out of his wallet—he is always ready to share his faith

He said

What's in Your Wallet?

Our tag line at Straight Talk is “Heart Change, Life Change”. Our passion is to be part of God’s work as He changes hearts and as a result of that heart change—lives are changed!

You may wonder, does that really happen? Are lives really changed? This past fall I got to know Wyatt, a Grade 12 student who would say, “Yes, God changed my heart at a retreat Randy spoke at and now my life is changed.” Wyatt says he only came because he heard me speak when he was in Junior High and wanted to hear me again.

One small group didn’t have enough leaders, so I was asked to meet with the four High School guys during small group time after each of my messages. Saturday evening, I spoke on the need to reach our friends with the good news of Jesus. God was changing Wyatt’s heart. Wyatt spoke first in our small group. He said something like, “I have not done anything to reach my friends. We need to do something. I mean, look at the size of our group!” We talked, and I could see God was giving him a burning desire to talk to his friends about Jesus. The challenge—he didn’t know where to start. I always carry a booklet called *Knowing God Personally* that clearly explains what a person needs to know to become a Jesus follower. I

offered one to Wyatt on the condition that he read it through three times and pray that God would direct him to the right person to share it with.

Monday, I received this Facebook message:

Randy you wouldn't believe it but it's only been 2 days and with help from that booklet, Darnell and I have already led one of our friends to Christ!!! This is one of the best feelings I've ever had and I just wanted to thank you for helping us out!

Wyatt shared his story at our May dessert evening. He is inviting friends who don’t know Jesus to youth and is talking to them about Jesus. Some of them went with him to YC (Youth Conference) in Edmonton in May. He is praying that they surrender their lives to Jesus. At the dessert evening, Wyatt pulled the same booklet I carry out of his wallet—he is always ready to share with a friend when the opportunity presents itself.

Wyatt’s heart and life were changed by God and you and I got to play a small part in what God did.

This summer I get to speak to hundreds of students who will encounter the same God and some of them will have hearts and lives changed as a result. Through your prayers and financial support you are playing a significant part in what God will do. Thank you! (RC)

She said

Getting Unstuck

When I was a little girl, I had to cross a muddy construction site to get to kindergarten. I wore those rubber boots that slipped over your shoes. Those things were evil. I don't know how many stories I've heard of little kids getting stuck in the mud in those boots. Like me, they had to abandon their boots AND shoes to the mud with much wailing and deep distress. There was no way of extracting yourself without sitting down in the mud which no doubt would result in trouble at home and also be just plain yucky.

I've thought of those experiences several times over the past few years as I've been stuck in the mucky world of publishing—a world affected by changing technology and economic realities. I can't tell you how many times I've heard that *five years ago, anyone with such a successful first book would have their second book published with no questions asked*. No more! I spent several years chasing down every publishing lead I had, determined not to let the fruit of hundreds of hours languish in the filing cabinet. But after each step sinking me deeper into the mud of *Nos, Not nows* and *We're not sures*, it became hard to even discipline myself to keep writing.

A week after returning from El Salvador, I got an email from a publisher I had been communicating with well

over a year ago. Back then, it seemed as if we were going to reach a deal and then, due to the publisher's restructuring, everything got stuck. AGAIN. But last month their email said they were once again in a position to take on my book.

Although the years of stuckness were very frustrating and discouraging to me, I can see God's wisdom in it. If I had found a publisher early on, the story of my childhood friendship with Sonja wouldn't have included the wonderful dénouement of our children marrying each other, with Kendall proudly wearing Sonja's diamond. If I had found a publisher even a few months ago, I would have carried the uneasiness of an unresolved relationship with a dear friend whose stories the book contained. God knew when her heart would be ready to turn the page and begin anew. Not a week after that happened, the email arrived asking, "Is *The Face to Face Book* still available for publishing?"

Whitaker House of Pennsylvania has offered me a contract! I'm so excited about finally seeing the fruit of all those hours pay off in the lives of people who pick it up. Pray with me that as they read it, and have conversations about it, that they will find not only more satisfying human relationships—but deep friendship with God. (DC)



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Getting unstuck isn't easy.



Your gifts make ministry possible

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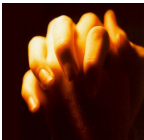
Spending of funds is confined to board approved programs and projects. Each restricted contribution towards such a program or project will be used as designated, with the understanding **the fine print** that when the need for such a program has been met, or cannot be completed for any reason determined by the board, the remaining restricted contributions designated for such programs or projects will be used where needed most.

www.straighttalkministries.com

It costs **\$25** to reach each person touched by Straight Talk every year. Only **\$8** of that amount is covered by honoraria and book sales. That leaves a gap of **\$12** to be covered by our generous donors.

Our hearts overflow with gratitude for all who faithfully partner with us in the business of heart and life change. Thank you in advance for building a bridge between Randy and the students who need to hear God's message through him this summer. (DC)

Four ways *you* can make a difference by investing in Straight Talk



Pray for us. Straight Talk is empowered by consistent, informed prayer. To receive weekly prayer requests in your inbox, send your email address to admin@straighttalkministries.com.



Bridge the **\$12** gap for **5, 10** or **100** students to hear Randy this summer.



Share what's in *your* wallet to spread what's in *His* wallet.



Launch The Face to Face Book—get news of this new outreach tool out to ministry influencers.

heart change straight talk ministries

life change



- I want to make a difference by investing in Straight Talk:**
 - Bridge** the \$12 gap for some students to hear Randy this summer\$ _____
 - Share** what's in your wallet to share what's in his wallet. \$ _____
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 - Pray**—Join our weekly prayer team. Email : admin@straighttalkministries.com

- I want to support Straight Talk monthly:**
 - \$250 \$100 \$75
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Note: Please include a cheque marked Void and provide signature below.

Giving on line.

You can give on line with Visa or Mastercard through Canada helps.

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If your contact information has changed please let us know:

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Donations can be mailed to:

Straight Talk Ministries
38 River Rock Crescent SE
Calgary, Alberta T2C 4J4

heart change

life change



Parent's Page

Don't Annoy the Pig

My wife Donna trained and worked for many years as an interior designer. One job she had was to help a family design their new home. She was walking through the home with the husband and wife reviewing some of their thoughts for each room. When they came to the preschool son's room the father told Donna "This wall can't have anything on it because it is for my son's hunting trophies". Donna then asked "What if your son doesn't want to **hunt** but wants to play the violin instead?" The reply was immediate, "No son of mine will play the violin, he will hunt!" I suspect that his son learned to hunt whether he liked it or not.

When our children are born, we as parents, have all kinds of dreams for them. It is not unusual for parents to direct, or in some cases push, their kids into things that they themselves enjoy and are good at. In many cases our kids enjoy those same things, but it is not unusual for them to be wired completely different from us. I know many students who are not anything like either parent.

I know two families who both have sons. Both dads were talented athletes when they were in their teens and 20's. One dad's sons all play sports at an elite level. The other dad's son tried sports, but it wasn't really his thing. He was more into music. After graduation, he took some time to decide what he was going to do with his life and decided he wanted to pursue a more creative career. Some fathers would be very proud to be the first, but somewhat embarrassed to be the second.

One of our roles as parents is to discover each of our children's natural gifts and abilities and help them excel at those things. We need to be our kid's biggest cheerleaders and advocates. In their book "Soar With Your Strengths" by Donald O. Clifton and Paula Nelson, they make the comment "Don't teach a pig to sing...It wastes your time and annoys the pig." They also make the following points:

"The wrong expectations can and often do destroy people every day."

"The right expectations are based on a (person's) strength."

When our expectations for our children are that they will like and be good at what we like and are good at—or that they will fit an idealized vision we have dreamed for them, we end up communicating at least two things: first rejection because they don't live up to our expectations for them. Secondly, a lack of value and worth because they feel like they are failures and have let us down. These messages embed deeply into the soul of a student and can cause deep frustration and even negatively colour the rest of their lives.

Wise parents help their kids find out what their strengths are and encourage and support them at getting better at what they have been designed to be and do naturally!

P.S. I would recommend that every parent read "Soar With Your Strengths". You can check out a synopsis of the book at



Annoyed or singing?

www.successfromwithin.com/content/BookSummarySoarWithYourStrengths.pdf

If you have feedback, or have questions you would like to see addressed, please forward them to feedback@straighttalkministries.com.