



10 Smart Things resonated with co-ed single adults.

straight talk ministries newsletter



Volume 8, Issue 2, May 2011

## Telling the Truth

Because I speak primarily to women, it surprised me when several men approached me to thank me or to share what God had spoken to them about after my talk to 120 single adults at Centre Street Church.

I shared one of the *10 Smart Things: Accept Yourself*. While I am aware that the “10 Things” apply universally, I was pleasantly surprised at how the men in the audience responded so openly to the challenge I issued. The challenge: to identify the lies we believe about ourselves, and the recordings we play in our heads that perpetuate those lies.

Borrowing an idea from a recent service at First Alliance, at the end of my talk, I

invited the audience to write out the negative words that play in their heads about their worth on sticky notes. They then walked up onto the platform and stuck their notes to the cross.

I reminded them that when they walked back to their seats, they had left those destructive words behind and that the next time the imaginary recordings started to play, they needed to remember leaving them on the cross.

During the coffee time after I spoke, the pastor for the group—who had been praying with a man called Jim\*—motioned me over to meet him. Jim told me that he had an uncon-



Attendees leave the negative words they tell themselves at the cross.

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**More life-changing decisions are made at summer camp than in any other youth ministry setting.**



Students have more time and space to think about spiritual things at camp.

## He said

### What's the big deal with camp?

**I** love summer camp! Some people wonder, "What's the big deal with summer camp? Why do you get so excited about being away from the family for weeks at a time?"

I am convinced more life-changing decisions are made at summer camp than in any other youth ministry setting. The biggest reason: the sheer number of hours. In an average camp week, students spend 108 hours together with people who radically love Jesus. If the typical youth ministry met with students for 4 hours a week it would take over 6 months to get the same number of hours in.

Campers not only have amazing heaps of fun, but they are able to practically experience Jesus' love from staff—often only a few years away from their age. On top of that, students are free from life's everyday distractions, which allows them time and space to think about things they don't normally think about. A cabin becomes a safe place to ask questions, share thoughts and feelings, and express doubts.

Many students who would never come to church or even a youth group will risk coming to camp to have a week of fun even it means "enduring" some God talk. Because of all of this, young hearts open up and many decide to surrender their lives to Jesus and passionately follow Him.

In his study *Experiencing God*, Henry Blackaby said, "Look for where God is at work and join Him." Thank you for your part in making it possible for me to invest my summer where God is at work changing hearts and lives!

***Without your support, it would be impossible for me to do what I get to do.***

Those of you who have been with us for years know that summer can be physically, emotionally and spiritually taxing. It is not unusual for me to get sick or hurt during the summer. Is it possible there are extra spiritual attacks during the summer because the enemy knows the potential of camps?

Thank you in advance for your prayers for my effectiveness and protection! (RC)

# She said

## Partnership helps share Smart Things

**A**t the end of an evangelistic talk in a hotel banquet room, they handed their nametags to the speaker. That is Stonecroft-Ministries-speak for, "I prayed to receive Christ, please contact me."

The leader of the After Five Club was eager to follow up with these women and invite them to a small group who would be meeting to work through a course called *10 Smart Things Women Can Do to Build a Better Life* together in a home.

Six thirty-something women came. Two were brand new believers, one had just come back to faith and one was a believer who had never really connected to the body of Christ or grown in her faith.

The *10 Smart Things* topics really hit home with these women, and generated great discussion and simple but profound prayer. The women gelled quickly as a group and really looked forward to their Thursday evenings together.

Because attending the Thursday evening group was so important to her, one woman faithfully travelled 30 kilometers each week, even in heavy snow. Another woman was living with her boyfriend when the

course began. At some point during the 10 weeks, he kicked her out of the home they shared. The next Thursday night she shared, "I feel kind of bad, but kind of good too!" As she continued to attend, she drew support from the truth being presented on DVD, and the women in her group.

When this group heard the course would be run again in April, they wanted to do it again.

This time they were joined by another group of women aged 18 and up from another After Five Club. Liz, who hosts the group, laughs and says, "The April group will likely be double the size of the original."

I am so thankful for Stonecroft's partnership in using *10 Smart Things* to reach women, teach them basic truth, and connect them to the body of Christ.

***Equally important is your partnership in giving and praying*** to enable Straight Talk to make material like this available to those in the trenches. (DC)



***Six thirty-something women came. The 10 Smart Things topics really hit home...and generated great discussion and simple but profound prayer.***



Stonecroft Ministries is using *10 Smart Things* to reach women and connect them to Christ.



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tainable passion to serve God but that some unidentified insecurity had always kept him from engaging the way God was directing him. "Tonight I made the connection," he shared. "I really believe that I've been set free!"

selfes, and the world—that truth sets us free.

How beautiful to be a part of God's work in setting the prisoner free. Because of **your involvement** in our ministry, we all share that privilege. (DC)

When we know the truth about God, our- *\*name has been changed.*

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



**Empower** Randy & Donna to challenge people to commit their potential to God. **2/3** of Straight Talk's budget comes from generous partners.



**Sponsor** Randy to speak at summer camps. It costs Straight Talk \$18/camper beyond what the typical camp is able to pay to have Randy speak. This summer Randy will speak to approximately 700 campers.



**Fund** the production of the Face to Face book, another tool designed to draw women to Jesus.



**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](mailto:admin@straighttalkministries.com).

**heart change** straight talk ministries

**life change**



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