



We celebrated Kendall and Mike's wedding in June.



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straight talk ministries newsletter

State of the STM Union

What a crazy summer we've had! We began by joyfully celebrating our daughter Kendall's marriage to Michael Delamont. On the heels of their wedding, we celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary in Banff. Personally, but not on a ministry level, things spiraled downhill from there.

Randy's rapid weight loss—50 lbs in 6 months—predisposed him to the gall stones and pancreatitis he developed this summer. We saw God's hand as Randy experienced symptoms only in the intervals between camp engagements—three severe attacks were followed by emergency surgery.

Randy's third attack happened on the first morning of our vacation. By day three, he was unable to keep any food down and obviously needed emergency medical attention. The hospital quickly confirmed his gallbladder needed to come out, but it took over 24 hours to fit in the unplanned surgery. Randy enjoyed the relief of morphine while he waited.



Can you spell "overwhelmed?"

While Randy was in hospital, I received news that my sister, Debbie, was diagnosed with invasive breast cancer and scheduled for a mastectomy. Nothing prepared me for this. Debbie and her husband Terry are very important people in our lives and we hurt with and for them. Post-surgery, Debbie is healing and awaiting details concerning further treatment. My days are filled with sharing her journey as much as anyone can. Don't be shocked if you see me with a bald head in the next few months. "We" will be undergoing chemo soon.

An additional complication for Straight Talk is that Debbie was volunteering as our admin assistant.

Her healing and treatment make this impossible right now. We are limping along on our own—and constantly

reminded how bad we are at administration!

A major prayer request: that Straight Talk finances will allow us to hire a capable part time admin assistant or that an unusually skilled volunteer would come forward.

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Each of this summer's decisions was a spiritual battle won, because of the battle fought with your prayers.



Randy was privileged to baptize a student at camp this summer.

He said

Summer's spiritual victories, won on our knees

Over the past number of years, I have volunteered in the breakfast store at Sherwood Middle School. I served bagels and got to know the staff and students.

Last winter I had an idea. Wouldn't it be cool if there was a way to get some of these students to a week of summer camp where they could hear about Jesus?

I felt sure that if we could get them to camp, many would give their lives to Him. After some prayer—and with some fear!—I mentioned the idea to the school administration. To my amazement they thought it was a great idea!

The people of First Alliance generously raised money so that financially challenged kids could go to camp. The week I directed camp, 5 kids from Sherwood were present, none of whom knew who Jesus.

My plan was to give a clear gospel presentation on Wednesday night at campfire. Wouldn't you know, that was the night that three of the girls got into a major yell-

ing/swearing match. They were adamant they weren't going to come to campfire! I really sensed that this was a spiritual battle and I wasn't about to let Satan win! I practically had to physically drag them to campfire praying the whole time that they would settle down enough to hear the message.

That night all three of those girls, and one of the others from Sherwood, surrendered their lives to Jesus. Clearly there was a spiritual power struggle taking place that evening.

At each week of camp this summer, I witnessed spiritual victories. Many students made first time decisions. Some made decisions to surrender areas of their lives they have never surrendered to Jesus before. A bunch of students made a commitment to talk to their friends about Jesus. One girl asked me to baptize her.

Each of this summer's decisions was a spiritual battle won, because of the battle that was fought with your prayers.

Thank you for the part you played this summer in the lives of **548** students. (RC)

She said

10 Smart Things study brings women together

Last weekend, I attended a writing workshop where I heard that each copy of a book gets read an average of seven times.

My summer was a quiet one from a speaking perspective, but while I was writing and doing other things, my message was still getting out there through the printed page.

Let me share an email with you from a group journeying together through *10 Smart Things*:

“Our group has been together for some time—and have done various bible studies but this is the one that brought us together.... We come from totally different backgrounds: from unemployed, on disability, middle class and...more financially secure backgrounds....

These ladies would never have met and been friends under ordinary circumstances. There have been tears, laughter, quiet times, and prayers that would melt your heart...on a couple of occasions...we have had to stop the session and just pray. It has taken us a bit of time to get through this study because of this. This is a relationship builder

for sure. And we have grown—in our Christian faith as well as in our love and compassion for each other—I can’t even begin to describe the closeness.

One lady in our group is going through a rough time and, to quote her, she is ‘hanging on by a thread to her faith’. Our group—and I truly believe this study— is that thread that keeps her coming every week and keeps her willing to share....

We just keep loving her and encouraging her and praise God that she is willing to come back and that she really spends time reading the book and thinking out her answers.

I hope this says a bit about the effect that your book has had on this group. Thank you again.”

I hope this note encourages you as it does me.

We are making a difference in women’s lives.

Thank you for giving to allow that influence to continue and expand. (DC)



10 Smart Things continues to get the word out there—studies show books are read an average of seven times.



A group of women like this one are growing closer as they journey through the *10 Smart Things* study.



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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 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.

the fine print

(Continued from page 1)

State of the STM union recap numbers:

- 1 Wonderful wedding
- 2 Days of salvageable vacation
- 3 Gallbladder attacks
- 4 Days in Hospital
- 5 Number of camp weeks Randy usually accepts
- 6 Kleenex boxes for Donna after Debbie's news
- 99 Students accepted Christ at Randy's camp weeks (Note: previous email update number of 79 is incorrect.)
- 548 Students heard Randy speak this summer
- 7069.20 \$ it costs STM for Randy to speak to those students.

Thanks for sponsoring Randy to speak at camps this summer through Straight Talk.

Your giving enabled 99 youths to transfer their forever citizenship from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light.

That is what matters most as we reflect on our eventful summer. (DC)

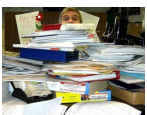
Four ways *you* can make a difference by investing in Straight Talk



Empower Randy & Donna to help others come to faith and learn to apply it to everyday life through the spoken and written word. **2/3** of Straight Talk's budget comes from generous partners.



Sponsor Randy to speak at weekend retreats. **\$180** enables Randy to speak to **10** students.



Enable Randy and Donna to do what they do best by providing funds that can be committed toward administrative help.



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.

heart change straight talk ministries

life change

www.straighttalkministries.com



- I want to make a difference by investing in Straight Talk:**
 - Empower** Randy & Donna to reach people \$ _____
 - Enable** Randy & Donna to get the administrative help they need \$ _____
 - Sponsor** Randy to speak at weekend retreats \$ _____
 - Please use my gift where most needed \$ _____
 - Pray** for us. Join our weekly prayer team. Email: admin@straighttalkministries.com

- I want to support Straight Talk monthly:**
 - \$250 \$100 \$75
 - \$50 \$ _____

Monthly Giving Options

- I have included post-dated cheques to Straight Talk Ministries
- I prefer the convenience of automatic debit and hereby authorize Straight Talk Ministries to withdraw \$ _____ from my bank account on the 3rd or 17th of each month (choose one).

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.

Go to Canada Helps at <https://www.canadahelps.org/CharityProfilePage.aspx?CharityID=d74727> and you can make your donation there today.

If your contact information has changed please let us know:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Donations can be mailed to:

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

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