



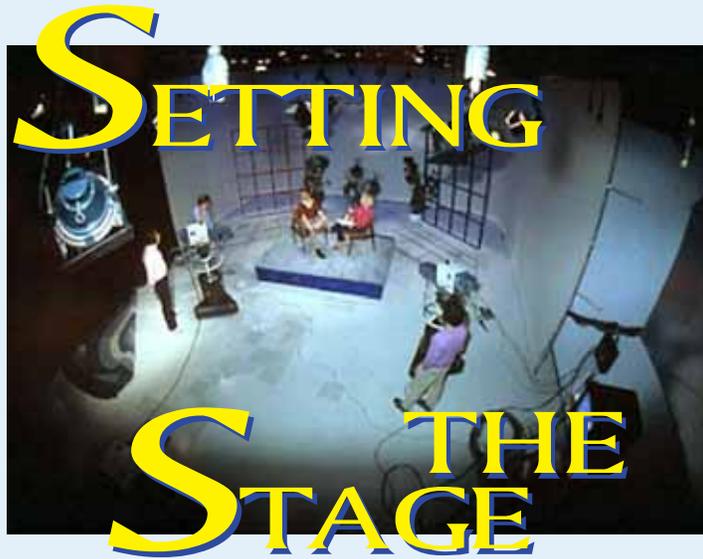
Character Building Ministries
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EDIFY

The Newsletter of Character Building Ministries

Spring 2003

Character Building Ministries is dedicated to the edification of Christian camp staff by equipping them in the Word of God.



BY **BILL KLEES**

There is a lot that must be done to set the stage for summer. But one factor that is often forgotten in our program-minded culture is the “setting” of your counselors. I was privileged to begin my camping career under a man whom God used to start a successful youth ministry in rural Pennsylvania. One of the things “Chief Bob” stressed was setting the *spiritual* stage for campers. He wrote “the ‘stage’ must be set on which the counselors can act to make it possible for the campers to see the inner self of the counselors.”

What Bob was saying was the focus of a camping ministry lies in the *staff* you hire. You can have the newest climbing wall or program gadget, but if your staff lacks the spiritual integrity needed to allow campers to see Christ within them, what dominates the emotional memory of the campers is merely the silly, the momentary, and the nonsense fun of camp life. These things of course, aren’t bad, but the goal should be that Christ and His Word are the main memories associated with the camp experience.

Continued inside ...

This free Newsletter is sent to leaders and directors of Christian youth camps who are concerned about the spiritual growth and development of their staff.

What's Inside?

Equipping Staff

How do you view your staff? Do you let your program take center stage or the staff that carries out the program? This article helps to bring the role of staff to center stage.

Establishing Faith

CBM's newest resource provides Biblical instruction for your staff that will make an impact. Help your staff establish a foundation to their faith.

CBM on the Move

The best way to learn the benefits of CBM's devotional books is to see one. This year our resources were displayed at several CCI sectionals. Call today for a free sample.

Preparing the Stage

The desire of a camp director should be for the spiritual memories to shine through his programs so that what is seen, what is remembered, is not him nor the activities, but Christ. So how can you go about setting the stage for *spiritual* memories to be made? How can you prepare your staff to be used by God in the all-important task of sharing Christ? At first reading, some of these suggestions may seem radical. After all, there is not always the luxury of being picky about which staff members you hire. There have been summers where I wonder if I am even going to have enough staff. However, I also know that when we have compromised on the spiritual integrity of a staff member just to fill a spot, we have usually regretted it later. There is always a fine line between running your camp like a business and like a ministry. When it comes to staffing choices, *ministry* must be dominant.

A practical aspect of finding staff with spiritual integrity is to make sure that you ask the right questions on the application and during the interview process. There are many people who call themselves a Christian and apply for a job at Christian camp who

may not know what it really means to submit one's life to the cross of Christ. Many of today's youth are embracing elements of our post-modern culture and hold unorthodox views on key doctrines of the Christian faith. Their intentions may be sincere, but their knowledge and understanding of the Scriptures and the cross are lacking. Questions that seek to ascertain the potential staff member's level of Biblical knowl-

edge and its application are essential. Ask questions like, "What does it mean to be a Christian?" "Who needs Christ?" "What did Christ accomplish on the cross?" "In what ways do you live your life that demonstrate your commitment to Christ?" Have them provide Scripture references to

answer some of these questions.

Make sure potential staff understand your camp's mission and focus. If they fail to grasp this, they may fail to provide the spiritual impact that you desire. There should be plenty of time during staff training to clearly communicate your camp's philosophy and purpose.

Before the Curtain Goes Up

The writer of Hebrews needed to provide his readers with milk because they weren't ready for solid food.

It is worth the time to teach your staff, who are to be teachers, what exactly it is they are to teach.

ESTABLISHING YOUR FAITH

Character Building Ministries is pleased to announce its newest resource for equipping camps in God's Word. Establishing Your Faith is a concise handbook of practical theology that helps you lay the foundation for effective summer ministry and effective Christian living.

Contents

1. God has Spoken (Scripture)
2. God in Three Persons (Trinity)
3. Who's in Charge? (Sovereignty of God)
4. Perfectly Perfect (Holiness of God)
5. In the Image of God (Creation of Man)
6. The Evil of Evils (Sin)
7. Fully God and Fully Man (Deity of Christ)
8. Declared Righteous (Justification)
9. The Body of Christ (The Church)
10. Becoming Righteous (Sanctification)
11. In Spirit and Truth (Worship)
12. Preach the Word (Evangelism and Missions)
13. Made Righteous (Glorification)

Serving in youth ministry requires more than just a desire to have fun and hang out with young people. Effective ministry at camp is more than just hype, hoopla, and cabin devotions. Touching the lives of campers with the truths of God's Word requires more than zeal. It requires a servant of God who is dedicated to God, who also knows and lives God's Word. Paul says it this way, "For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge" (Romans 10:2).

You cannot give something that you don't first have yourself. One of the best things you can give to campers is the example of a life faithfully lived according to sound doctrine. One of the best answers you can give to a camper is a Scripture reference. One of the best testimonies you can proclaim to campers is a real life story of how God has applied Biblical truth to you personally. To do these things you must first make an investment into your own heart and mind—an investment of sound doctrine according to God's Word.

(excerpt from the introduction to *Establishing Your Faith*)

He wanted to leave behind elementary doctrines (milk) and move on toward maturity (Hebrews 5:11ff).

It is worth the time to teach your staff, who are to be teachers, what exactly it is they are to teach. At Camp Susque, where I serve, we realized that as a nondenominational camp, many of the staff may have different understandings of Biblical truths. We spend a whole weekend before orientation even starts laying out the essential foundational truths for the staff. We stick to the basics—What is justification? What is the gospel? How do we view the Scriptures? We take them through our statement of faith to make sure they know the foundations we believe and teach.

While on Stage

Another important element to spiritual integrity is the ongoing spiritual nourishment of your staff. Once you have selected and trained those that will model Christ before the eyes of the campers, you must make sure that they stay connected with Christ through the long months of the summer. Don't send your staff to the front lines without providing them with the proper ammunition. They must be in God's Word daily. They must be in prayer. College students may lack discipline of a consistent quiet time with God. Teach and model the disciplines of study and prayer so that they know what it looks like.

What helps establish this discipline? It is the continual study of God's Word. It is the staff prayer times where men and women fall before the throne of God. It is encouragement from administration, board members and supporters reminding staff that they are being remembered in prayer. These are the "extras" that firmly set the stage so that Christ is seen in the actions, words, manners, and attitudes of your staff.

The question that remains to be answered is whether the integrity of your staff is more important than the programs you offer? Are the events you offer overshadowing the action and attitudes of your staff? May you never compromise the spiritual integrity of your camps for the pragmatic temptations of relevancy and numbers. Give God this part of your ministry, and He will be willing to bless the other parts. May His glory be the light of your stage. 📖

Bill Klees is the Director of Camp Relations for CBM and Program Director for Camp Susque in Trout Run, Pennsylvania, where he lives with his wife Heather, son Avery, and new daughter Natalie. You can email him at Bill@CBMinistries.com.



Why Use a CBM Devotional?

- ◆ Character Building Ministries' devotional books help promote growth in the grace and knowledge of the Holy Scriptures.
- ◆ Establishes a daily habit of personal devotions even after summer is over.
- ◆ Unifies staff in prayer, study, and sharing.
- ◆ Contains practical instruction on camp life.
- ◆ Enhances staff's ministry to campers by keeping them connected to God throughout the summer.
- ◆ Shows staff that you are concerned about their personal relationship with God.

WHERE YOU CAN SEE CBM

Character Building Ministries had the privilege of attending the CCI National Conference in Vancouver where we enjoyed getting to meet and talk to many of the people who use CBM devotional books. We were encouraged and blessed by the fellowship and words that were shared. This spring CBM is excited to have tables or samples available for display at various sectionals. Hopefully you were able to pick up free samples and other materials at the following sectionals.

Salvation Army Camping Conference

Mid-Atlantic Sectional

Florida Warm-up

Sierra-Pacific Sectional

Minnesota-East Dakotas Sectional

Kansas/Nebraska Sectional

Allegheny Sectional

Alaska Sectional

New England Sectional

We are also excited about opportunities to speak and share God's Word at various conferences and sectionals. It is an honor to be able to serve our God by serving those who minister on the front lines of camp ministry.

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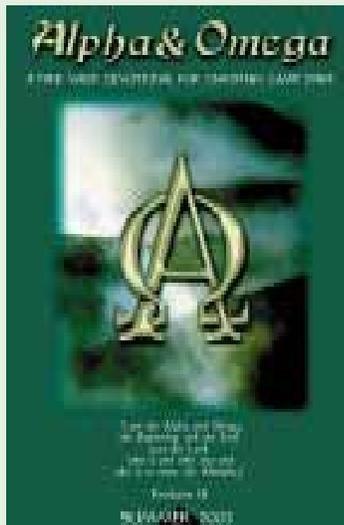
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ORDER YOUR COPY OF CBM'S 2003 DEVOTIONAL BOOK

I wasn't expecting to be challenged and taught as much through the devotions as I was. The book is really easy to follow, too.
~ CAMP HEBRON (Halifax, PA)

It seems to get better each year.
~ LAKE KORONIS (Paynesville, MN)



Here's what fellow Camp Directors said about last summer's Staff Devotional Book.

I was thoroughly challenged and I've been a believer for 26 year
~ ADIRONDACK CAMP CHERITH (Corinth, NY)

The Lord blessed me so much through the *Good Shepherd* book.
~ DRY CREEK BAPTIST CAMP (Dry Creek, LA)

Excellent! Look forward to next year's.
~ WLD RANCH (Girard, PA)

It is a daily guide to help staff in their own personal relationship with Jesus.
~ CAMP OJIBWAY (Richfield, MN)

◆ If you would like information on how to have a CBM staff member speak at your next sectional email Bill Klees ... Bill@CBMinistries.com.

◆ Visit our newly-designed website for an order form, samples, and other free resources. You will find us at www.CBMinistries.com.

Camp Name _____
Contact Person _____
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FREE sample copy
of *Good Shepherd*.
Discover why CBM devotional
books are the most widely used
devotionals for summer camps.