



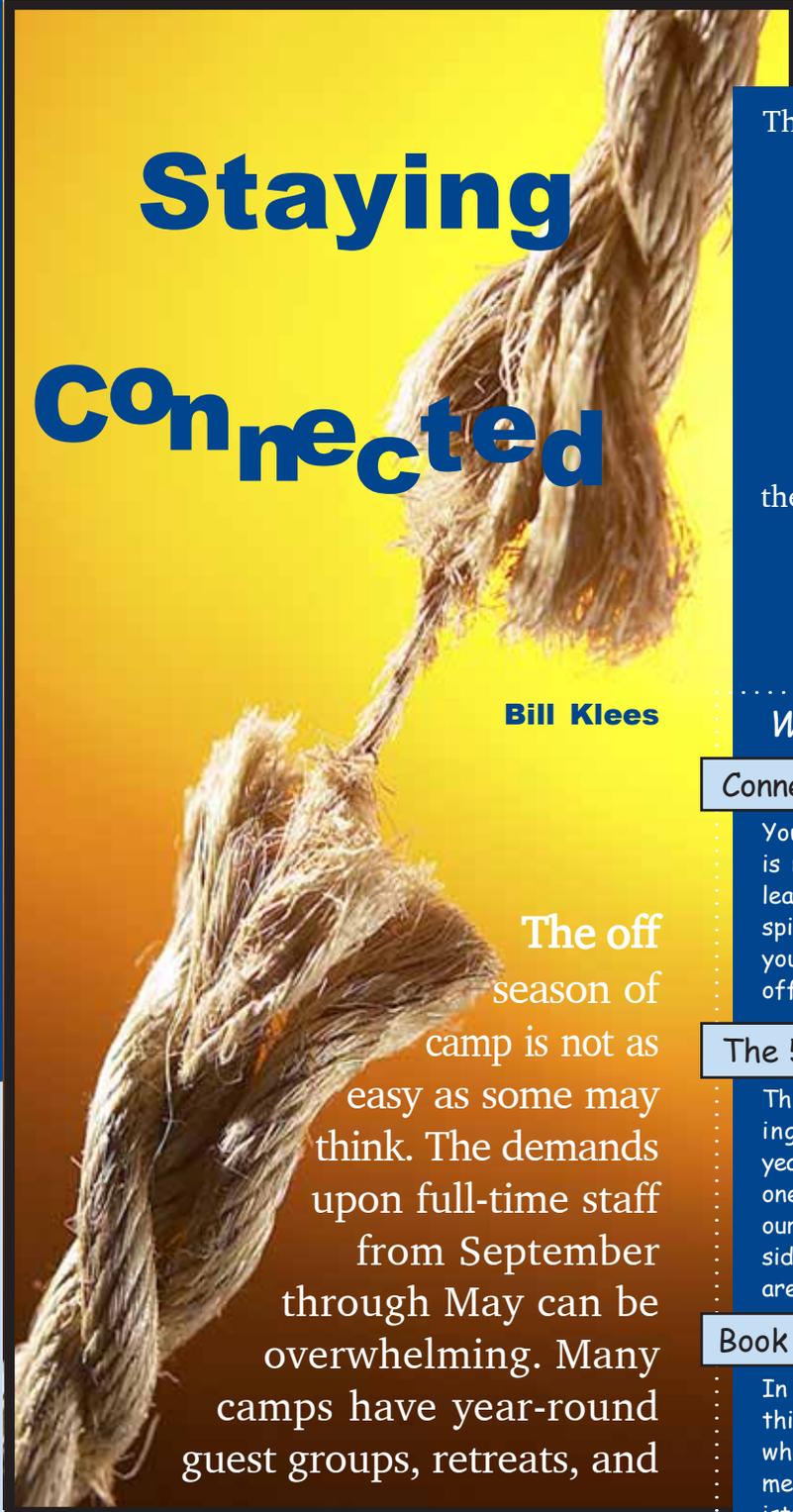
Character Building Ministries
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EDIFY

The Newsletter of Character Building Ministries

FALL 2006

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



Staying Connected

Bill Klees

The off season of camp is not as easy as some may think. The demands upon full-time staff from September through May can be overwhelming. Many camps have year-round guest groups, retreats, and

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?

Connections

Your connection to God is most important. Our lead article provides inspiration for developing your spiritual during the off-season.

The 5-Year Club

This is Character Building Ministries' tenth year, and we have twenty-one more camps joining our 5-year club. Look inside to find out who they are.

Book Review

In need of a good read this fall? Take a lot at what our staff recommends for personal ministry development.

outdoor education programs on top of preparing for the summer. How do directors and administrators keep everything connected?

Life in camp ministry can be a lot like a child's dot-to-dot puzzle. In order to see the full picture, all of the dots must be carefully connected. But before the child connects all the dots, all you see is a few scattered lines and a whole lot of meaningless dots with numbers. Unfortunately camp ministry isn't as easy as following the numbers.

The dots that you may have are all over the pages of life. First there is the need to stay connected with *campers*. It is essential in today's culture to remind campers monthly of their unforgettable experiences that they had your camp. That requires some creative thinking and marketing—newsletter, emails, notes, pictures, brochures, hosting retreats or reunions, among other options. It would be unthinkable in today's competitive market place to leave these vital dots out of the picture.

Another sets of dots that makes the summer complete is staying connected with your *summer staff*. Even though your summer counselors and volunteers have left, you cannot forget them. You must build relationships with them throughout the year if you want to encourage them to return for another summer. That involves lots of effort and time. It may mean sending emails regularly, writing birthday cards, sending care packages during finals week, or visiting staff at colleges and churches to establish a lasting friendship and loyalty to your program. We can't expect staff to want to come back without some effort on our part during the long months between summers. You wouldn't imagine leaving these important dots disconnected.

Additionally, you must stay connected with the vital *supporters* of your camp. Visiting churches after camp to give reports on how God worked through your ministry is one way. Surely there are newsletters to write, thank you notes to contributors, and probably other ways that help you keep connected with the individuals and organi-

zations that support the camp financially, through volunteers, and by being prayer warriors. You surely can't afford to leave these dots unconnected.

Of course, those are just three areas that may top your list of duties. There are many others and they are undoubtedly different for each camp and each staff person. Yet in the business of evaluating summer 2006 and preparing for summer 2007, don't miss a series of dots which are just as vital, in fact, are more vital than other dots that dominate your time and calendar. Those dots are the ones that represent your spiritual life. How connected are you to God during the months between summers?

Just like you wouldn't imagine not communicating with campers, staff, and supporters, you must make it a priority to stay connected with God. In my experiences directing Camp Susque's summer programs, one of the greatest rewards is growing spiritually during the summer months. It is a thrill to talk to campers about God and to pray to God about campers. There is a rich blessing in seeing youth become my brothers and sisters in Christ and in equipping staff with the tools to think Biblically as they sacrificially care for others in a Christ-like manner. But what often happens is that the closeness with God that I experience in the summer drastically decreases once the last person has left the campus in August.

Usually by the middle of October my schedule is pretty well filled with administrative responsibilities, summer cleanup and the many dots that I must keep together in order for next summer's picture to be complete. Through all of that I am tempted to lose that connection—the life flow that I need with my heavenly Father.

As Christian leaders it is essential that our devotional times, our readings, and our prayer life aren't seasonal. Focus on Christ must be year-round, and may require just as much creative thinking as you apply to camper follow up or staff recruiting.

Take time now to evaluate where you are spiritually. What growth did you see this summer in your life? Is that growth still occurring? What is different about your spiritual walk now? Are you staying connected with God and with fellow believers through a local church?

God needs to be interconnected with every aspect of your ministry which means that you must stay connected with Him. Refresh your soul on a retreat. Read a book. Spend extra time in prayer. Remain connected to a church, a prayer group, an accountability group, or whatever you have that brings you closer to God

Summer doesn't just happen. You know that. In the same way a spiritually thriving life doesn't just happen. It takes work and effort. Don't let this priority get pushed aside just because you may not see the immediate results. Staying connected with God allows you, in the end, to see the complete picture—a summer that bears everlasting fruit. 

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 daughters Natalie and Emma. You can email him at BillK@CBMinistries.com.



BOOK REVIEW

Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands

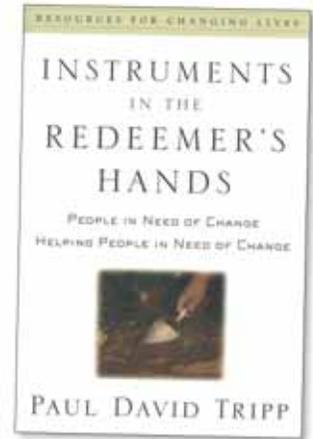
by Paul David Tripp
(P&R Publishing, 2002)

Camps exist to help people change. So we staff our camps with administrators, directors, counselors, and chaplains. But we soon discover that even our staff members also have areas of growth. And when we look in the mirror, we must admit that we, too, need to become more like our Redeemer.

Paul Tripp brings biblical clarity and realistic hope to people like you and your staff. He shows us that God's plan is to use people in need of change to help other people who are also in need of change. There is more than surface help here—he targets the heart as the source of our problems and the place where true change takes place. The book is built around four words that summarize personal ministry relationships—love, know, speak, and do. As Tripp unpacks the meanings of these priorities, he provides practical advice that will produce lasting fruit.

If you want to help others, this book will help you.

~ Reviewed by Joel Rishel



5-YEAR CLUB

We have a tradition of honoring camps who have used Character Building Ministries' devotional books for five years. However, this is more than a tradition for us; this is heartfelt gratitude to God for what He is doing through you. This year, out of the 251 camps that ordered from us, we are especially grateful for these 21 camps for their continued support.

Acadian Baptist Center EUNICE, LOUISIANA

Alpine Camp & Conference Center BLUE JAY, CALIFORNIA

Beechpoint Christian Camp ALLEGAN, MICHIGAN

Big Sky Bible Camp BIG FORK, MONTANA

Camp Cherith Ontario BARRIE, ONTARIO, CANADA

Camp Sierra Del Mar RAMONA, CALIFORNIA

Camp Tamarack ELM GROVE, WISCONSIN

Camp Tomahawk BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Camp Wanake BEACH CITY, OHIO

Camp Whitesand SASKATOON, SK, CANADA

Circle C Ranch DELEVAN, NEW YORK

Cove Valley Christian Youth Camp MERCERSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Covenant Pines Bible Camp MCGREGOR, MINNESOTA

Doubling Gap Center NEWVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

Gardom Lake Bible Camp ENDERBY, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

Lake Tomahawk Baptist Encampment LIVINGSTON, TEXAS

Michiana Christian Service Camp NILES, MICHIGAN

Miracle Bible Camp LONGVILLE, MINNESOTA

Ridge Haven BREVARD, NORTH CAROLINA

Sugar Pine Christian Camps OAKHURST, CALIFORNIA

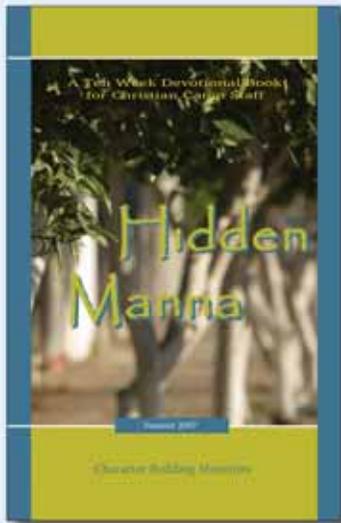
Whispering Pines Baptist Camp CITRONELLE, ALABAMA

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WATCH FOR THE STAFF DEVOTIONAL BOOK FROM CHARACTER BUILDING MINISTRIES THIS SPRING



Here's what fellow camp directors are saying about our devotional books.

- ▶ It challenged us to look at areas of our lives we wouldn't normally look at. The camp emphasis was really great. Helped build unity among staff.
~ Camp Joy Bible Camp (PELICAN RAPIDS, MN)
- ▶ Relevant to camp, appropriate for all staff, easy to use.
~ Aldersgate Camp and Retreat Center (RAVENNA, KY)
- ▶ It helped remind us that this camp is God's and the stuff we do is all about Him. I watched staff who never read their Bibles, use this book to spark their quiet time.
~ Whispering Pines (CITRONELLE, AL)
- ▶ I want to see my staff grow in their spiritual walk as much as the campers. Your devotional books help with that.
~ Horizon Camp & Retreat Center (ARKANSAS CITY, KS)

FREE SECTIONAL KITS

Preparing for your Sectional? Want free books?

Contact Bill Klees at BillK@CBMinistries.com to receive a free Sectional Supply Kit. Your kit will contain all you need to learn more about how Character Building Ministries can benefit your staff next summer and how you can share this with other camps.

Camp Name _____
Contact Person _____
Address _____
City _____ State ____ Zip _____
Phone () _____

Return to: Character Building Ministries, 805-B Woodland View Dr, York, PA 17408

Return this card for a
FREE sample copy
of our devotional book.
Find out for yourself why our books
are the most widely used devotional
books among summer camps.