



Bethel Camp Times
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Bethel Mennonite Camp is owned by God and entrusted to the Bethel Camp Board. Bethel Camp is a Christ centered ministry with an emphasis on Bible study and a personal commitment to Christ. We seek to be good stewards of God's 300+ beautiful acres of mountains, trees, streams, and springs -- using the natural setting to call people into a deeper relationship with God. Bethel Camp is a non-profit organization which operates on donations from churches and caring individuals. All donations and fees go toward the operation and improvement of the camp ministry.



Camp Pastor's Corner

Hey there all you great citizens of the ever growing Bethel Nation! Was the summer awesome or what? It is always such a joy to see God work in the lives of campers and staff members. This summer we learned about following the leader. I trust that this letter finds you chasing Him closely in every way. A couple of weeks ago while I was working outside in the yard the Lord gave me four words to pass on to you. These are four challenges for everyone who is willing to join the adventure of following Christ. As I share them with you, my hope is that you will accept these challenges to walk powerfully into the kingdom.

1. Be consistent- Back in the 1980's a gadget came out called "The clapper". It was pretty cool. You could clap your hands to turn your lights on and off. This made it convenient if you couldn't get to a light switch. Just "Clap on" and "Clap off" at your whim. This is great for house lights but doesn't work very well for the light of Christ inside you. Sometimes we try to live our Christianity like a clapper. We clap it on when we're at church, and clap it off when we're at school. Jesus calls us to be consistent instead. In other words make it your goal to keep your walk with Jesus red hot all the time. It was easy to walk with him at camp. It is easy to follow him into church, or at youth group. But where the world needs to see your faith is out there among the lost. They need to see that your faith is real enough to you that you live it all the time. The key to consistency is spending time with Jesus daily.

2. Be Persistent- Don't give up when things get hard. Don't stop serving the Lord because you made a mistake. Some who read this are having a tough time living for Jesus. It seems like your prayers are not being heard. One of the main reasons people don't get their prayers answered is they simply give up too soon. A persistent Christian keeps moving ahead even in the midst of opposition and failure, just like Jesus who "For the joy set before him endured the cross..." There is great reward for those who keep going.

3. Be insistent- We live in a world that tells us not to insist on anything except having our own way. The temptation is to just go with the flow of this world and settle for whatever ideas and lifestyle choices they hand out. But the insistent Christian is like Daniel, who refused to eat the unclean food of the Babylonians, and insisted only on God's best. Some of us today are dating someone who is not God's best because we are afraid of being alone. Others are floating through school with a no care attitude because it looks cool to be apathetic. But how can you do such things when you know the king of the universe has a kingdom destiny with your name on it? Insist on nothing less than God's best in everything you do.



4. Be resistant- As God's people we have power to resist and stand strong in temptation. But too often we give in without a fight. The world begs us to give in. They tell us, like the Borg on Star Trek, "Resistance is futile." The enemy of our souls is frightened of what will happen to his flimsy kingdom if we resist. The Bible says "Resist the devil and he will flee from you." He knows that only Christ can resist him. So when we do what only Christ can do he panics and runs. Stop caving in. Be strong. The devil is a lot easier to crush than you think. As the Old hymn goes "One single word will fell him," that word is Jesus and he has given you power to resist and stand firm to the end.

Blessings, Mark and Mary

be consistent, be persistent, be insistent, be resistant