

YOUTH PASTOR NEWS

December 2011

Purpose

To encourage and continue to build our relationship with you, our Youth Pastors! My hope is that this newsletter will be a blessing to you and a helpful tool for your ministry!



Word of Encouragement:

I love pictures, mostly because for me they capture memories and stories to remember when I look at them. In pulling together pictures for next summer's brochure, I was vividly reminded of one of my favorite moments from this past summer, as well as reminded of the reason for the Christmas season.

During our senior high week we had a day in reverse. We got the kids up at 4 in the morning to play a "night" game and then headed to the beach for a sunrise chapel service. This was unlike any experience I have ever had. The morning was perfect. After singing some songs, 170 campers, staff, and volunteers sat in complete silence for the next 30 minutes. As we waited, there was a moment of pregnant anticipation—the kind that gets under your skin and gives you goose bumps and makes you feel giddy like a kid on Christmas day because you know that what is coming is going to be good! But even more than that feeling, there was the awesome stillness and presence of God that quietly and brilliantly made its way over the tree line.



When the sun finally spilled over the treetops and danced over the water, there were no fireworks or loud cheering to welcome its divine splendor. Rather, no one dared to shatter the spell of peace and comfort of just *being*. Being in the presence of God. No agenda. No worry. Just peace. Security. Thankfulness.

I wonder if that is some of what Mary felt in moments of anticipation and excitement knowing that she had been chosen by God to bear Jesus Christ—the Savior of the world. And in the moment when the King of Kings and Lord of Lords entered the world, there was no kingly processional or loud earthly celebration. Instead, though I am sure not quietly, Christ brilliantly and unannounced entered the world. A sort of presence must have hung in the air—the kind that makes one sit in awe and silence and wonder at who Christ is.

My hope is that this Christmas season, when life can get busy, you take some time to be *still* and know that God is God. Allow yourself the time to be raptured in the presence of God so that you are left in awe and silence and wonder at the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Christ—His greatest gift to you!

No agenda. No worry. Just peace, security, and thankfulness—in the presence of Christ.

Merry Christmas!

"In the beginning was the Word...and the Word was God...and the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:1,14)



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