



“The Del-Haven Vision”

“Without vision, the people perish” (Proverbs 29:18)

Newsletter of Camp Del-Haven

Turning Kids from Crime to Christ

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*“For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition which I asked of Him.”
“And the child, Samuel, grew in stature, and in favor both with the Lord and men.” “Now
the boy, Samuel, ministered to the Lord before Eli. And the word of the Lord was precious in
those days; there was no widespread revelation.” “Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord,
nor was the word of the Lord yet revealed to him.” “Then the Lord appeared again in Shiloh.
For the Lord revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the Lord.” 1Sam.1:27; 2:26; 3:1,
7, 21*

The first text quoted above pertains to Hannah, the mother of Samuel. Literally, from the Hebrew, Hannah means “*grace*”, and Samuel means “*heard of God*”. Hence, what we have here on display is a divine demonstration of the ruling principle of sovereignty that may be summed up by saying that the “*prayer of grace*” is “*heard of God*” who grants its petitions. The prayer of grace preceded and permeated the path of Samuel, the boy, who in turn, by God’s grace, became Samuel, the prophet.

It was during the period between Samuel’s infancy to his adolescence that God initiated the revelatory experience of his spiritual regeneration. It is also undeniably clear that the life transforming experience of regeneration centers around the Lord’s revealing His word. In fact, it plainly says that the Lord revealed Himself “by the word of the Lord”.

This is the way it happened back then and this is the way that it happens today. Jesus said, “*he who hears my word and believes on Him that sent me, has everlasting life*”; “*It is the Spirit who gives life...the words that I speak with you are spirit and are life*”. Then from the inspired by God writings of the apostles Paul and James we are told: “*Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word*”; “*not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior*”; “*Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth*”.

In addition, Peter, in essence, tells us the same thing when he says that we obey the truth through the Spirit “*having been born again (or, regenerated), not of corruptible seed, but incorruptible, by the word of God which lives and abides forever*”.

It is upon this foundation of spiritual understanding concerning real regeneration that we do not -- nor, indeed, we cannot -- do anything less than preach the word, being instant, as it says, in season and out of season. The Holy Spirit would have it be no other way, and under His influence according to His indwelling, we fulfill the wisdom of God through the preaching of His holy word of the truth of the gospel.

*For Christ's glory only!
A. Carpenter*

Sowing Seeds of Gospel Love and Truth

Our 2008 camp season has officially come to an end. The Lord has shown Himself ever faithful in providing for the ongoing needs that this operation demands. But, more than that -- much more than that -- He has demonstrated the power of His presence among us where the presentation of the gospel is concerned.

I personally had a particularly poignant encounter with a young fellow named, DeAndre. And, this incident emerged out of the midst of a most unlikely setting. It was our first older boys camp [aged 9-12], and we found ourselves in the foreboding situation of being understaffed for the group that was there. There were four boys that were especially hard to control and their unruly behavior made it difficult for all the rest. The staff had to cut the evening activities way short of the normal schedule and put them all to bed in the dormitory.

I was discussing the situation with the staff outside the dorm when DeAndre came out carrying his Gideon's New Testament (that every camper receives), and crying uncontrollably. I could only do one thing, and that was pull him to me and hug him and try to console his broken heart by telling him about the Lord. It came out, right at that time, that this little boy had lost his mother just five years earlier. He lives with his aunt and two of his cousins. His mother died suddenly of a heart attack, and oh, how he missed her. One of his other two cousins also lost his mother. She was murdered. DeAndre's aunt is the surviving sister who now has charge of the children of her other two sisters. DeAndre is ten now, so he has been carrying the weight of this trauma around since he was just five years old. His dad is in prison. He hates his dad. Out of the midst of all this turmoil the Lord paved a way for gospel love and truth to be sowed into his troubled heart. Please pray with us for DeAndre...and his cousins...and his aunt...and Camp Del-Haven.



Prayer Requests

Thank you all for being there. Your prayers and your continual showing of love and support are most precious to us. The spiritual battle we face is indeed a fierce one... but our God is indeed an awesome God! He is the King of kings and Lord of lords! Victory is in Jesus! Praise His Name!

Our expenses are outrageously high; Our resources are low, but holding steady. The work that remains to be done is an ever constant reminder of how much we need to depend upon our great Savior. We love you -- and it's always encouraging to hear from you.

“For whatsoever things were written before were written for our learning that we through the patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.” Rom.15:4