



June 12, 2015

President's Briefing

CCCA Northwest Section

Summer camp season is here and you are probably is in the middle of summer staff training right now. My prayer for you is Proverbs 3:5 & 6!



James Richey

CCCA NW President

SECTION PRESIDENT'S **BRIEFING**



June 2015 | Volume 5, Number 6
Your CCCA Northwest Section Newsletter

PRACTICAL TIP



The Overflowing Inbox

Email can be an amazing tool for camps. And being mobile is a huge asset for camp staff who spend a great deal of time outside an office on camp property or even traveling throughout the year for work. But email can easily become overwhelming. A recent study by the McKinsey Global Institute reported that the average worker spends 28 percent of the work week reading and answering email. Feeling buried in electronic messages? Here are three practical tips to help manage your inbox.

1. **Reduce the riff-raff:** There's a good chance a large number of emails coming your way are unwanted advertisements or news feeds. Take the time to unsubscribe once, and you'll free up the time it takes

- to deal with those every day.
2. Set a schedule: The constant interruption of emails and notifications can be distracting and cause you to be inefficient in other areas. Set certain times of the day to check and answer email. Then turn it off and ignore it when it's not email time.
 3. Simplify folders: Create a system of very simple folders to file emails that need to be dealt with or kept. Keeping it simple will keep your inbox clean and prevent emails from getting lost in the shuffle.

FRESH IDEA



Walk on!

You learned to do it when you were only a year old! And yet, simple as it is, walking still holds dramatic health benefits. The American Heart Association says at least 30 minutes of walking per day can:

- Reduce the risk of coronary heart disease
- Improve blood pressure and blood sugar levels
- Improve blood lipid profile
- Maintain body weight and lower the risk of obesity
- Enhance mental well-being
- Reduce the risk of osteoporosis
- Reduce the risk of breast and colon cancer
- Reduce the risk of non-insulin dependent (type 2) diabetes

That's a lot of good health packed into a short amount of time! So start walking ... today. You can even begin by simply choosing to walk the places you need to get to around camp. Instead of taking the golf cart or 4-wheeler, plan to walk. Or invite someone you need to talk with to have that conversation while you walk together. You'll be amazed how quickly those 30 minutes add up.

Keeping yourself healthy is the first step to keeping your camp healthy. Read more about keeping everyone at camp healthy in the June/July issue of InSite magazine.

FAITH STORY



Shaped by Faith and Fear at Summer Camp

This past week I was cleaning out the large collection of correspondence I've kept since I was 10. Birthday and Christmas cards from grandparents, letters in rough cursive from grade school friends, graduation well-wishes, thank-you notes, postcards-you name it, I kept it. Every couple of years I go through the box, select those that still touch or amuse me and recycle the rest.

Although the stack shrinks with each sorting, there is one batch of correspondence I don't think I'll ever throw out: the notes my mom sent me during my summers at sleep-away camp.

I was constantly homesick during those weeks. Although I don't possess any examples of what I was writing home, I can easily recall or imagine what preoccupied my adolescent heart at the time. I was worried about making friends, anxious about learning to ride a horse and downright terrified of poison ivy. I felt intensely out of my element, but knowing that my mom was thinking of me helped me feel less isolated in my sadness and gave me courage to press on. She pointed me to the truly eternal promises in God's Word, reminding me with Bible verses (especially Psalm 139) that Jesus was always with me and knew my sadness, and that I had nothing to fear because he knew me and would protect me.

I couldn't see then, at the age of 12 or 13, what my mother could. I couldn't appreciate how the challenges and victories of summer camp would impact my character, my friendships and my relationship with Christ. But I can see now how those days in the Wisconsin woods ingrained in me a sense of God's majesty, evident in his creation and his provision. Sunsets, stars and campfires became touchstones for me-I couldn't explain how, but in encountering them, I encountered God's presence.

Those moments built a kind of courage in me that opened me up to other discoveries. Although I was nothing close to an outdoorsy kid, those camp days inspired a surprising love of rock climbing completely at odds with my fear of falling and contempt of dirt. Learning to steer a canoe taught me how to step into roles of leadership. I discovered that even if I would otherwise prefer not to direct a voyage, it was more responsible for me to acknowledge my skills and put them to good use.

Some metaphors were easier to swallow than others. Lessons like "Sometimes you need to paddle through the rainstorm instead of wait for it to clear" were hard to accept. It was also at summer camp that I first experienced the pain of a drifting friendship and the rub-you-raw struggle that forgiveness can be. I experienced prayer that was, for the first time in my young life, a long haul without any sign of resolution. I had to learn that my conception of healing was often (read: usually) very different from God's-but that his was unfailingly better.

I attended summer camp for two to four weeks every summer for five years. I was relieved when each session ended: happy to leave the noise, dirt and sand behind and return home to my normal setting. But as much as I may have viewed those weeks as islands-removed, remote, anomalous-those experiences have had a way of lingering in my life.

Rereading my mother's words of love and her promises to pray for me, I'm consistently struck by how much I still need to hear those truths. Homesickness isn't restricted to summer camp! With every big change or development (in recent history: first job, first move, first heartbreak), I have to re-learn what faith looks like as I take on new tasks, lose and make friends or encounter unknown territories. I'm continuing to build on that growing ground of my youth.

I think that's why my mother's letters mean so much to me. Although more than a decade has passed since I first received them, I still need the guidance, shelter, hope and perspective they offer. This summer I'm making a big move across the country in order to attend graduate school. I am, once again, worried about finding community, anxious to learn new skills and downright terrified of poison ivy (some things never change). I think I'll be bringing those letters with me.

By Ashley Gray, used by permission of Today's Christian Woman.

FROM THE NATIONAL OFFICE



**EXCELLENCE
TRAINING
FIRE STARTERS**

June EIT

We know how busy our member camps are June through August, so we're switching things up for our summer Excellence in Training webinars. Our June EIT will introduce the new Fire Starters series-short video interviews with experts on topics that matter to you, accompanied by pertinent questions to get your staff talking. Be sure to watch your inbox and [this page](#) for more details.

Catch up on all the great EIT webinars you've missed! Log in to My CCCA to access the Excellence in Training archives.

Praying for You

On June 3, a group of CCCA board members joined CCCA President/CEO Gregg Hunter for a prayer conference call on behalf of all members beginning summer camp ministry. Board members Ed McDowell,

Chair; Linda Harris, Southeast Region Rep.; Michael Harvey, Northeast Region Rep.; and Sue Nigh, Member-at-Large, prayed for God's blessing and protection of CCCA member ministries through this important season. They prayed specifically for summer staff, leadership and full-time staff, safety, spiritual impact and financial blessing through the course of the summer. Hunter also invited members to submit specific prayer requests during the call, then prayed for needs such as recovery from intense flooding, God's blessing of a town meeting over a new dining hall, and a physical conflict between campers that remains unresolved.

Go [here](#) to listen to the recorded call and pray along.

Remember that CCCA staff join together each Wednesday to pray for the needs of members. You may submit your prayer requests at any time to <mailto:info@ccca.org>, and we will be happy to pray for you together.



You can carry and sell [The Power of Camp Coffee](#) in your camp store or serve it in your dining room. Buy it at wholesale with the discount code: cccamemberdirect. The Power of Camp Coffee is direct trade, roasted when you order it and shipped out fast for the freshest, best-tasting cup you can imagine. Also available now, just in time for summer-cold brew coffee in bottles, great for your camp store.



2015 National Conference-PANORAMA

Check out the [full list of speakers](#) (including Horst Schulze, founding COO of the Ritz-Carlton and David Kinnaman, president of Barna Research.)

PANORAMA will open with two new events on Monday, Dec. 7:

Camp Board Summit

Especially for boards of directors of camps and conference centers. Executive directors, bring your board members, and learn how to be more effective together. Featuring Bob Andringa, an expert in building strong boards and strengthening relationships between boards and executive directors.

Following the Camp Board Summit and lunch, please take advantage of our amazing CCCA golf rate of \$50 (includes green fee and cart) for an afternoon spent enjoying the Arizona Grand's unique links course, which features panoramic views of the surrounding desert landscape. Dramatic elevation changes and breathtaking mountain vistas highlight the diverse and challenging par-71 layout. Dress code is collared shirt and no jeans. *For tee times, contact Peter Boller, Golf Sales Manager, at 602-431-6478*

Youth Culture Summit

Learn about the challenges facing youth today and how camp can meet kids where they are. Hear about tech and culture trends and kids at risk, and dive deep into the world in which kids live today. Join youth culture experts Duffy Robbins, Walt Mueller, Crystal Kirgiss and Rich Van Pelt for a packed day of training you won't get elsewhere.



Summit Pricing:

Camp Board Summit or Youth Culture Summit

\$25 (with full-time conference registration), includes lunch

\$50 (without full-time conference registration*), includes lunch

**Please note that camp board members can attend the Camp Board Summit at the \$25 rate with a Monday Day Rate registration of \$179 (includes Monday's Opening Dinner, General Session, Exhibit Hall Grand Opening and Dessert).*

Corners of the Field 5K Fun Run, Dec. 10

On the last morning of the National Conference is CCCA's first-ever Corners of the Field 5K Fun Run. Join your friends from around the country in a movement-wide fun run to raise money to send kids to camp. Corners of the Field is CCCA's initiative to help send impoverished kids to camp through CCCA member camps. Our inaugural Corners of the Field 5K will allow you to show your support and give more kids the opportunity to go to camp who otherwise couldn't afford it.

Register for the Corners of the Field 5K Fun Run [here](#). The cost to participate is \$30. Once you've registered, please head over to CCCA's [CrowdRise page](#) to set up a fundraising page for your team.

- All runners will be given bibs with timing chips, and there will be prizes for the top finishers.



- Run, walk ... or anything in between! Encourage all conference attendees from your camp or conference center to participate, and start challenging other camps to meet you there. Together, let's see how many kids we can send to camp!

REGISTER

Radio Interview: Camp Changes Lives

In May, national speaker and The Legacy Institute President Carrie Abbott invited CCCA President and CEO Gregg Hunter to speak on her radio show about why camping is so important. Beginning with how he came to know Christ at camp, Hunter talked about how camp can change lives. You can listen to the interview [here](#).

InSite

The Latest *InSite* Magazine-All About Health

Have you read your June/July issue of *InSite* magazine? It's packed with great information about getting and staying healthy-physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. Find practical advice on keeping campers and staff safe and healthy this summer, tips on caring for yourself-body and soul-and much more!

Want to know more about CCCA and the resources it offers to members? Visit www.ccca.org, and click on the "Maximize Ministry" graphic near the top of the page, or call our friendly membership staff at (719) 260-9400.

If you no longer wish to receive Section President's Briefing, simply reply to this email with your name, camp name and request.

© 2015 Christian Camp and Conference Association

STAY CONNECTED

