

President's Briefing CCCA Northwest Section

Just a reminder that there is still time to sign up for our Accommodations and Food Service Advances next week. Check out our [website](#) for registration information.

Hope you and yours have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Colossians 3:15-17

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. and whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

James Richey
CCCA NW President



SECTION PRESIDENT'S BRIEFING



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Your CCCA Northwest Section Newsletter

PRACTICAL TIP



Go Deep

This is a great time of year to take your relationships with year-round staff to a deeper level. Intentional conversations can help camp staff develop into more purposeful, missional people at camp and beyond. And it can start with simple questions—try working these seven into your mentoring conversations:

- What was the highlight of your week?
- What was your most difficult challenge?

- What are you learning?
- How are you growing in your relationship with Christ?
- In what areas do you want to grow during the rest of the season?
- How can I help you?
- How can I pray for you?

Read more in-depth information about forming meaningful mentoring relationships in “Mentoring Leaders for Summer and Beyond” by Jon Lokhorst in the October/November issue of InSite magazine.

FRESH IDEA



Give Thanks—It's Good for Your Brain

Sorry, it's not the turkey or the mashed potatoes (or even the pumpkin pie) that gives your brain a boost during this season. Instead, numerous neuroscience studies have shown that it is actually the act of giving thanks that can make you healthier and happier. In his blog on Psychology Today's website, Alex Korb, Ph.D., says, “Feelings of gratitude directly activated brain regions associated with the neurotransmitter dopamine. Dopamine feels good to get, which is why it's generally considered the ‘reward’ neurotransmitter. But dopamine is also important in initiating action. That means increases in dopamine make you more likely to do the thing you just did. It's the brain saying, ‘Oh, do that again.’ Gratitude can have such a powerful impact on your life because it engages your brain in a virtuous cycle.”

But gratitude takes practice, so start by thinking of one thing you are thankful for today. Go ahead—give thanks!

You can find out more about the neuroscience of gratitude [here](#).

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.

Read the rest of the article [here](#).

By Ashley Gray. This article first appeared on TodaysChristianWoman.com. Copyright © 2013 by Ashley Gray and Christianity Today. Reprinted by permission of Today's Christian Woman.

FROM THE NATIONAL OFFICE



EXCELLENCE TRAINING

Save the Date: November EIT

Nov. 24, 2015

9 a.m. Pacific

10 a.m. Mountain

11 a.m. Central

Noon Eastern

Community Is Messy Heather Zempel oversees the community life at National Community Church, a multi-site church in Washington, D.C. Although the D.C. area's high relocation rates pose a natural challenge to community formation, Zempel's church has become a model for creative, dynamic, deep small group ministry.

In this EIT, Heather will explore the perils and possibilities in Christian community. The webinar will help leaders begin to turn the inherent "mess" of Christian community into raw material for arriving at something beautiful. Discover fresh insights into how we can support one another's unique paths to maturity in Christ while maintaining cohesion as a community and blessing the world around us.

REGISTER NOW

Van Brunt Appointed to CCCA Board as NE Region Rep

CCCA President/CEO Gregg Hunter has announced that the CCCA board approved the appointment of Kevin Van Brunt to fill the unexpired region-representative term of Michael Harvey, who resigned to return to church ministry. Harvey had been executive director at Seneca Hills Bible Camp in Polk, Pa.

"I'm grateful for Michael's strong service to the board of CCCA over the last three years," Hunter said, "and we pray for the best in his transition. I know he'll do a terrific job. At the same time, I'm glad to welcome Kevin Van Brunt to the Northeast region rep position through December 2016. I'm grateful for Kevin's willingness to serve the region, and the board, in this way."



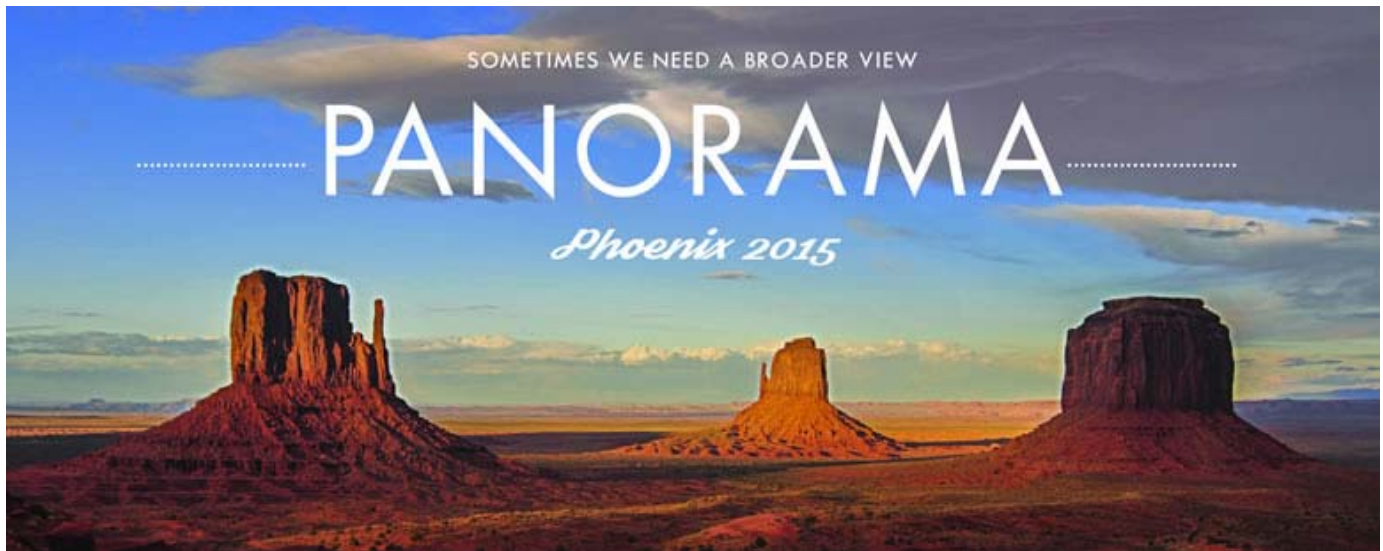
Van Brunt is the president/executive director of Sentinel Ministries (Tuftonboro, N.H.), where he has served since 2005. The camp and retreat ministry has grown from 400 to more than 4,000 campers and guests under his leadership and through a community outreach emphasis. In



addition, Van Brunt has served as president for the New England section.

Previously, Kevin served at the YMCA as associate branch director and youth and associate pastor at his local church. He holds a bachelor's degree from Gordon College in recreation and leisure studies with minors in youth ministry, outdoor education and special education. Kevin's vision for camp and retreat ministry is to use the stillness of God's creation as a vehicle to build relationships and change lives for Christ. He has a passion for outdoor ministry and is excited to share fresh ideas for growing camper enrollment, enhancing customer service and building a solid staff and volunteer team—all for the glory of God!

Married in 1997, Kevin and Traci reside year-round at Sentinel with their children, Tucker, Abigail and Owen. When not at camp, you can often find Kevin and his family at their log cabin in Madison, N.H.



There is still time to register for the 2015 National Conference! While you're at it, don't forget to also register to attend one of the special Monday events—the Camp Board Summit or Youth Culture Summit—and sign up to participate in the Corners of the Field 5K Fun Run/Walk.

[REGISTER](#)

[REGISTER: Camp Board Summit](#)

[REGISTER: Youth Culture Summit](#)

[REGISTER: 5K Fun Run](#)

*On the final morning of the conference, Thursday, Dec. 10, **we're giving away a stocked camp store** courtesy of Send the Light Distribution! The prize will include the top books, music, movies and gifts your campers and guests will love. You must be present to win.*

Section Presidents' Symposium

We are looking forward to gathering with section leadership on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 6, in Phoenix. If you haven't yet finalized your plans to attend, we'd love to hear from you right away so you're able to take part in this time of updates, insider information and training.

October/November *InSite* Magazine, Now in a Mailbox Near You

Don't miss the latest issue of *InSite* magazine! It's full of fresh ideas to help you market your camp or conference center. Check out the articles below for a taste of what the issue holds:

- "[The Joy of Asking: Tips for connecting God's people with kingdom needs](#)"
 - "[Your Marketing Soundtrack: Creating the perfect score to tell your story in a digital age](#)"
 - "[Created for Camps: Marketing Plan in a Box](#)"
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Links We Love and Want to Share

CCCA President/CEO Gregg Hunter recently helped his brothers sort through decades of their parents' documents, treasures and junk as their parents prepared for a move to an assisted living facility. In a [new blog post](#), Gregg reflects on legacy and transitions. What do you hope to leave behind?

If you're feeling stressed, one simple journaling exercise may lead to improved health and a more positive attitude. Read about it in "[One Research-Backed Way to Manage Your Stressful and Busy Schedule.](#)"

From Relevant magazine's Twitter: "Maybe it's time we stopped leading with what Jesus is against and started talking more about what He's for." Go [here](#) to read Relevant's article on the subject.

As you evaluate your staffing and volunteer needs for the coming months or for next summer's camp season, check out this [Youth Specialties blog](#) post for helpful tips on recruiting and retaining leaders in youth ministry.

Speaking of staffing, this [Harvard Business Review](#) article breaks down what to do—and avoid doing—when a job-seeking colleague or employee asks you for a reference.

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.