

GOT IT!

“Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things which your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life; but teach them to your children and your grandchildren.” - Deuteronomy 4:9

Recently, Connie and I finished our 6th Brezina Cousin Camp (BCC). God continues to show us new things from each camp. We still have lessons to learn. When people hear about BCC, they usually ask two questions, “What is it?” and “How do you do it?”

The answer to the first question is that BCC is similar to a Vacation Bible School (VBS). The difference is that kids attend VBS from nine o’clock till noon for five days at a church building. At BCC, cousins stay twenty-four hours a day for five days at our house.

To come to a BCC, one has to be a grandson of Greg and Connie Brezina, at least 5 years

old and potty trained. With 17 grandchildren (13 grandsons and 4 granddaughters) our BCC has been growing each year. This year, we had 9 grandsons from ages 5 to 11 attend. We also host a Brezina Princess Camp (BPC) which is exclusively for our granddaughters.

The answer to “How do you do it?” begins with our purpose. As grandparents, we are to aid our children in teaching and training their children two basic Biblical truths and then leave the results to God.

We teach them how to know God personally, and then we train them how to submit their wills to the Holy Spirit to experience liv-

ing their lives in and through Christ’s life. The BCC provides us an intentional intensive time to accomplish part of our God-given responsibility as stated in Deuteronomy 4:9.

The BCC also provides opportunities to make good family memories and foster close relationship bonds with one another. After camp, they each get a picture scrapbook to remember the fun camp times they had growing up together with their cousins.

This year, as soon as God told us to host the camp, Connie asked Him for a camp theme. It wasn’t long before she came to me and said, “I’ve Got It!”

continued inside...





DAILY SCHEDULE

DAY: Tuesday

6:00am	Play and do not wake others
8:00am	Breakfast
8:30am	Dress and Clean Rooms
8:45am	Devotional Time
9:15am	Personal Handbook Time (craft)
10:00am	Snack Break (PUZZLE Time)
10:30am	Practice Musical Program
11:30am	Break (PUZZLE Time)
12:00am	Lunch
12:30pm	Fun Field Trips, Recreation Time
4:30pm	Practice Musical Program
5:30pm	Dinner and Games
7:30pm	Shower Time
8:00pm	Prayers and Zinger the Gunslinger Story
9:00pm	Lights Out

submitting their will to the Holy Spirit. We did this by assigning Cousin Camp buddies where older cousins were paired with younger cousins in order to help as needed with crafts, at meal times, and in memorizing their daily Scripture verses. It was a huge blessing to watch them mentor and serve each other.

But the best BCC time for me was tucking them in bed at night. As I tucked them in, I would whisper in each ear, "I thank God that you are my grandson. I am so blessed to be your grandfather." I would also tell them how they measured up, were good enough, had what it took to be a great man of God in Christ. Then, I would kiss them good night.

The hardest time I had during BCC was teaching the third day devotional. The first day, we talked about how GOD HAS GOT IT ALL. The second day we covered how GOD GIFTED IT ALL TO US in Christ. The third day, we taught them how to GIFT IT TO OTHERS.

As I was teaching them, I referred to one of the songs we were teaching them called "Go Light Your World" by Christopher Rice. The chorus goes like this:

*Carry your candle, and run to the darkness
Seek out the helpless, confused and torn
And hold out your candle for all to see it
Take your candle, and go light your world
Take your candle, and go light your world.*

I illustrated the chorus by telling the boys about two young, bright, and talented friends. Shortly after their wedding, at God's leading, they packed their bags and left their dearly loved family and friends. They went as missionaries to a nation where radical Muslim terrorists are bombing, beating and beheading Christians. They have taken their light of Jesus to another country to share it with others. They have taken their candle and run full speed into this terrible religious darkness.

As I was sharing with the boys, it hit me. Radical Muslims are training their grandchildren to destroy my grandchildren. At the same time, Connie and I are training our grandchildren to run to them and share the love of Christ regardless of the consequences.

The realization of Romans 8:36 gripped my heart like never before. It states, "Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BE-

"Got what?" I asked.

She replied, "The camp theme."

Again I asked, "What is it?"

With joy she replied, "GOT IT! God's got it all. He has gifted it to us so we've got it, and we are to gift it to others so they've got it. Isn't that neat?"

"Wow," I said, "That's good. That's very good. Praise the Lord." We thanked Father for

work of His hands." -- He has gifted it to us. II Peter 1:3 says, "His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence."

-- And, we are to gift it to others. Ecclesiastes 9:10a says, "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might." We agreed on the dates, called all related parties and confirmed them. Connie, the gifted administrator, drafted a schedule. With 9 active grandsons, organization is essential. It doesn't take long for idle

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the theme. Then we agreed that our theme song would be "He's Got The Whole World In His Hands."

Connie put Scripture to the theme. -- God's got it all. Psalms 19:1 says, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the

energetic young bodies to get into some mischief. Therefore, we schedule just about every minute with the boys.

One thing I enjoyed most about Cousin Camp this year was teaching the older boys how to mentor or serve the younger ones by

ING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."

As I looked at those 9 bright, handsome, healthy, happy and "innocent" young men, sadness filled my heart. I was emotionally over-

whelmed. So much so, I covered my face with my hands because I didn't want them to see my eyes swelling with tears. That, my friend, was the lowest moment at Cousin Camp.

As I had my hands over my face, the gentle and gracious Holy Spirit whispered, "Greg, in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us."

Yes, Father has GOT IT ALL. He has the victory, and He has GIFTED IT TO US. Now we have the precious privilege of GIFTING IT TO OTHERS even at the cost of our unsustainable physical lives.

At the end of the devotional, I asked Elijah, the newest member of BCC, "Where do we

get the power to take our candle and run to the darkness?"

Without hesitation, five-year-old Elijah confidently answered, "Submit your will to the Holy Spirit."

Hallelujah, Elijah has GOT IT! And, he GIFTED IT to me.

At the end of camp, we asked our grandsons what they liked best about Cousin Camp? Everyone gave their answers and then asked, "When is Cousin Camp next year?"

Well, my eyes are swelling with tears again. It is time to go. Connie and I have many more faith miles to walk before we sleep. Let us take our candle, run headlong into the darkness, and

along with our children and grandchildren, go light our world in and through Christ.

We appreciate your prayers for us and our family, especially our sweet granddaughter Katheryn who is battling brain cancer. We are praying for you and your family.

Love ya,



Greg Brezina

[MINISTRY UPDATE]

"I have been working with one of your counselors the past three weeks, because I've been depressed. Most nights, I would cry myself to sleep. I felt God had forgotten me. The message at this seminar was exactly what I needed to hear. Not only did God not leave me, but He lives inside of me and I have already been given everything I need for life and godliness." - a recent seminar attendee

We have just finished a very busy summer of ministry at Christian Families Today. Here are some highlights of what God has been doing in and through our Spirit led and equipped staff over the last three months.

[COUNSELING AND COACHING]

We continue to maintain a waiting list for adults, teens and children who are seeking counsel in how to have healthy relationships with God, with self and with others. In the months of June, July, and August, our staff met one-on-one in counseling and coaching with 241 men, women and children.

We were able to spend close to 900 hours in individual sessions leading them to discover their identity in Christ and how that relates to personal issues we face such as marriage conflicts and communication, marital affairs, poor academic performance, rejection, depression, anxiety, addictions, eating disorders, low self esteem, grief, anxiety, worry, fear, physical/sexual abuse, anger, major life changes, motivation, or looking to find direction in life.

Our services are provided to others on a donation only basis. Many can only donate little for the counseling they receive. Some

cannot afford to donate. However, God has been faithfully meeting CFT's needs the last 34 years through our ministry partners. We are constantly thanking Father for those who have not only invested financially in the Lord's work through Christian Families Today, but who also pray for us regularly. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. We cannot say it enough.

[SEMINARS AND TRAINING]

Every quarter we host a Grow In Grace seminar. This seminar is an introduction into our counseling method and also includes the truths that are covered more in depth in our other trainings. In August, we had 27 people attend the Grow In Grace seminar. We also conducted another international Grow in Grace seminar via Skype with five pastors and seven other believers in Nairobi, Kenya.

In August, we also graduated 7 people from our 15-week summer Addiction Recovery Program. Watching the men begin to experience freedom in Christ from their addictive behaviors excited all the staff who had the privilege of working with these men.

The 2014 Advanced Discipleship Training I (ADT 1) just ended and 18 people completed the course. ADT I began all the

way back in mid-January and met every Tuesday night for three and a half hours. Every year, we see God make dramatic changes in peoples' lives as they come to know how to live out of the life of Christ who lives within them. Nine of these students along with two others from previous classes have enrolled in our Advanced Discipleship Training II. Part two of our ADT leads disciples into a deeper intimacy with God and self, while focusing specifically on learning how to guide others into living out of the Abundant Life of Christ.



Mark Fields, Director of Training at CFT, recently spent two weeks teaching our Grow In Grace seminar to five Kenyan pastors and seven other church members via Skype.

OCT 17-18
2014

CHRISTIAN COUPLES' SEMINAR (NEWNAN, GA)

Don't miss this opportunity for you and your spouse to take an important time-out, have a date away from the demands of daily living, and be biblically encouraged and strengthened in your marriage relationship. Call for more information and to register. - 770-502-8050

NOV 7 - 8
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GROW IN GRACE SEMINAR (NEWNAN, GA)

Come learn how to consistently experience Christ's love, joy, and peace in the midst of busyness and stress! Call for more information and to register. - 770-502-8050

**DO YOU EVER WONDER IF YOU ARE DOING ALL GOD HAS PLANNED FOR YOU?
OUR LIFE COACHING MAY BE ABLE TO HELP YOU DISCOVER THE ANSWER.**

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