

April Rhodes Report

Desperate for God

An old Webster’s dictionary gives the following definition of the word ‘desperate’: “Of extreme intensity: overpowering. Suffering extreme need or anxiety.”

Do you and I ever have such a compelling desire for God it could be described as ‘desperate’? Or, does the word ‘desperate’ seem a bit much? Do we have an overpowering hunger for His immediate and intimate presence, or are we so secure and sophisticated we never find cause for urgent, passionate communion with our God?

I suggest we view ourselves as desperate men in desperate times. It is high time we cried out with fervent, even *desperate* passion to our God. **We** are so poor and needy, **He** so great and mighty. How we need Him!

Setting the Stage

When I was in High School I participated in the Junior and Senior Plays. I wasn’t an actor; I chose to be a stagehand. It was fun. While others tensed over their scrip, their appearance, and all kinds of worrisome details, we stagehands casually accomplished the setup, handled props, and enjoyed the play with ease.

At camp we are presently “setting the stage”, and we need help. We need stagehands! In our case, that means volunteers who will get buildings finished, maintenance accomplished, activities and game props prepared, horses in order, etc. Our massive array of facility needs and details is an intimidating challenge to this resource-poor ministry. If you have **no** physical or material abilities to convey, can you pray the Lord of the Harvest send forth laborers?

Forty days of Prayer

I’m not one for catchy promotions, but let me suggest forty camp-focused days of prayer. This concerted season of “effectual, fervent prayer” begins May 10, and ends Sunday June 19, the day after Teen Camp. We should pray for material and spiritual preparations *before* our summer camps, the life-changing ministry of the Holy Spirit *during* our camps, and participating local church follow-up *after* camp. Is not the condition of our people desperate? Then we must be given to prayer! (Did I say it begins May 10? Why wait?!)

“What doth hinder me from being a camper?”

Does that question come from the Bible? No, I made it up! (It’s a bit similar to the Ethiopian’s words to Phillip in Acts 8:36 “What doth hinder me to be baptized?”) Nonetheless, it is true many young people are hindered from camp attendance. The two leading causes are always these: 1) *Parents who won’t encourage it.* 2) *Churches who don’t promote it.* I have never seen campers denied camp for inability to pay camp fees. Praise God there are always sacrificial church leaders or concerned individuals who will pay the way for others, once they know the need.

Does Gila Christian Ranch Practice Age Discrimination?

No doubt many of our adult readers would love to hear Evangelist Paul Crow or Dr. John Goetsch at camp this June. Sorry, Junior Week is for Juniors and Teen Week is for teens! But don’t let your young loved ones or the kids in your church miss the opportunity. Find further details in our brochure, or on our website, www.GilaChristianRanch.org

Who said these Words?

“I love camp because I spend a whole week with God, making friends, and listening to the wonderful services. The services helped me make a lot of wise decisions and those decisions all pointed towards God. I am not ready to leave camp. I love camp. I wish I could live here. Camp is a blessing.”

a. George Washington b. Abraham Lincoln c. The Apostle Paul d. A Gila Christian Ranch Camper

Well, perhaps George, Abe, and Paul said something similar--or would have--but no one wrote it down! The correct answer is “d”!

A small man with a big God,

Randy Rhodes

