



TRI-STATE BIBLE CAMP

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Tri-State Times

A newsletter publication of Tri-State Bible Camp

...all to the glory of God

Fall 2008

I Can't Do It!

By Chris Jenkins

Have you ever come to a point in your life where you have simply thrown up your hands in surrender, whether literally or figuratively, because you realize you just can't do it. The most recent of those moments for me came while building a swing set in the back yard for my children. It was one of those projects that starts small until you get into the middle of it, and then you realize after 7 trips to Home Depot that maybe it wasn't as simple as it seemed. You know the one where the instructions tell you it will take between 6-8 hours to build, unless you're me of course, and then it turns into more like 15-18 hours. I'm still not completely finished yet, but at least it's useable!

For me, my 'throw my hands up in the air' moments can come from any number of things that I am unable to do well. I am sure you may have a list of your own. Hopefully, you can relate to that feeling of inadequacy when you come to the moment when you throw your hands in the air. It is at that point we are acknowledging that everything we

have tried to do is not working, and we don't know what else to do. Fortunately for me, I have Keith to call for my playground incidents. Of course he doesn't help me with my golfing inadequacies to much. Have you ever been there? Have you ever felt overwhelmed, inadequate and at a loss all at the same time? I trust I'm not the only one, but please don't tell me if I am.

I am the vine ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

John 15:5

The Lord reminded me this summer that my approach to those 'tough' situations should really be my approach to everything that happens in my life. Not that we are always giving up on projects, but that we should have the realization that **we cannot do it!**

In John 15 this concept is spelled out for us when Christ says in verse 5, *I am the vine ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.* The question we must ask ourselves is, do we really believe that? Do we believe that if we are gaining our strength and power from Christ, we will

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WHAT'S NEXT?

Fall Work Retreat

Would you consider coming out to give the camp a hand during this all important fall work retreat. There are jobs for everyone in the family, so come and make some memories together as we kick off some important projects here at TSBC.

In addition to our normal work retreat routine of getting the camp ready for winter, this year we are also going to be starting the demolition of the chapel floor as we begin the process of rebuilding the structure which was damaged from the termites.

We will also need some people to help us in the cutting and gathering of firewood for the winter. We have purchased some outdoor wood furnaces which will dramatically reduce our heating oil use when heating our buildings throughout the winter, but we need wood and lots of it.

Please consider coming to help as an individual, family or even a church group. The retreat begins Friday evening with a meal at 7:00 pm and ends after dinner on Saturday. You can come for all or part of that time, or even if you would like to come during the day on Friday to help, we would love to have you!

Winter Weekends

January 16-17 (gr. 7-12)
Rich Tozour

January 23-24 (gr. 4-8)
Matt Wolfe

Couples Retreat

February 6-7
Dr. Allen Griffith

(Call the camp for more information)

www.goodsearch.com

Would you help the camp raise an average of \$11 per person per year if it didn't cost you any money? You may be wondering how that is possible. We have recently registered and been approved as a recipient of funds from goodsearch.com. Here is how it works.

Step 1: Many people use a search engine such as Google or Yahoo. Instead of using one of these, go to **www.goodsearch.com**.

Step 2: Once you are there, go to the line that says "who do you goodsearch for" and type in Tri State Bible Camp and click verify. It should return Tri State Bible Camp, Montague, NJ.

Step 3: Then just use **www.goodsearch.com** as your search engine from now on. It's that simple!

Every time you make a search through www.goodsearch.com, after verifying the camp as the beneficiary, the camp will receive on average .01 per search. That does not sound like a lot, but if we were able to get 100 people who make an average of 3 searches per day, that would generate \$1,100 per year! Or just about \$11 per person, per year. There is also a toolbar that you can download to your browser to make searching and helping the camp easier! Would you consider helping the camp in this simple way? It does not cost you a thing and you will help the camp further its ministry, just by doing something that you probably already do! If you have any questions, call or e-mail the camp at tsbc@tristatebiblecamp.org.



Cooks in the kitchen

Although at camp there can probably never be too many cooks in the kitchen, this summer we were privileged to have two. Libby Lewis, who has for many years served as our cook at the camp, has gotten engaged and will soon be getting married. Libby will be moving to the Philippines to be with her husband, and as much as we would like to try, that is a pretty long commute to work at the camp. We praise the Lord for Libby's dedication and hard work during her many years of service.

The Lord has also supplied someone to come in and take Libby's place. Faith George, who is a recent graduate of Pensacola Christian College, will be assuming the kitchen responsibilities starting this fall. Faith has had the opportunity to work under Libby this summer, so we are looking forward to a seamless transition as we continue on with our camp schedule. Please pray for both of these ladies as they start new phases and new responsibilities in their lives.

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be productive Christians, not because of our talents or abilities, but because it is Christ's power working in me? Do we literally believe that apart from Christ, we can accomplish absolutely nothing? I believe as Christians we are all familiar with the idea. I believe we have probably heard it preached or studied it in our personal devotions. I believe we have probably thought about it and even talked about this concept with other believers. We readily acknowledge the fact that we need God's help. Have we ever come to the 'throw my hands up in the air' moment where we cry out to God for His help in everything we do and in every aspect of our day. Have we ever come to a point of absolute dependence on God because we recognize that our vain attempts are futile? Have we recognized our tremendous need of God's power working in us and in our families and in our ministries because that is the only way it can be done?

Often times, somewhere between the head and

the heart, the message gets confused. After all, our talents can, and often do, carry us through the day. Our abilities can often help us accomplish many positive things. But when it comes right down to it, if it is our abilities and talents carrying us through we have accomplished nothing! We need this message to ring true in our hearts. The message that says, I CAN'T DO IT!

This message is a transforming one. It will change the way that you parent your children. It will change the way you handle your job. And yes, it will even change the way that you run a camp (although that one is probably only effective for me and maybe a handful of others). The idea is that when that truth really sinks in, it will change you. It will empower you. It will relieve you from the load you have been trying to carry on your own. But perhaps most importantly, it will enable God to use you to accomplish His will — not because of our abilities, but because of His mighty power at work!

Projects

- Bunk Bed Mattress(2)**
\$100 each
- Microphones(2)** \$125 each
- Microphone Cables(3)**
\$65 each
- Water Pitchers for the dining room (26)** \$5 each
- Snow Cone Machine** \$500
- 6' Folding Tables (2)** \$45ea.
- Soccer Nets (1)** \$50 each

I would like to help with the following project(s) for Tri-State Bible Camp. Enclosed is a gift toward the cost of the indicated need.
(Please circle the project you are contributing to.)

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____

Projects Completed

- Soccer Nets (1)**
- Water Pitchers (4)**

Donations should be sent to:
 Tri-State Bible Camp
 2 River Road, Montague, NJ 07827

You can now make donations online !
www.tristatebiblecamp.org

Any gifts received above the actual project cost will be used to help with other camp needs.



We have been able to purchase two outdoor wood furnaces to heat four of our buildings during the winter season. We are currently in the process of gathering the 25 cords of wood that we will need for this winter. If you would be able to give us a day, a weekend or even a few hours this fall to help in cutting and transporting wood from around our property, please give the office a call at 973-293-3522.



2 River Rd.
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Praise

Praise the Lord for the safety and protection that He provided during the summer season for the staff and campers.

Praise the Lord for His goodness as He worked in many hearts and lives over the past several months (there were 13 salvation decisions and dozens of other decisions made during the summer camps).

Praise the Lord for His financial provisions for the camp over the past year.

Prayer

Please pray for my family as we will be traveling to various conferences, churches and colleges throughout the next several months.

Pray for safety for Keith and others who will be working on a number of projects to be accomplished this fall.

Pray for continued expansion of our ministry to more churches, families and individuals.

Pray that God would continue to bring revival to the hearts of our campers.

Would you consider joining our growing list of prayer partners? Our prayer partners are those who would make a commitment to regularly pray for the camp, and in turn we send out an email to you every few weeks letting you know specific items to pray for.

Interested? Send an email to prayerpartner@trisatebiblecamp.org to join!