



Volume 43 Fall 2024

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Intentional Love and Good Deeds

By David Rudy, Chief Advancement Officer



In Hebrews 10:23-24, the writer gives us these words:

²³ Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,

Do you see the intentionality that is being instructed in this passage? Verse 23 instructs us to intentionally hold onto our faith in Christ, without leaning, bending or wavering.

Why do we do this? It is not because of anything we do, but because He is faithful to all that He promises. Campers and 4.12 LTP students are taught this truth. We have all had moments in life that have challenged us in this way. One thing we can count on in those challenges is His intentionality. He is faithful to be with us during all trials and lead us through them. The next verse leads us to another act of intentionality.

Verse 24 tells us to “consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds”. Again, the meaning of these words pushes us into intentionality. For example, the word Scripture uses for “consider” is also translated as: to perceive, behold and discover. It is defined as “fixing one’s eyes or minds upon.” Continuing with this idea, spurring one another on also comes from intentionality. It means we are inciting, provoking or even creating an irritation. Have you ever known someone that was always irritating you to be the best version of yourself? At camp, we often see this as summer staff members spur campers, as well as each other, towards faith, love and service because they are taught of God’s great potential in each of us. Be thankful for and hang around these irritants!

Another act of intentionality this passage reveals is to be actively encouraging others- encouraging them in love and good deeds. So, I ask, when was the last time you intentionally fixed your mind upon how you may provoke someone around you to love and good works? At Joy El, this is intentionally taught and practiced through service.



Each camper is given intentional time to share

I don’t believe this infers how we can be kind to get someone to do something for us or to be loving to another to have them join in our works. See this is what gets challenging as we run the race of life, and especially in ministry. We all get very busy and have important work to do for God, but our work is never more important than the people God places around us. And what I am seeing from this passage is that we must be intentional to put aside our works, our preferences and needs and to intentionally fix our mind upon others around us. We need to ask God, “How

cont'd. on page 3

Intentional Encouragement

By Jarren Jenkins, Male Junior Staff Coordinator

Summer camp offers many opportunities to see God work. However, it is typically noticed the most in the campers He brings. If you have ever had the pleasure of working at camp, you have realized that He also works through the summer staff members in amazing ways. There was a particular staff member I worked with who was concerned about his ability to perform to the level of his peers. He was **worried he wouldn't quite fit in** or that others would be less willing to talk to him. While mentoring him as he was serving at camp through the summer, **I saw his confidence grow. God continuously placed a burden on his heart to step out of his comfort zone** and share his faith

with others. During his scheduled free times, he was often found talking with campers, focusing on **helping them learn** about Christ and listening to their camp experiences. In meetings, **he became eager to share**, and shared things he had learned during quiet times with God or a verse he was memorizing. **He grew to be passionate about seeking God's Word and serving Him.** The changes that I witnessed in him, set him apart as one of the most intentional and encouraging staff members this summer! I am thankful for the privilege of experiencing God working through him. It is exciting to consider where he'll go from here!

**Photo does not reflect actual staff member*



Summer camp provides intentional opportunities for growth to both campers and staff

HONORARIUM / MEMORIAL LIST

In Honor of:

Given by:

Elaine Hengst and Julie Druck of Canadochly BA
Canadochly Bible Adventure

In Memory of:

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M. Louise Seilhamer

Ruth Shannon

Dennis & Karen Statler

Darwin, Joyce & Amanda Zook

Fort Loudon United Methodist Church

Franklin County Chapter- AARP

Love in Action

By Miriam Ankerbrand, Bookkeeper and Angel Tree Liaison

Last year was the first year that Thomas ever finished an entire week of camp. Previous summers,

he would act up and get sent home early. But last year, another Angel



Tree camper and Thomas forged a friendship, and his new friend helped him complete his first ever full week of camp. After summer was over, Thomas told his mother he wanted to join the 4.12 Leadership Training Program (LTP). Hesitantly, she agreed to let him sign up. He was accepted into the program but knew that if previous behaviors began to be a problem, he would not be able to continue with the program. **He assured us that he had changed. Thomas**

**Name has been changed and photo does not reflect actual student*

attended every one of the special training weekends we have each year for the 4.12 LTP students.

This summer, Thomas not only came as a camper for Leadership Experience, the senior high week of camp, he also served on the work crew and in the kitchen ALL Summer long! **His last week of serving, he had demonstrated enough maturity that he was invited to be a junior counselor, and he rocked it!!!** At the closing program that week, watching Thomas on stage with his campers leading them in reciting one of the verses they had learned during the week complete with motions, brought many to tears.



Summer staff learning to love those with whom they serve

Thomas's mother is so grateful that many years ago, he came to camp through Angel Tree and for the impact that has had on his life. **"He's a different kid!"** she tells me every time we talk, and she's so thankful for this positive influence in his life.

Intentional Love *cont'd. from front*

can I help provoke this person to love You and others even more and to engage in the good works You have created them to do?"

We have Christian community so that we can encourage one another in this way, but it requires us to intentionally consider others more highly than ourselves (Philippians 2:3-4).

Joy El is blessed to have so many that sacrifice and serve others. My encouragement and challenge to us all is that we not let it become a routine for us and that it not be about us, but that we would always be looking with intentionality how we can encourage our brothers and sisters around us towards love and good deeds.

Investing in Others

By Rachel Shively, Director of 4.12 Leadership Training Program



"It was a God thing how Richard and I got together through the 4.12 mentoring program," Randy said.

Richard is starting his sixth year of the Bible Adventure/Christians in Action (CIA) program. Until last year, CIA wasn't available in his school district. He began asking in fourth grade if a program could be opened by the time he reached middle school. By God's grace, a team assembled last year, allowing him to continue his journey. He has already earned two weeks of free camp, with a third week being a very attainable goal.

"I began a relationship with Jesus when I was very young, but I didn't know what it really meant to follow Jesus until I became involved with Joy El," Richard said. "Bible Adventure and CIA were my church each week."

Richard attended wilderness camp two years ago, where he decided he would join the 4.12 Leadership Training Program when he was eligible. He was given the opportunity to serve at camp to see if this was something he wanted to pursue. He knew without a doubt that he would apply to the 4.12 LTP. Upon submitting his application, he was missing one key element: a mentor. He didn't know anyone who could fill that role. His mom eventually shared with some of the Joy El staff that she was concerned he might not be able to participate in the program because of this. **After a few phone calls and prayers, God made it clear to one of Richard's CIA listeners, Randy, that he was a worthwhile investment.**

"I saw Richard growing in his walk through those years," Randy said. "That is when I saw that I should invest in his life in his teen years...we are both trying to get more time to study God's Word together."

It's a blessing to see children like Richard grow up through Joy El's programs and witness the impact godly adults and mentors can have on a student's life. Your prayers and support help make these stories possible.



4.12 LTP student Richard and his Barnabas Mentor Randy

Good Deeds Multiplied

By Kim Sanger, Assistant Director of Bible Adventure/CIA



We often think that serving others and spurring them on to good deeds requires us to be on the front lines. However, when I think about spurring others towards love and good deeds, there is one particular Bible Adventure volunteer who comes to mind. Edith has faithfully served as a listener and a school coordinator for the past several years. Unfortunately, she experienced a major physical illness and is no longer able to be at the program. **However, that has not stopped Edith. She continues to spur others on by handling all responsibilities that she can remotely as the coordinator** to ensure the program continues, that volunteers can serve, and children can hear the Gospel during their school day.

In addition to this, **Edith actively advocates and recruits for the program.** She is currently training and equipping her pastor to perform all the in-person duties of the coordinator, while **she orchestrates things behind the scenes.** **Through Edith's intentionality, many lives will be impacted far beyond even those that she impacted during her first few years of service.** She has truly multiplied her impact by spurring others towards love and good deeds.



Bible Adventure volunteers impact lives through connections

**Name has been changed and photo does not reflect actual student*

Mark Your Calendars

Date	Event	Time (s)
Nov 1-3	Momentum Jr/Sr High Retreat	7:00 PM Fri to 2:00 PM Sun
Nov 7	Stewardship Banquet Lancaster* Shady Maple	6:30 PM
Nov 8-10	Father-Son Retreat	7:00 PM Fri to 2:00 PM Sun
Nov 12	Stewardship Banquet Joy El*	6:30 PM
Nov 14	Stewardship Banquet Joy El*	11:30 AM
Nov 15-17	Momentum Jr/Sr High Retreat	7:00 PM Fri to 2:00 PM Sun
Nov 21	Stewardship Banquet York* St. David's Evangelical Church	6:30 PM
Dec 6-8	Bible Adventure Weekend Grades 2-6	7:00 PM Fri to 2:00 PM Sun
Dec 31	Dessert and Sauerkraut Dinner*	12:00 PM
Jan 17	Barnabas Training (mentors only)	6:30 PM to 8:00 PM
Jan 17-19	4.12 Leadership Training Summit	6:00 PM Fri to 2:30 PM Sun
Feb 6-7	Home School Retreat Grades 1-8	9:00 AM Thur to 3:00 PM Fri
Feb 21-23	Bible Adventure Weekend Grades 2-6	7:00 PM Fri to 2:00 PM Sun
March 7-9	Mother-Son Retreat	7:00 PM Fri to 2:00 PM Sun
March 22	Work Day* (Lunch provided)	8:00 AM to 1:00 PM
April 5	Work Day* (Lunch provided)	8:00 AM to 1:00 PM
April 10	Barnabas Training (mentors only)	6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

*Email or call david@joyel.org 717-369-4539 to RSVP for a banquet or work day.

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Shady Maple - 6:30PM
doors open at 6:00PM

NOV. 12 – JOY EL

Evening Banquet - 6:30PM
doors open at 6:00PM

NOV. 14 – JOY EL

Day Time Banquet - 11:30 AM
doors open at 11:00 AM

NOV. 21 – YORK

St. David's - 6:30PM
doors open at 6:00PM



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Updates and Events

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