

MAKE THEM WANT

CHRIST

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Dear Teen,

I desperately want to ski this weekend! Right now you are probably thinking... that's nice, we all want to play in the snow. When I was a teenager, every year I looked forward to going on the winter retreat. I still remember the anticipation of hitting the slopes as we made our slow trek to the mountain on the bus. As I slipped into those boots, slid to the first ski lift, I remember my heart pounding with excitement. Finally at last, I stood there on top of the slope, looking down at what would be the most exciting thing I would experience that weekend- a flight to the bottom. After I got to the bottom, I was hooked. The rest of the day I skied up and down those slopes, quickly passing anyone that got in my way of massive speeds.

Needless to say, I desperately wanted to ski, and because of my enjoyment and desire to ski, I talked my family, my wife, and my close friends all into joining me on the slopes. Why did that work? Why did my friends and wife decide to slap two sticks on their feet and slide down an icy hill at uncontrollable speeds? Was it because they were nuts just like me? Perhaps. Or was it because they were impacted by my joy and enthusiasm I had for skiing? Most likely.

With anything in life, we can impact someone to do something that they may never have thought of doing before if they see our enthusiasm and excitement. This weekend will be full of some amazing fun, but it can also be a time of many spiritual decisions. Our theme for the 2015 Winter Retreat is "Make Them Want Christ." How do we make someone want Christ? By showing them that we actually enjoy what we have.

This weekend, we have the privilege of hearing Evangelist Ron DeGarde share God's Word to us. Yes, this will be a weekend full of memories, but this can also be a weekend full of great spiritual renewal. Mrs. Joyner and I will be praying for you as we discover how we can "Make Them Want Christ."

On Your Side,

Brother and Mrs. Joyner

SCHEDULE

Thursday Evening

- 3:30pm Meet at church
- 5:30pm Dinner
- 6:30pm Unloading and room assignments
- 7:30pm Opening Service
- 10:00pm Bowling
- 11:45pm Group Devotions
- 12:15am Lights Out

Friday

- 7:30am Breakfast
- 8:30am Leave for Skiing
- 9:30am Offsite Skiing
- 5:45pm Meet in Lodge
- 6:45pm Dinner
- 8:00pm Testimony Service
- 10:15pm Group Devotions
- 10:45pm Lights Out

Saturday

- 7:30am Personal Quiet Time
- 8:00am Breakfast
- 9:00am Morning Service
- 10:00am Pack Up and Clean
- 11:00am Closing Service
- 12:00pm Lunch
- 1:00pm Load Up and Depart
- 2:30pm Arrival at VFBT

Meet our Speaker

Evangelist Ron DeGarde

Evangelist Ron DeGarde was saved as an eight-year-old boy, and shortly thereafter God began to work in his heart about the matter of vocational Christian service. In a revival meeting at age fifteen, Ron surrendered to God's divine call to be an evangelist. God has continued to confirm this call to evangelism primarily through His Word and also through years of ministering with other evangelists, evangelistic teams, various local churches, Christian Colleges, and Christian camps.

Ron graduated from Bob Jones University in 1996 and 1998 with both a Bachelors and a Masters degree in Bible. He traveled with Minutemen Ministries conducting youth rallies nationwide for two years and has been traveling in evangelism independently since 2002. He also served on staff at the Wilds Christian Camp for nine summers and two years full time. After finishing seminary, Ron married Kristin Scherbenske who is a gifted pianist, arranger, and composer. Kristin received her Bachelors degree in Music Education as well as a Masters degree in music composition from Bob Jones University where she also served as a dorm counselor for two years. Kristin serves alongside Ron as wife, homemaker, musician and mother. Ron and Kristin have four children: Abigail, Alyssa, Andrew, and Austin.

The DeGardes make their home in Charlotte, North Carolina and Ron serves as the staff evangelist at Bible Baptist Church. They are excited to see God's power not only in their marriage and family, but also in their ministry.



Important Information

Blue Mountain Ski Area

1660 Blue Mountain Dr.

Palmerton, PA

610-826-7700

Blue Mountain Christian Retreat Center

1 Christian Lane

New Ringgold, PA 17960

570-386-2154

Chap Contact Information:

Brother Joyner: 610-639-0864

Mrs. Joyner: 484-374-5148

Welcome: _____

You are in: _____

**BLUE MOUNTAIN
Christian Retreat
& Conference Center**

1 Christian Lane
New Ringgold, PA 17960
570-386-2154 | www.bmcrc.org
After Hours Emergency Phone: 570-386-8344

- KEY**
1. Pond
 2. Tent Sites 1-9/Pavilion
 3. Pool
 4. Chalet
 5. Bryernt House
 6. Pavilion
 7. Meeting Rooms Fireside 1, 2 - Game Room - Grill'n Chill
 8. Main Office - Dining Hall - Sanctuary - Book & Gift Shop
 9. Duplex 5,6
 10. Gymnasium - Blessing Shop - Laundromat
 11. Basketball - Tennis
 12. Prayer Chapel
 13. Playground
 14. Baseball Field
 15. Efficiency D13-D16
 16. Efficiency C9-C12
 17. Efficiency B6-B8
 18. Efficiency E25-E28
 19. Efficiency A1-A4
 20. Efficiency A21-A24
 21. Mountain View 39-42
 22. Mountain View 43-46
 23. Partners Hall 1, 2, 3
 24. Maplewood 54-55
 25. Maplewood 52-53
 26. Woodside Meeting Room - Efficiency E17-E20
 27. Campsites 11-28
 28. Mobile 5
 29. Mobile 6
 30. Mobile 7
 31. Mobile 8
 32. Maplewood 50-51
 33. Campsites 41-60
 34. Alpine A100-A107
 35. Alpine B108-B118
 36. Farmhouse

★ = Start of Hiking Trails



LADIES

Eff. B5 Mrs. White

Katie Kowalski

Abbey Jones

Lauren Hannevig

Jasmine Sanger

Eff. B6 Mrs. Schlichtmann

Michala Goins

Nelly Misiura

Katie Davis

Megan Wendal

Ashley Wendal

Eff. B7 Ms. J. Joyner

Amber Wendal

Katie Caras

Tara Szakacs

Eff. B8 Ms. L. Joyner

Emilee Gerasimof

Erin Schellenger

Lydia Jones

Maplewood 52 Mrs. Joyner

Alex Hart

Brittany Hamm

Allison Eifert

Anna Joyce

Sam Batterman

Becca Stong

Ciera Jablonski

Brianna Seiders

Denise Garcia

Maplewood 53 Mrs. Hickey

Rachel Caldwell

Nicole DeCandro

Jillian Nikerle

Jessi Morris

Rachel Jones

Marissa Grace

Morain Kisenda

Sanna Sanger

Hannah Varner

MEN

Eff. C9 Mr. Baker

*Marcin Kowalski
Tyler Szakacs
Jake Varner
Kyle Gregory
James Villanova
Jonathan Hannevig*

Eff. C10 Mr. Schlichtmann

*Aaron Jones
Noah Isabell
Bradley Burpee
Noah Schellenger
Jacob Stong*

Eff. C11 Mr. White

*Travis Bono
Sam Deery
Josh Davis
Matthew Caldwell*

Eff. D13 Mr. Grubb

*Brandon O'Malley
Seppi Dolenti
Joseph Melchior
Dylan Bono
Tyler Clifford*

Eff. D15 Mr. Comstock

*Ben Kilpatrick
Charlie Ellison
Isaiah Paul
Jacob Koechig*

Eff. D14 Mr. Holland

*Robbie Pavillard
Karl Hartz
Joe Frame
Jonathan Melchior
Matthew Isabell*

Eff. D16 Mr. Hickey

*Scotty Wendal
Chad Frame
Josh Melchior
Ivan Misiura*

Mobile 5 Br. Joyner

*Cameron Grace
John Holleger
Chris Headley
Quincy Coleman
Nate Bartholomew
Jake Jablonski
Naveen Ramanjulu
Jeff Frame
Mateo Diaz
Bryce Weeks*

Mobile 6 Mr. Wendal

*Zach Kilpatrick
Anthony Lopez
Josh Villanova
Jordan Shaw
Collin Wurtz
Joey Springer
Clay Nikerle
Zadok Deger
Jake Schlichtmann*

MESSAGE NOTES

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Saturday Morning

Title: _____

Key Passage: _____

GROUP DEVOTIONS

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Group Devotions: Thursday Evening

Mr. Chuck White

Are we going to make others want Christ when we are focused on ourselves and the cares of this world?

I Corinthians 3: 3 says “for whereas there is among you _____,
and _____, and _____, are ye not yet carnal and walk as men?”

Too many Christians are caught up in their own selfishness and problems. One example would be Christians fighting over what color the Pew’s in the church should be. Churches have split over such issues. When we fight amongst ourselves in church, we are not making Christ appealing to those looking in. We can also become so consumed with our own problems in our lives, that we are not concerned with how others view us, and with bringing people to Christ.

Think about Samson in the Bible, who God chose to do great things. Judges 13:5 says, “For lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a _____ unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver _____ out of the hand of the Philistines.” Samson’s life, though, showed that he was more concerned with the things of this world than doing the work of Christ.

When Benjamin Franklin wished to interest the people of Philadelphia in street lighting, he hung a beautiful lantern on a long bracket before his own door. Then he kept the glass brightly polished, and carefully and religiously lit the wick every evening at the approach of dusk. It wasn’t long before

Franklin's neighbors began placing lights in brackets before their homes, and soon the entire city awoke to the value of street lighting and took up the matter with interest and enthusiasm.

-Sunshine Magazine

Matthew 5:16 says, "Let your light so shine before _____, that they may see your _____, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven."

We need to be an example and light to the world with our lives, so that people will want to be like Christ.

So what can we focus on instead of our own selfishness that will cause others to want what we have?

When we are living for Christ, others will see fruit and evidence in our lives that God is real. The Bible tells us in Galatians 5:22-23, that the fruit of the Spirit is _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____: against such there is no law".

So when we are filled with the Spirit, we will first love others. This may mean that we put the needs of others before our own.

We will have the joy of the Lord in us.

We will have peace in our hearts, knowing that God will be with us through trials.

We will be longsuffering, or patient with others. Those of you that have brothers and sisters know what a challenge it can be to have patience, but when we have Christ in us, we can become more patient in time.

We will have gentleness, or show kindness toward others.

We will have goodness, and faith, or faithfulness.

We will have meekness or humility. I have found many times that God will let me fall to remind me to be humble.

Lastly, we will have temperance, or self-control. Christ can help us to control our tongues.

Moody once asked his audience, "How can I get the air out of this glass?"

One man said, suck it out with a pump." Moody replied, "That would create a vacuum and shatter the glass." After many impossible suggestions, Moody smiled, picked up a pitcher of water, and filled the glass. "There", he said, "all the air is now removed." He then went on to show that victory in the Christian life is not by "sucking out a sin here and there," but rather by being filled with the Spirit.

Then verse 25 says, "If we _____ in the Spirit, let us also _____ in the Spirit." To walk in the Spirit, is to follow the Spirit's leading. It is important for us to be faithfully reading God's word, in order to see His leading in our lives.

A great example of one who followed God's calling is Paul, who turned from a life of murder and sin, to a selfless life of reaching many for Christ. There is a story in Acts 16 of how an earthquake came when Paul was in prison. He could have escaped, but he chose to stay. This resulted in the guard getting saved.

In Ephesians 5:18-20 we read, "be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in _____ and hymns and spiritual _____, singing and making melody in your

hearts to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God.” When we are filled with the Spirit, we will have a song in our hearts. We will have a positive attitude, and those around us will see the joy of the Lord in our lives.

Group Devotions: Friday Evening

Mr. Jon Hickey

Thirsty for the Truth

In Matthew 5:13 Jesus says “Ye are the salt of the Earth”. One key attribute of salt is it creates thirst. In a world where the natural desire to know God can be clouded out by the many distractions available (Smartphones, Tablets, sports, friends) we need to know how to foster a desire for truth in those around us. One of the best ways to accomplish this is by the way we live our lives. How can we lead a life that makes those around us “thirsty”?

Read Matthew 22:36 - 40

What did Jesus say was the “Great Commandment”?

In order to love God, we must understand how much He loves us. According to Romans 5:8 what did Christ do for us before we loved Him?

Why would this help us love God?

How does loving God help us reach those around us

The second part of the passage tells us that we are to love our neighbors... who is our neighbor?

What are ways we can demonstrate love to those around us?

If we understand God's love and practice Matthew 22:36-40 in our lives our witness to those around us will be powerful. Our friends/coworkers are much more likely to be "thirsty" for Christ if they see us living a life filled with love for others. Christ gave us the ultimate example and His sacrifice was based on His love for us, so let that influence how you treat those around you.

Group Devotions: Saturday Morning

Mr. Bob Holland

YOU ARE IN A BATTLE WITH YOURSELF...

SO, HOW CAN YOU MAKE OTHERS WANT CHRIST WITH THIS WARFARE UNDERWAY?

What does Rom 7:23 say?

There's a battle underway between YOU and your OLD nature. Have you felt it yet? You haven't? Well, you SHOULD..!! It's a CLEAR mark of God's children.

This war, it's going on between the Spirit of God in your heart and the OLD self with your OLD deeds. It's NEVER going to end, BTW... It's being waged between your natural conscience and the law of God, and, you're going to LOSE unless you learn to be humbled by it. LEARN from it, and then be humbled UNDER it.

If you HAVE felt it, then don't be discouraged by it, because it's intended to make you lie in the dust, to make you feel that you are but a worm.

Write out Romans 7:14:

Just imagine for a brief second; that even AFTER you've received Jesus Christ as your Savior, after he's given you the full measure of His forgiveness, your heart STILL has ALL of its natural wickedness, it still has the OLD sin nature. Consider, that even in your most solemn moments when you call out to God, you still have sin in your nature, all of those vile ingredients.

What does Romans 7:17 say?

You should let this make you lie really, really low...

Write out Romans 7:18:

However, many of you have NEVER even felt it and, since it IS the mark of God's children, you may want to stop for a minute and ask yourself why you haven't felt anything up to now,

instead of reading about it for the first time in this devotional booklet.

After all, since it really IS the mark of God's children, and you are not feeling it, then maybe it's time for you to take a SERIOUS look at wherever else you may have been hiding all along. Pray NOW if you need this type of deliverance.

But, if you can learn more about and understand your need for Jesus Christ, then, you'll see that you need His precious blood now more than ever before, especially if you think He's going to use you to make others want Christ for their own.

If you yourself haven't had the overwhelming desire to WANT Christ, then how could you possibly be used by God to create a desire in the hearts of others?

You know that we can never STAND before God all on our own. And, we mature in our faith enough to understand that we all need to go again and again to the Lord to be washed. Even on our deathbeds we must be humbled enough to hide UNDER the Lord, our righteousness.

You must also LEAN on Jesus Christ as He alone can overcome in you. We must learn to cleave closer and closer to Him every day.

Only then can we take this experience forward to compel others to WANT Jesus Christ in their own lives.

How many times have we heard that "... a life without Jesus Christ is a wasted life."

Don't waste another minute of yours. Get into the battle and get humbled under it.

Meditation

Rom 7:24

Rom 7:25



Teen Winter Retreat 2015

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