







by Cathy Winkler

It was a great weekend out at Dallas Valley Ranch Camp for the annual SBA retreat, hosted by Calvary Baptist Church. The conference was entitled *UNITE!*

There was a total of 9 churches represented with 35 delegates in attendance.

The main speaker was John Feakes. Since 2007, John has served as adjunct professor of World Religions and Counter-Cult Studies at Millar College of the Bible. He teaches a class on Cults and World Religions. John earned a Master of Religion degree from Columbia Evangelical Seminary, and is currently the lead pastor of New Life Sanctuary Church in Winnipeg. There he resides with his wife, Linde, and their four children.

The weekend theme was, Staying True to the Word of God. On Friday night the topic was, The Object of our Faith, and on Saturday, Living the Faith and Defending the Faith were covered. Some of John's quotes include:

"His Word is true, beginning to end"

"His Word has to be the guiding light in our lives"

"The Bible is self-authenticating"

"The Bible comes with its own credentials with it"

John covered verses in Colossians 1,Hebrews 1, John 1, and several others. We thank him for the challenges he presented for us to stay true to the Word of God!



Some key plans for the camp include:

- Location of potential new dining hall multipurpose facility
- Develop a new games filed the size of a football field
- Plan a new skills area
- Develop separate paintball area
- Maintain all other current facilities where they are

I would like to share some updates from our Good Spirit Bible Camp, as presented by Luke Prybylski:



Staff

- They had a great staff this past summer, that served the Lord with all their hearts!
- God was moving in the staff's lives all summer and the lifeguard even got baptized!
- The speakers were great and connected with the campers.

Camps

- Numbers were up across the board and they jumped another 50 campers this year to 401 campers.
- Thanks be to God as there were no major injuries and no campers had to be sent home this past summer!
- Family Camps continue to do great as a donation only camp and the auction is still a big success.

Rental groups, fundraiser, retreats

- Very positive reviews from people/groups who rented the camp.
- The golf fundraiser went well, and so it will continue annually.
- College and Career numbers were down, but went well.
- School groups continue to be a best way to connect kids to camp.

Over all evaluation

- Extremely blessed with a tremendous staff and a ton of great volunteers!
- No major issues.
- God is present and moving in the ministry at camp!



"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in **vain** in the Lord."

I Corinthians 15:58





Jerry's topic was Spiritual Formation of Children at Home and Church.

He challenged us with the quote, "If we don't raise our arrows for God. someday they will come back and wound us."

He stressed the importance of parenting and gave us some staggering statistics that 80% of children growing up in Evangelical churches leave the church and never return! He encouraged churches to support and train young couples on how to raise children. Probably most of us never received instructions, but we have been entrusted with the most important possessions!

He told a bit of the life of Billy Sunday, a famous Chicago White Socks baseball player who turned a travelling evangelist. After 1907, after his wife had their last son, she left their children with a nanny to travel with Billy. Their ministry seemed to be very productive, but the effect of them not being at home showed up later. All three of their sons died before the age of 40, had a life of drunkenness and had 9 marriages between them. How tragic! How important is godly parenting? Very important!

"One of the most exciting things is to see God working in your kid's lives!"

"How we raise our kids and the choices they make will affect our grandchildren!"

He shared some observations from scripture, of the importance of mothers and fathers. In I and II Kings, when a new king is introduced, it mentions his mother. In the prophets, it makes mention of the father's name. God places high value on the importance of the family unit!

"As husbands, the most important thing is to support our wives!"

"Our actions speak volumes!"

Lets not forget to encourage our young families in the church to pour godly wisdom and truth into their lives!

There were three breakout speakers. Jerry Durston with Child Evangelism, Sheldon Dean, with Family Life Marriage Ministries, Power to Change, and

Telmo and Wesley Camargo and Jacques Ribeiro, NAB missionaries in Brazil with Chain of Love Ministries.





