

The Pursuit of Excellence

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Wow!

Wow is used to express surprise, admiration, wonder, or pleasure. It means to impress or delight somebody greatly. It refers to a great success or an object of great admiration. Webster says a striking success - a hit.

Wow is the best word to use to describe this year's Xtreme Passion Youth Camp. It was the best camp ever! Just listen to these testimonies:

"Wow! There are so many things God ministered in my life, I don't know where to begin. This camp was by far the best camp ever! God touched my life in a miraculous way!" - N.T.

"This week at camp has been the most amazing ever. Seriously, this has been the best camp I've been to. The services were just incredible." - A.W.

"I thought last year was the best year of camp, but now I know that it was this year. This year of camp was awesome!" - B.T.

"Wow, that's all I have to say about this year. This was the most amazing year at camp I've ever been to and this is my 6th year!" - J.S.

It was time for change.

We have been organizing and overseeing youth camps for fourteen years. When involved in something for a long period of time, there is a tendency to become comfortable in doing things the way you have always done them. But, that may not be what God wants.

The presence of God and the level of effective ministry at camp has always been impressive. However, there was a stirring in my heart for a couple years that we could do better. It was time for change.

We examined everything that we had done. Some activities were preserved and modified, others were discarded, and new actions were added.

We had several goals in mind. First, we wanted the experience at camp to be more personal and long-lasting. Secondly, we desired the churches and youth groups to take ownership of the camp.

We needed them to become participators and not just spectators. And thirdly, we wanted the games and recreational activities to be more enjoyable and rewarding.

The Lord spoke to me about the difference between inspiration and revelation - a message I shared with all the campers during the first meeting. Inspiration is defined as *the action or power of moving the intellect or emotions*. Revelation is *something that is revealed by God to man*.

Inspiration is often superficial - affecting only the surface. Revelation is deeper than the intellect or emotions. It is received in the heart and it is personal.

The times of prayer were the best part of camp.

We wanted the campers to receive a personal word from God and experience Him privately. We knew this would produce long-lasting results. We had witnessed too many teenagers come to camp and get inspired, but shortly afterwards revert back to a carnal and selfish lifestyle.

Therefore, we changed our services to include times of prayer. The campers were taught about prayer and led in corporate prayer. They were given time alone with God and learned to hear His voice and know His plan for their lives. They were exhorted to lay everything down and follow God.

The times of prayer were the best part of camp. Here are a few comments:

"This year at camp was by far very different from the other 4 years I have gone. Things were structured differently and I felt like I got more alone time with God." - K.H.

"Camp was amazing this year! I've learned so many important things this week that will help me strive to have a more personal relationship with God. I also learned that God has a plan for all of us and I am going to strive so much to fulfill that plan of God!" - B.S.

"This was my third year here at camp and it was the most spiritual. I have bonded with God like never before." - T.L.

"Obviously, camp was all about His plan and purpose for our lives. How awesome! More than anything, I learned how to seek God and spend time with Him on my own. This is my fifth year at camp.

Brad's Itinerary:

Campmeeting 2007
Lander, WY - Aug. 12-14

Word of Faith Family Church
Great Falls, MT - Aug. 15

Living Word Family Church
Grand Forks, ND - Aug. 19

Lighthouse of Life
Latimer, IA - Aug. 26

Word of Faith Family Church
Great Falls, MT - Aug. 28, Sept. 2

Victory Celebration Church
Roseville, MN - Sept. 9

Xtreme Life Training Center
Orientation Week
Willmar, MN - Sept. 10-14

Word of Faith Family Church
Willmar, MN - Sept. 12, 16

Xtreme Life Training Center
Willmar, MN - Sept. 17-21

New Life Victory Center
Columbus, MT - Sept. 23 AM

Word of Faith Family Church
Great Falls, MT - Sept. 23 PM, 30

Faith In Christ Fellowship
Cherokee, IA - Oct. 7

Xtreme Life Training Center
Willmar, MN - Oct. 8-12

AFCM Meetings
Moorhead, MN - Sept. 7
Helena, MT - Sept. 24
Billings, MT - Sept. 25
Sioux Falls, SD - Oct. 4
Des Moines, IA - Oct. 5
Auburn, NE - Oct. 6

In previous years I've come out really on fire but it dies down. This year I've come out with a commitment and a determination to seek God and spend quality time with Him daily." - L.F.

"The thing that hit me the most this year was that God has a plan for each and every one of us. I also love the idea that we spent quiet time this week with God. It encouraged me to keep doing it after I get home." - L.D.

"I only wish I had that prayer in the beginning when I was a camper! God showed me so much when I was just still!" - N.T.

We wanted the attention on God.

Another concern of ours was that we did not want to just put on a show for the campers. We purposed to not showcase a specific ministry or band. We wanted the attention on God.

We also wanted the campers to be part of the ministry efforts. Several youth groups and individuals ministered to us with powerful and sometimes humorous dramas. The worship team was comprised of musicians and singers from several churches and age groups.

We added new, fun activities like "The Rising Star" competition and gave away our largest grand prize in a showcase worth almost 1,100 dollars.

Overall, there was a love and unity at camp unlike anything we had seen before. We know of several teenagers that were born-again and over twenty that were filled with the Holy Spirit, and many that received physical healings.

There was a unique healing service on Thursday evening during which God used many youth to minister healing to other teenagers.

The Lord directed us to have those in need of healing form a line in the front of the tabernacle. As we asked each one what was wrong with them, the healing power of God would come on someone to minister to that specific need. The following testimony is just one of many:

"It felt like someone was pressing on my hands filling me with power. There was a boy who came up to get prayed for who had Scoliosis. When Randy said for someone to lay hands on him, I immediately responded. I grabbed his head and the power of God began to fill him to the point of him shaking. That was definitely an experience I will never forget." - J.H.

It was amazing!

There were reports of knee and ankle joints healed, back problems solved, pain stopped, growths removed, and sicknesses and diseases cured. It was amazing!

"This week at camp was the most amazing week ever. Jesus filled me with the Holy Spirit, I was reborn, and He healed my back and joint pains." - C.W.

"The most amazing thing that happened to me this week at camp was that God filled me with the Holy Spirit. Jesus also healed my back so now I have no more back pains! My friends told me camp was amazing but I didn't know it would be this amazing!" - J.B.

I thank everyone who contributed to the success of this camp - team captains, enforcers, nurses, supervisors, worship team, audio/visual technicians, and the many helpers. We could not do it without you. I thank Randy Mitchell and all the One World Missions interns for all your hard work.

We did not realize it until afterwards, but the Lord had taken us back to the basics of preaching, teaching, and healing. The great commission of Mark 16 and Matthew 28 was fulfilled. The Word was taught to the believers, the good news proclaimed to the lost, hands were laid on the sick, and people spoke in new tongues by the Spirit.

"When I first came to youth camp I was having a hard time in my walk with God. But when Brad and Randy started talking on our purpose in life, I realized I had lost sight of that. If you are thinking of a church camp to go to, choose this one, you will experience God." - B.S.

"Every single word of Randy and Brad's preaching was intense! Everything had such a hardcore, deep meaning. I never would have made my way back to Him without camp this year. Thank you so much!" - K.B.

"Camp was different this year, but it was still amazing! Sometimes change is a good thing, and you just have to go with the flow of the Spirit. Thank you to everyone that organized the camp. I will definitely be back for my 6th year here at camp!" - H.P.

God is so faithful!

We entered camp this year a little uncertain of the outcome. We were not sure of how the changes would affect the attendance and the quality of ministry. We also knew of two other camps that were scheduled in regions where we had drawn campers and workers.

God is so faithful! Almost half of the youth attended camp for the first time. About fifty percent of our workers were new and they came with great attitudes and abilities. Attendance was approximately the same as last year and the unity and quality of ministry was the best ever! God exceeded our expectations!

I believe that everyone departed camp with a greater sense of purpose and a determination to seek God in prayer and pursue His purposes with a passion.

I am looking forward to the future development of Xtreme Passion and all that God has called us to do concerning the young people of America.

by Brad Brede

Rev. Bradley and Patricia Brede hold ordination credentials with the Association of Faith Churches and Ministers. Brad Brede Ministries was established after twenty years of successful pastoral ministry.

Brad and Patty have faithfully served as AFCM Regional Directors since 1988. They travel extensively promoting the vision of AFCM, encouraging and equipping pastors, and strengthening churches.

Brad and Patty have established several youth camps beginning in 1994. They founded Xtreme Passion in 2005 and Xtreme Life Training Center in 2007 - ministries devoted to helping teenagers and young adults pursue the purposes of God.

You may become a ministry partner by joining our Par Excellence Club. Please, contact us for details.

The Pursuit of Excellence is published as a ministry of Brad Brede Ministries. Your prayers and financial support are greatly appreciated. If you have been blessed by this issue of The Pursuit of Excellence or desire prayer, we would like to hear from you.

If you desire additional information about Brad Brede Ministries or to receive a list of powerful teaching materials from Rev. Brede, please contact our ministry office.

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Xtreme Life Training Center

Beginning September 10, 2007
Willmar, Minnesota

**Preparing young people for life,
not just a career!**

Please contact us
for additional information
and application packets.