

APR - JUN 2024



NUTSHELL NEWSLETTER



RHODES GROVE CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

MEET OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BILL GOUR

RESOURCE & DEVELOPMENT AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Bill was born and raised in Montreal, Canada, but moved to Greencastle, Pennsylvania when he married his wife, Amy. They met while on vacation in Myrtle Beach and maintained a long-distance relationship for five years. They have been married for 32 years and have three children: Canaan, Malachi, and Landon, and a dog named Lego.

Bill studied history at the undergraduate and graduate level at McGill University in Montreal. He is active in his parish, St. Mark the Evangelist, as a lector and teacher. Along with serving on the Rhodes Grove Board of Directors, he is a member of the Greencastle-Antrim Old Home Week Committee and an on-air personality at WRGG 93.7. You can catch Bill on The Morning Show at 6:00 am Monday through Saturday.

He has spent 10 years in procurement at JLG. Previous positions included running the local chamber of commerce, serving as a director of development, retail management, and teaching high school and adult education. His interests include reading (particularly history and Sacred Scripture), competing in trivia each week with his sons, broadcasting, listening to music (with tastes which run from Merle Haggard and Johnny Cash to The Rolling Stones, Nick Lowe, and Matt Maher). He is a movie fanatic and his two all-time favorite films both star Jim Caviezel: The Passion of the Christ and Frequency. There are too many other favorites to list.

As a board member, he serves on the resource development and personnel committees.



2024 SUMMER CAMP

PRAYER is appreciated for the following Summer Camp Ministry items:

- > Campers
- > Chapel Sessions
- > Financial Support
- > Summer Staff
- > Year-round Staff
- > Spiritual Decisions

REGISTRATION is still open for all weeks of camp at rhodesgrove.com/camps.

A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BRAD MOWERY

In our last newsletter, I shared wisdom and the book of Proverbs. I want to continue that topic in this newsletter.

When Jesus was on earth, He was an infant, a toddler, a preschooler, a teen, and then an adult. I've often wondered how he grew up and went through puberty. When we ask that question, we don't know a lot about it except in one verse in Luke 2:52, which says, "Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and all the people." I understand what it was like to grow in stature—he grew up and became a man, and I also understand that he grew in his relationship with God and with the people around him. But what about growing in wisdom? What does that mean? The word wisdom always gets in the way. When we ask what wisdom means to people, we seem to get all kinds of different ideas, and some of them are really off the mark.

The proverbs frequently mention wisdom. They say that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. Thus, wisdom is connected to our relationship with God and the concept of understanding. The Hebrew word for wisdom is "hokma." This means skill or expertise. When we see this word used in the Old Testament, it refers to Pharaoh's magicians who replicated Moses' miracles and the Tabernacle artisans who made things out of gold, silver, and stuff like that. When we use this word when it comes to life development, it is really the skill of living life. So here is a little bit of an adjusted definition of living life with skill. Wisdom is a deep, practical understanding of what God is doing in the world and how it is and not how we wish it were.

In James there are 2 kinds of wisdom - There is the worldly wisdom, which is selfish, self-seeking and about doing whatever it takes to get ahead. Then there is the wisdom of God that is self-sacrificing and puts others before self. It engages the world in a completely different way of living. It is practical and not theoretical. It works and helps us live and walk every day of our lives. Take a verse like - don't go over to your neighbor's house too many times, or they will hate you. That is interesting. It's from the proverbs. I never heard a sermon preached on it, but God thought it was important enough to put in the Bible. Think about it...how many times to we as Christian annoy people with our message? We have good intentions, but we go about it the wrong way. This is practical everyday wisdom that we can live by and it works.

A NOTE FROM THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BRAD MOWERY

(CONTINUED)

There are two ways that kids acquire wisdom: Through direct exposure to their environment. For example, a child touches a hot burner on the stove and burns himself. He knows that he does not want to do that again. This is the primary way that we acquire wisdom...live and learn. We usually learn things as we go and experience it on our own. However, if this were the only way we would learn, we would have a lot of maimed, confused, and emotionally damaged people walking around because they would constantly be running into problems trying to figure out the world we live in.

The other way is through a human mediator; This is someone who helps us navigate the environment we are in. They help us make sense of the world and help us develop. For example, Dad would take the child's hand and hold it close to the hot burner and say, "Hot, Hot." They would feel the heat. Then Dad would hold the child's hand close to the flame of a candle and say, "Hot, Hot." They would feel the heat, and eventually, they would begin to see the connection between the word hot and what they are feeling at that moment.

I will stop there for this article. Next time, we will look briefly at the seven marks of a wise person. I pray that as you think about this subject of Godly wisdom, that God speaks to you and helps you begin to live wisely.

A flyer for a breakfast event. At the top, the title "Pastors' Breakfast" is written in green on a black background. Below the title is a circular image of a breakfast table with various dishes like eggs, pancakes, fruit, and coffee. To the right of the image, a light blue box contains the text: "Join us for fellowship, food, and encouragement. Thursday, May 23rd 8:30 am". At the bottom, red text says "This breakfast is a free gift for Senior Pastors and their Pastoral Staff." Below that, green text says "Please RSVP by Friday, May 17 by phone 717-375-4162 or brad@rhodesgrove.com". At the very bottom, black text provides the address: "Rhodes Grove Camp and Conference Center 7693 Browns Mill Rd Chambersburg, PA 17202".

Pastors' Breakfast

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Thursday, May 23rd
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Rhodes Grove Camp and Conference Center
7693 Browns Mill Rd Chambersburg, PA 17202

Pastors play a vital role in our community and face various ministry joys and challenges. Rhodes Grove wants to show appreciation for their unwavering commitment to Jesus by hosting a free breakfast for them and their Pastoral staff on Thursday, May 23rd, at 8:30 a.m. This is a unique opportunity for fellowship with others in ministry, to be encouraged, and to enjoy delicious food!

Please RSVP by email to brad@rhodesgrove.com by Friday, May 17th.

****Share with your pastor(s) please****