

Re-Discovering Peace

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My wife and I made the trek back to the Black Hills again this past week. This annual journey to bible camp has been the highlight of our summer for the past 34 years. Over that time we've missed 2 camps - one due to work conflicts and the other due to the poorly timed birth of my son, Nathan.

Although bible camp meets the same week as the Strugis bike rally, we are far enough off the path that we barely know they're there. The nearest cell phone reception is several miles away. Television? Nope. Newspaper? Internet? Ha!

In fact, there's something of an unspoken gag rule in effect at bible camp. We put a lid on certain subjects so we can focus on what we're really there to do.

It's easy, especially for men, to leave their work behind physically, but not mentally. At bible camp, though, we rediscover God and rediscover peace.

I don't know how many times I've seen folks on "vacation" still talking to the office on the cell phone.

We tell ourselves, "I've got to stay in touch." Or, "I'll miss that business deal." Surprise! The world goes on without you when you're out of touch. You think you're indispensable. Guess again. We think we're in control. We think we're in charge of everything. We can't relax. We have to worry.... and we miss the joy of life and the peace God offers us.

It just so happens that I love motorcycles. Monday afternoon we went for a ride to enjoy the beautiful hills of South Dakota. If you've ever ridden through the hills on a motorcycle, then you know why a dog sticks its head out the car window! It's a whole different experience.



As we were turning off the highway to take shelter from a rainstorm, we were rear-ended by another biker, throwing all of us across the highway and into the ditch.

It's amazing how life slows down in a time


like that. Spending the afternoon in the emergency room has a way of clearing your head and reminding you how few things in life you're really in charge of.

It's also a good place to search for peace. A peace deep down in your soul. A peace that passes understanding and defies logic.

Our wounds could have been much worse, and will heal. But during those moments on the highway and those hours in the ER, we rediscovered what the presence of Jesus can do in your life.

He can give you peace - even in the storm.

Jay

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