

Backwoods Bulletin



Transparency in Communication...

What is it and is it a good thing?

"The biggest communication problem is we do not listen to understand, we listen to reply."

-Stephen Covey

Communication and the role it plays in successful relationships... At camp we have come to realize that proper communication is the cornerstone to successful problem solving and solid relationships. Many things come into play as we are able to come to the spot where we can trust and freely communicate. As I think of this fact, I'm drawn to think of communication as the world sees it, then also as the Bible would point out. What is the difference?

Transparency in the business world refers to openly sharing information, decisions, and processes with stakeholders, including employees, customers, investors, and the public. It involves being honest, forthcoming, and clear in communication, even when discussing difficult topics or acknowledging mistakes.

Transparency is viewed as a good thing in the business world for several reasons, Building Trust, Accountability, Enhancing Reputation and Encouraging Innovation and Collaboration.

Though transparency in the business world is good, it involves one-sided communication much of the time. They are communicating their values to the world in a way that they can attract customers.

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In terms of Biblical concepts related to communicating wisely and maintaining a balance of open transparency, several principles come to mind:

Proverbs 11:14: "For lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisers." This verse highlights the importance of seeking counsel and input from others before making decisions. Wise communication involves listening to different perspectives and considering the implications of sharing certain information.

Proverbs 15:22: "Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers, they succeed." Similar to the previous verse, this emphasizes the value of seeking advice and wisdom from others. Communicating wisely involves discerning when and how to share information, taking into account the input of trusted advisers.

Ephesians 4:15: "Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ." This verse encourages speaking the truth in a manner that is both honest and compassionate. Wise communication involves being truthful while also considering the impact of our words on others.

In **Luke 14:28-30**, Jesus says, "For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'" This verse emphasizes the importance of careful planning and consideration before undertaking any significant endeavor, such as building a tower. This applies to communicating as a group and making decisions. Have we been open enough that we can accurately count the cost?

When applied to communication, does this suggest that, before we speak, we should carefully consider the potential consequences and implications of our words? What about keeping one's opinions and desires to oneself, valuing others' desires, and expressing one's needs in a way that addresses others' concerns?

In **Philippians 2:3-4** it says "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility, value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests, but each of you to the interests of the others." This principle emphasizes humility, selflessness, and empathy in interpersonal interactions. Instead of prioritizing our own opinions or desires, we are encouraged to consider the needs and interests of others. By valuing others above ourselves and being attentive to their concerns, we can foster understanding and cooperation.

In practical terms, this principle suggests that when expressing our needs or desires, we should do so in a manner that considers the perspectives and concerns of others. It involves active listening, empathy, and finding solutions that address everyone's interests. Let's not forget to include our own interests here, we are a part of the group.

Additionally, **Proverbs 15:1** offers further guidance on effective communication: "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." This verse underscores the importance of using gentle and respectful language when expressing our needs or opinions, as it can help facilitate productive dialogue and avoid conflict.

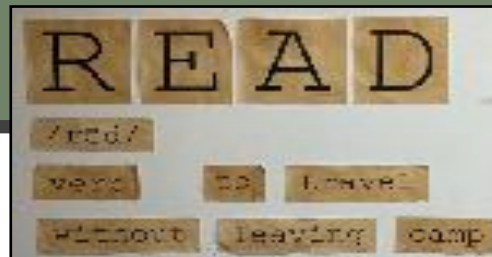
Where in communication does the verse about not turning back after we start ploughing fit in? In **Luke 9:62**, Jesus says, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service (Continued on page 10)



Camp Library



Do you ever judge a book by its cover? Our librarian, Miss Cil, decided to find out! She wrapped up some books we weren't checking out, wrote a clue of what the book was about on the wrapping, and put us to the test. We were given the choice to choose any book she had wrapped up, read the book, and fill out a survey. In return for the first book we read we got \$5 to Trading Post; the second book we read, she made us some yummy milkshakes. Thanks, Miss Cil! The following surveys are some of the results.



What is the title of your book?
Prince of Witsay, Dr. F. Wright

Where is the main setting of the story?
the Fyer

How many pages does your book have?
100

What is the main character in the story?
Chimp and ~~the~~ Wig

What is one question you wish you could ask the author about this book?
if he had ever read the W. g. 13

Explain what your favorite part of the book is.
Chimp and the Wig were so close up.
also for the Wig and he had a daughter and he was so close.

How likely would you recommend this book to your friend?
 ★★★★★

What is the title of your book?
The Wolf

Where is the main setting of the story?
the wolf

How many pages does your book have?
21

What is the main character in the story?
The wolf and the boy

What is one question you wish you could ask the author about this book?
what the wolf was like

Explain what your favorite part of the book is.
when the wolf and the boy were so close up.
also for the wolf and he had a daughter and he was so close.

How likely would you recommend this book to your friend?
 ★★★★★

What is the title of your book?
Datches

Where is the main setting of the story?
Egypt

Fiction ☒ Nonfiction ☐

Who is the main character in the story?
Lucy

Who is the main character in the story?
Lucy

What is the question you wish you could ask the author about this story?
How did she feel about Egypt?

Explain what your favorite part of the book is. Why do you like it?
Lucy's first trip to Egypt

How likely would you recommend this book to your friend?
★★★★★

What is the title of your book?
Child of Water

Where is the main setting of the story?
In the water

Fiction ☐ Nonfiction ☒

Who is the main character in the story?
Lucy

Who is the main character in the story?
Lucy

What is the question you wish you could ask the author about this story?
How did she feel about the water?

Explain what your favorite part of the book is. Why do you like it?
Lucy's first trip to Egypt

How likely would you recommend this book to your friend?
★★★★★



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bits & pieces



Operation Git er Done, Buddy

(Trailblazer's D.C. Trip)



Chiefs hear their alarm sounding at 5:30 am on Wednesday January 24, and grudgingly get out of bed. Time to get campers out of bed and rolling. Soon excitement is running high as we clean up camp and pack the final belongings into the gas guzzling coach. Pretty soon we're all packed up and pulling out of the lane to find out that there is a chip truck in the way. With a little finagling we get by and we are on the way. After a while we pull the granola out for breakfast, but with some it just doesn't settle well.

As we are heading for the Air and Space museum in D.C., we find out that the bluetooth gadget does not work. What do we do to solve this problem? We pass it back to Levi who promptly asks for the first-aid kit. Soon the report, that triple-antibiotic ointment works for fixing electronics, reaches Chief's ear, and he finally understands why the first-aid kit was needed. We finally get to the parking at the museum and campers wait impatiently for Chiefs to concoct some ham sandwiches. After eating, we have thirty minutes of siesta and

then head in to buy our tickets.

First we watch an IMAX on aircraft carriers. Then we rubberneck around in the museum till we come to the gift shop. Then we spend some money and head out to the bus. My favorite part of the museum is the SR-71 Blackbird.

Then we head for our campsite that is supposed to be only 45 minutes away, but due to traffic it is more like 1 hour and 30 minutes.

We get to the campsite and look it over. Then it is time to set up tents in the dark and concoct some yummy ham sandwiches. After supper we have powwow and go to bed. What a wonderful night with the rain pattering on the tent roof, makes it a little wet in the morning though.

"Time to get up, guys!" Pretty soon all the guys are up cleaning up their tents. Time for some granola before we hit the road. One more privy stop and we are on the road bound for the D.C. Spy Museum.

Sadly the bus parking is 2.6 miles away from the museum, and we have to be at the museum at 10:15am. Otherwise, we miss our chance. We get to the parking at 9:52am, and all pile out and start running.

(Continued on next page)

We get to the museum at 10:18, all tucked out and down because we have missed our time slot, but we keep good attitudes because that is what the Trailblazers do. So, will they let us in or not? Chief TK heads to the desk and asks if we missed our chance. Luckily the next group isn't here yet, so we get to go in. How do you as a Chiefs keep your eye on everyone when there is ten different ways to walk thru the museum? We have fun and learn some new things anyway. Then we head to the gift shop once again and spend some more money.

We then head to Chipotle for some lunch and have Siesta on the road while we head towards Shawn's place.

Upon arrival we are promptly invited inside for an amazing supper of meatballs, buttered noodles, fresh bread and jelly, and a ton of other amazing dishes including whoopie pies and crisp and ice-cream for dessert. Next, Shawn shows us around the house, and then we head for the garage to set up our beds. By the way, horse bedding works well for mattresses. We have powwow and hit the hay. Another amazing day is in the books and a lot of good memories.

"Good morning, boys! Time to get up!" Chief TK flips the lights on.

"That's way too bright!" Soon all the bags of shavings are stacked back on pallets and we are ready to go tour David's store before breakfast. What an amazing business! What they don't carry, you don't need. Then it's time to head for the house for a scrumptious break-

fast of scrambled eggs, sticky buns, bacon, and scrapple. Andrew's were also there to enjoy it with us. Then Shawn's mom packed us a basket for the road. Guess what was in it... more whoopie pies!

Too soon we were backing out the drive and on the road heading for Hershey's Chocolate World. What an amazing place to spend money! Who doesn't like chocolate anyway? No hands raised. We take their little train through the factory to see how the stuff is made and then hit the store again. Again, there is some money spent and some memories made.

It is time to go get lunch at Panda Express and then head for Hagerstown Aviation Museum. It is small, but a very cool museum. We get to touch the planes, and it makes me want to try to build a plane. (Probably not a good idea).

Next, we head for Berkeley Springs and eat at Sheetz.

"We've got to be back in time for Trading Post, boys!" What a good feeling to roll back into camp tired but with a a lot of good memories tucked under our belts to save for later.

- Written by
a Trailblazer chief and camper

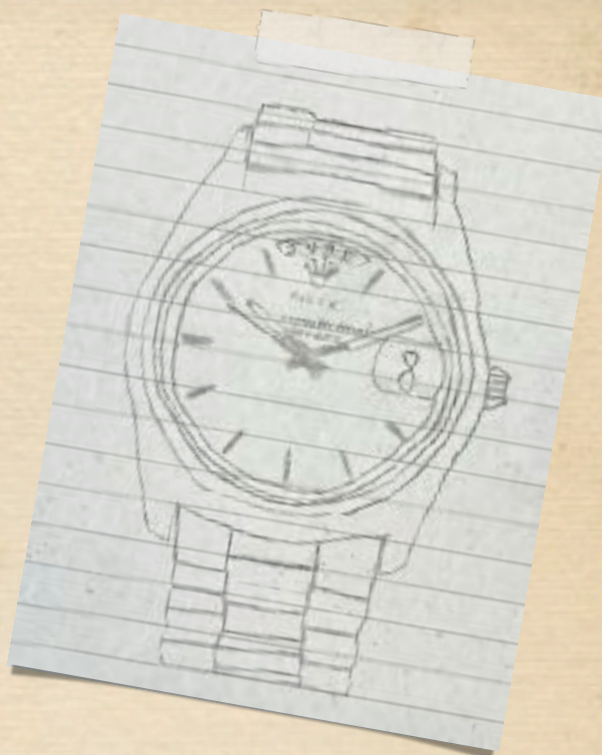
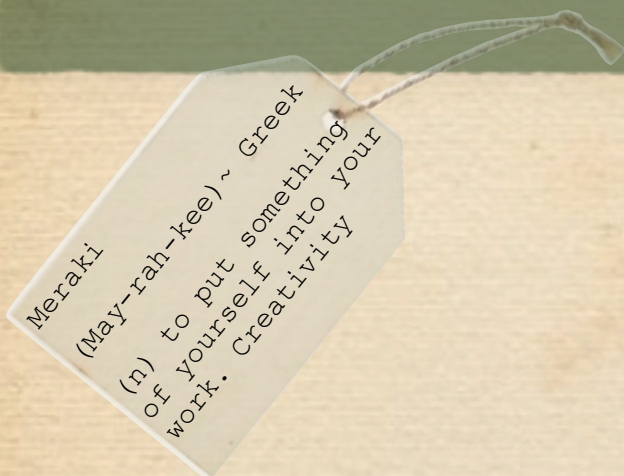




On Friday 23 2024, Sleepy Creek Boys Camp had a Pine Wood Derby Race. Almost the end of last session we got the pine wood blocks. Everybody carved a car. We started at 3:30 and ended about 7:00. For supper we ate burgers and tots. R2 was first prize, Les was 2nd, and Levi was 3rd. We had cake and ice cream. I can't wait until next one! The End.
-Frontiersmen Camper



Art



(Continued from page 2)

in the kingdom of God.” This verse emphasizes the importance of commitment and perseverance in following Jesus and serving God’s kingdom.

While this does pertain to decisions that have been made, and how you shouldn’t falter between two opinions after a decision has been made, when applied to communication, this concept highlights the importance of being resolute and steadfast in our words and actions. Here’s how it relates to good communication:

1. **Commitment to Integrity:** Just as someone who puts their hand to the plow commits to moving forward without looking back, good communicators commit to honesty, transparency, and integrity in their communication. They uphold their values and principles, even in the face of challenges or temptations to compromise.
2. **Consistency and Reliability:** Effective communication requires consistency and reliability. When we commit to our words and follow through on our promises, we build trust and credibility with others. Like someone plowing a field without looking back, we stay focused on our goals and responsibilities, demonstrating reliability and dependability.
3. **Clarity of Purpose:** When we put our hand to the plow, we have a clear sense of purpose and direction. Similarly, good communicators articulate their intentions clearly and stay focused on the desired outcome. They avoid distractions and maintain clarity of purpose in their communication, ensuring that their message is conveyed effectively.
4. **Resilience and Perseverance:** Just as plowing a field requires perseverance and determination, effective communication often involves overcoming obstacles and challenges. Good communicators demonstrate resilience in the face of adversi-

ty, persisting in their efforts to convey their message and achieve their objectives.

When we look at all of these points, it feels good to realize that we can mess up, back up, and go forward again without ever backing up on our commitment and beliefs.

Transparency in the business world is about being open, honest, and accountable in communication. Though this is good, it can be misrepresented and is not the result of a conversation.

Biblical principles such as seeking counsel, speaking the truth in love, and considering the implications of our words can guide us in communicating wisely and maintaining a balance of transparency in our interactions. The biblical principle of valuing others above ourselves and considering their interests guides us to communicate and interact with humility, empathy, and sensitivity to the needs of others, while also addressing our own needs in a constructive manner. There are times when the charitable way in communicating is actually staying silent. The concept of putting your hand to the plow without looking back emphasizes the importance of commitment, integrity, clarity of purpose, and perseverance in communication.

By embodying these qualities, we can communicate more freely and effectively. We will take into effect the needs and desires of others while addressing our own needs and stick firmly to our beliefs effectively, making a positive impact in our interactions with others.

-Chief Daniel

Camp Facility Progress Report

Chief Housing- The remodel project on the Chiefs' House is nearing completion. We hope to have moving day in the near future.

Chuckwagon entrance- Outside Chuckwagon some nice benches have been added to make departure out of Chuckwagon more orderly.

Septic System- The second largest septic system in the County is nearing completion.

New Chuckwagon Plans- The Engineering Company has the final site plans handed back to the County.



Thank you for your
continued prayers
and support.

