

RADICAL

REPORT

SUMMER CAMP

We are getting ready for our **Radical Reality Summer Camp, "Run Your Race"**, this **July 8th - 12th** in Chico at the Springs of Living Water. Our evening speaker will be Pastor Denny Duron from Shreveport, Louisiana, pastor, renowned evangelist, and one of Donnie's dearest friends and mentors. Denny is a speaker that you and your youth group do not want to miss!

We are expecting camp to be a great week!! **The cost will be \$265 before June 14th.** Our camp information and registration forms are available at www.donniemooreministries.org. Sponsor a student, change a life!

Many of the students whose lives are changed at camp attend because of the generosity of individuals who sponsor them. If you would like to sponsor a student who cannot afford to attend you may do this on our website or you can send a check to PO Box 7445, Stockton, CA 95267. Be sure to designate for camp scholarship. Thank you!

"THE PRESENCE"

Donnie Moore

"As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?" - Psalm 42:1,2

King David said, "O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek You!" - Psalm 63:1

The passionate pursuit of God can be traced across the pages of history. Those in pursuit transcend time and culture. They come from every background imaginable. These are people whose relentless, passionate pursuit of Christ often made them appear foolish in the eyes of others. Yet, having tasted His goodness, they could be satisfied with nothing less. They share one common bond: an insatiable hunger to know God. Are you one of them? I want to be one of them! **I don't just want to learn about God. I want to experience God. I want to know Him and know what He's doing.**

There is a difference between the truth of God and the revelation. Truth is where God has been; revelation is where God is. Truth is God's path leading us to His presence.

David was a man who was consumed with seeking God with everything in him. He wasn't perfect, but he was after the presence of Almighty God. He enjoyed the presence of God. David wrote: *"I have set the Lord continually before me; because He is at my right hand I will not be shaken...You will make known to me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy." - Psalm 16:8-11*

During one of the most difficult, trying times of David's life he went into the tabernacle and just sat, to be in God's presence. Do you ever just sit in the presence of God?

You can love doctrine; you can love truth; you can love the church; you can love one another... and not love His presence. Let me give you a definition of lukewarm: "I still believe in You, God. I'm just not excited about You anymore." We live in a culture which is trying to capture our attention every waking moment of the day, trying to distract us from the only thing that Jesus said would fulfill us: hungering after Him.

1. A Passion for His Presence

We want to have God among us. David had a passion for God. In 1 Samuel 10, Saul was chosen as king. He appeared to be the right one. Saul quickly lost his God-given mandate to rule by choosing to please men instead of pleasing God. Saul was a king after the flesh.

David was a king after the Spirit. When God ripped the kingdom out of Saul's hand, David was God's chosen king, a man who had been groomed all his life through intimate relationship. God was saying, "I'm going to put passion first."

2. Pursue His Presence

"One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and seek Him in His temple...My heart says of you, 'Seek His face!' Your face, Lord, I will seek." Psalm 27:4,8

The proof of desire is pursuit. You rarely reach for what you need. You will always reach for what you desire. God responds to pursuit.

After David was crowned king over Israel, he decided to move the ark of the covenant back to Jerusalem. We want the ark of God's presence back in the church. I've been to too many "ark-less" church services - they were good, but they didn't usher in the presence of God.

As king, Saul never showed interest in bringing the ark of the covenant back to Jerusalem, but David felt differently. He had a burning passion to see God's presence restored to its proper place in Jerusalem. He wanted to live under the shadow of God's glory.

We often evaluate church growth and success by numbers, but God is not impressed by size. He is looking for hunger. God looks for passion, for people who are pursuing Him.

3. Practice His Presence

I don't know about you, but there's a driving passion in my heart whispering to me that there's more than what I already know and more than what I already have. It makes me jealous of David, Moses, Peter, John and Paul who had glimpses out of this world and into another world, to see things I only dream of. I know there's more, because I have sat with those who

have encountered the "more." When you spend time with those who have walked with God and are seasoned in the Lord, what's on them will get on you.

When you spend time with God, what's on Him will get on you - and you'll smell different. People will sense His fragrance. (2 Corinthians 2:14)

Cornelius, in Acts 10:2, prayed to God regularly, daily. One day an angel showed up. Cornelius was practicing His presence. Did Cornelius pray for the angel to show up? Did he pray for the Holy Spirit? No. He didn't even know what he was praying for. He was after God's heart.

There are people who know a lot about God, but they don't have Him operating in their lives. Then there are those who don't understand everything God is doing, but they want Him and His presence in their lives. I want to be that kind of person. Whatever you're doing, Lord, do it to me! I don't know what it is, but I want to be a part of it!

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David, a man of passion, pursued God with all his heart. God was searching and found a man who was searching for Him. God says, "I found a boy on the backside of the desert dancing, playing his music and singing, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." He was writing songs about Me. He was after me day after day, hour after hour, telling me how good I am, calling Me his Strength and Victory."

David was not the favored son. He was the runt of the family, but he had a heart which was hungry after God. Passion gets God's attention! What are you passionate for?

We've got to have a passion for God's presence; we've got to pursue His presence and we've got to practice His presence. Let us slow down and hear the whisper of the Holy Spirit. We've got to connect with God.

Paul, the apostle, said, *"What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ..."* - *Philippians 3:8* Lord, put a hunger in our hearts for You, and not just for Your things. We appreciate Your blessings, Father, but we are hungry for You, our Blessor. Come show us the real purpose of Your presence.