

July 19, 2015

Mike Congleton

1. Timanous Prayer

2. Reading;

There are no safe paths in this part of the world.
Remember you are over the Edge of the wild now, and in
for all sorts of fun where ever you go.”

The Hobbit, JRR Tolkien

3. “Coat of Many Colors” song by LG Hall

4. Part 1; Diversity

We are all as similar to each other as we are different. We have many things in common, the towns, the cities, the countries that we are from. The sports we play, the food we eat, how we eat the food, and the things we like to do with our time.

Though more importantly we are all very different. The differences in each of us are an important key to what makes a place like Timanous, interesting and special. We come from more than 100 different towns and cities, 26 different states, and 10 different countries. Tomorrow, 52 more campers will arrive at Timanous expanding the differences even more.

You have been here 3 ½ weeks, you know the schedule, the names of the 2015 campers and counselors. You are a solid part of the Timanous community and you know your place within the community. When the new and old campers arrive, they might feel comfortable, or they might not. Here is a

scenario that might play out, and with it you'll have to make a decision which could be crucial to your summer...YOU...You are in your cabin, A camper just arrived awhile ago and seems not quite sure of himself, his parents just left, he is sitting on his trunk looking nervous maybe reading a book or unnecessarily organizing his trunk. Meanwhile your friends want to go to the Ga-Ga pit. You want to go with them. But you also feel empathy for the new Camper. What do you do?

5. You've got a Friend -page 11

6. Part 2; Acceptance

When I was much younger I thought to gain wisdom you had to grow a long beard sit on a mountain and think deep thoughts. People would hike for miles up to you on top off that mountain just to ask a question usually having to do with the meaning of life.. Well, years later I have a beard, and I do live in the mountains, and most questions asked of me I answer from the porch of Mallards. But I now know, that, those things alone do not help you gain wisdom. It seems to me now years later that It takes a willingness to accept people for who they are and not ridicule them for what they are not. To try to understand those who you do not understand maybe because they read a lot of books, or they don't read any books. Maybe they play basketball all the time, or maybe they don't even know how to play Basketball. Some campers like riflery, some like archery, some like both, and almost all campers like swim. Acceptance of people the way they are is the key to wisdom and happiness. Make it a goal to accept the new campers who are coming in especially the new guy who will live in your cabin. Make them feel welcomed,

get to know them, and you'll not only improve his summer, but yours as well. I have a great friend who just passed away, who accepted wayward wonderers into his beautiful home and life on St. Thomas, like LG and I. He had a great appreciation for many different people from many different places and backgrounds in this world....and he was a great example to me of wisdom, happiness, and tolerance.... and the best story teller I've ever know. He owned a boat called Amazing Grace. So I would like to sing this one for him.

7. Amazing Grace -page 5

8. Reading "Moment of Zen" read by LG Hall

The slogan "be grateful to everyone" is about making peace with aspects of ourselves that we have rejected. Through doing that, we also make peace with the people we dislike. More to the point being around people we dislike is often a catalyst for making friends with ourselves, thus, "be grateful to everyone"

Pema Chodron

9. Look to this day