



AUGUST 2025
**CAMPFIRE
NEWSLETTER**

BACK TO SCHOOL

Presently, young people from kindergarten to college are on their way back to school. Whether they attend a public or private school, or they are home-schooled, this is the month that most are making preparations to step through the doors of educational institutions that will help them prepare for what endeavors lie ahead. At Dunklin, we have 42 children that reside on camp and 36 of those are school-aged. It brings me great joy to recognize that these young people make up our next generation; what a tremendous opportunity we have to raise them up and point them in the right direction.

Personally, the onset of this school year brings with it excitement and a bit of sadness. Both of our children will be setting off to colleges away from home this Fall. Our daughter will be attending the University of Florida and our son will be returning to Southeastern University. My wife and I are extremely grateful for them both having the opportunity to grow and mature in ways they have not yet experienced.

We are coming to the realization that our role is changing and we are learning to relinquish control of our young adults to the Lord so that He may have His way in them in a fresh, powerful manner. They are now turning the page into a new journey. Our prayer is that they may be further equipped for the 'works of service' He has planned for them. Only He knows for sure where this road leads and what He has planned.

Isn't it true, however, that we never really finish school? Yes, we intentionally engage with education for at least 13 years of our lives, but I have found that I have learned the most impactful lessons since I came into relationship with Christ. This genuinely happened back in 1998. Since that time, the Lord has placed me in His school and still has me in the process of learning. I am constantly being taught by Him directly, in my relationships with others, and in situations/circumstances that arise from day to day. Intertwined in all of this is His Word that brings enlightenment and His Spirit whom constantly teaches, shining a light on what is true and accurate. Christ told His disciples in John 14:26, "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things..."

No matter our age, or what stage of life we are currently in, the Lord has more to do in us. His goal is to continue to, "...equip us for works of service that we may be built up, until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." (Ephesians 4:12-13)

My encouragement to all of us is to continue 'growing (learning) to become in every respect the mature body of Him who is the head, that is, Christ.' May His grace prevail in each of us as we step out in faith, trusting Him to pour into us whatever is necessary to move through the chapters of our own lives.

Being built up and becoming more mature,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Reynolds".

Nick

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First⁺ Day PRAYER

Dear Lord,
Open my eyes to SEE new friends
Open my ears to HEAR my teacher
Open my mind to LEARN new things
Open my hands to HELP others
Open my mouth to SPEAK kind words
Open my heart to LOVE like you

