

President's Report to the Ruggles B.O.D. Thursday 10/23/25 (5th Meeting of 2025)
Camp in the Old Testament, Camp Now!

The calendar year of 2025 (January 1-December 31st) has been another glorious year on Ruggles Campground! My heart is greatly lifted by God's outpouring on the numerous Kingdom actions and Kingdom activities. If you look at our website you will see a general listing of the various ministries taking place—if you count them all, they total about 40 and that *doesn't* include the 12 days of our 153rd Camp Meeting in July. We have multiple services are held throughout those times. So, there are at least 50 mission opportunities/events for Jesus through Ruggles in a course of our year. Since there are 52 weeks in a year and the Camp is closed in the winter months, you can see the busyness of use---truly all for God's glory!

I'm currently taking an on-line class on the Book of Numbers. Dr. John Oswalt of Asbury Seminary offers this class free of charge. I'm enjoying it greatly. The Book of Numbers deals with, among other things the *holiness* of God's people and the *holiness* of God's Tabernacle. Dr. Oswalt pointed out a lesson most of us learned in Sunday School years ago: When Israel's Camp was stationary—the Tabernacle was placed in the **MIDDLE** of the Camp. Everybody *surrounded* the Tabernacle. But when the people of God had to “break camp” —heading to their wilderness wanderings, the Ark of the Covenant was placed at the **FRONT** of the Camp. Everybody *followed* the Ark of the Covenant, which signifies the Presence of the Almighty! We remember the verse “*the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night a pillar of fire...*” (Ex. 13:21)

Isn't this the ministry and mission of God's people at Ruggles Camp? The worship and glory of God is *central* to every Christian and the Camp's existence. That is why the Tabernacle is *central* to our coming together. For 153+ years Campers of all ages have come to the grounds, to listen to God, where—like Moses, “*he heard the voice of One speaking to him from above the mercy seat...*” (Numbers 7:89).

Then, like Moses and God's people, we encounter the Lord in holy worship and the time comes for Campers to *leave* the grounds---but we *follow* the Lord and His Spirit in all our actions and service. We meet and our *surrounded*---we leave we *follow* God's lead!

The devil is very shrewd in creating the total opposite---twisting God's Word and God's Ways. Our culture places numerous other “gods” in the *center* of our soul---money, power, fame, worldliness, all kinds of deviant sexuality, etc., and we end up worshiping them at a frenzied, selfish pace. The end result is emptiness. Emptiness like the prodigal son eating the food of pigs in the pig pen. The familiar story of Elijah and his contest with the prophets of Baal is similar: Elijah taunts the 450 prophets to worship a false god with everything they got--harder and faster. “*So they cried aloud, and cut themselves, as was their custom, with knives and lances, until the blood gushed out on them.*” The prophets did this all day and into the night and then the ominous and one of the saddest words in the Scriptures come “*...there was no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention.*” (I Kings 18:29) This is the end road for the soul saturated in the world's worship.

The Youth sang and line-danced a popular Christian song this summer called “*Your Ways Better.*” It is a great song with the Gospel truth to a broken, sin soaked world. May Ruggles Camp go Forward in the Faith living “*Your Ways Better*” in 2026 for Christ! (Brother Eric-Prez)