



Leave Better than When You Came

2010 Stewardship Theme

Every desirable and beneficial gift comes out of heaven. The gifts are rivers of light cascading down from the Father of Light.

There is nothing deceitful in God, nothing two-

faced, nothing fickle. He brought us to life using the true Word, showing us off as the crown of all his creatures....In simple humility, let our gardener, God, landscape you with the Word, making a salvation-garden of your life. James 1:17-18, 21 (The Message)

The idea of leaving some place or some thing in better shape than when you found it is a common one. Just ask any scout who has swept out a cabin or banked a campfire. But this year's stewardship theme rises out of a pastor's comment at the Cumberland Presbyterian Youth Conference about the young people from his congregation. At the end of the week, he stressed that he would be bringing more participants next year because those youth who had come were "leaving better than when they came."

To continue with the General Assembly's emphasis on evangelism, the Discipleship Ministry Team turns to James which asks us all as good stewards to "let our gardener, God, landscape you with the Word, making a salvation-garden of your life." When we experience the message of the Good News letting God nurture and grow us in God's way, we cannot choose to do anything other than to help others experience the story also. We have been very blessed by the gifts of God, flowing down on us. Our pleasure is to leave the presence of God better than when we came and be that example for others in the world.

Discipleship Ministry Team • 8207 Traditional Place • Cordova, TN 38016
www.cumberland.org/bce



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