

# Camp Copass Boys Camp 2007

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## CABIN DEVOTIONAL – Monday, July 23, 2007

Scripture Reading: Colossians 1:1-8

Butch Strickland is pastor of the oldest continuously active Baptist Church in Texas. Independence Baptist Church was founded in 1839 in the town of Independence, which many thought would become the State Capitol. Independence was also the first location of Baylor University.

Pastor Strickland was born in Lubbock and grew up in Dimmitt. His parents were charter members of a mission of First Baptist Church in Dimmitt, which later became the Lee Street Baptist Church. At the age of nine Butch went with a group of Royal Ambassadors to RA Camp at Plains Baptist Assembly near Floydada. Two things happened there that changed his life forever. One, he accepted Christ as his Savior. The other was that he began to learn about missions. Every year after that, when he went to RA Camp, Butch looked forward to hearing the missionaries speak. One missionary in particular amazed everyone when he rolled an anaconda snakeskin down the middle of the aisle. Butch said, "From the beginning of my spiritual journey I have always wanted to be a missionary. God used that desire to call me to do just that."

Pastor Strickland served for nine years in Oregon as a missionary church planter. Following that he served with the IMB in Venezuela where he started 12 churches.

As pastor of Independence Baptist Church he has led the church to be involved in several mission projects, two of them in Venezuela. Pastor Strickland says, "I still feel a great sense of joy watching people come to know Christ and . . . experience some of the same emotions I felt when God called me, a little RA boy sitting in an old tabernacle at Plains Baptist Assembly." [Source: Canyon Echoes Plains Baptist Assembly, 17th Edition, Fall 2005 "Camp Testimony."]

### For Discussion:

1. Have you heard a missionary speak recently? What story that he or she told do you remember?
2. Did Butch Strickland know, as a nine year-old boy that he would one day be a missionary to Venezuela or become the pastor of Independence Baptist Church?
3. Imagine that sitting in your group tonight is a boy who will one day become a pastor or missionary. Could that boy be you? Have you considered whether God might be calling you to serve Him in some special way? What would you do if you felt God truly was calling you to full-time Christian service?