

## JESUS LOVES CAMP

That's right. I said it. And I believe it is true. Now if you argue that the Bible doesn't say this, I would agree that there isn't a specific reference where Jesus utters those words. However I would suggest that what Jesus did, often spoke as loudly as His words.

My favorite Jesus "camping" story is found in three of the gospels. It is a time when He took Peter, James, and John up to a mountain to spend some focused time communicating with the Father. You know this account as the transfiguration story. Jesus and the disciples had been busy teaching and performing miracles and needed to get away. While on the mountaintop, an amazing transformation occurred. The face of Jesus glowed and His clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared and talked with Jesus. When Peter awakened, he suggested they build some shelters for the Lord, Elijah, and Moses. *(By the way, this must have been primitive camping. They didn't even have tents!)* No sooner had Peter spoken, they were overshadowed by a cloud, heard the voice of God from heaven, and then the cloud and witnesses disappeared. All that was left of this amazing experience was Jesus and the disciples.

"...a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.

**Listen to Him!"**

Matthew 17:5b

I relate this story to camp because, like the Lord, we all need a place where we can go and get away from it all to spend some focused time with God. It is easy to get so busy, even when doing good things, that we reach a point where we have nothing left to give. Camp provides a wonderful opportunity to leave the distractions of life behind so that we can more clearly hear the voice of God and be transformed by the encounter with Him.

I, and many others that have experienced a mountaintop transformation can relate to the desire of Peter to stay on the mountaintop. When you catch a glimpse of who Jesus really is and you see life clearly, you don't want to go back to day to day living in the valley. Many of our campers each summer don't want to go home at the end of the week. They want to stay on the mountain, close to Jesus. But as I share with them, life is not lived solely on the mountaintop, we must go back to the valley. However the good news is that the glorious Lord Jesus that we encounter on the mountain is with us in the valley also! Jesus didn't send His disciples down the mountain alone. He accompanied them. And He accompanies us as we go as well.

In just a few weeks, we'll be meeting with the Lord at camp for summer camp. This ground will once again be made holy by the presence of the living Savior. We are excited as we anticipate the many young people and counselors that will have their own mountaintop experience. Will you be one of them? Will the children of your church have this opportunity? Please pray with us that many will be transformed by the Lord to the glory of God!

# Camp Outside the Gate

Youth mission campers practice taking camp outside the gate to others in need of Jesus' hands and feet. Think about how you can take camp to your community as you read these notes we have received during the year.

I want to thank you for allowing the girls to come to work at East Burke Christian Ministries. They have done a fantastic job in working on the clothing and items that were donated over the holiday week. We were overwhelmed and they have cleaned it up!!! They were very quiet. You don't even know they are here.

Thanks again!!  
Carolyn Yoder  
EBCM Director

Thank you so much!!!! We are so blessed to have you partner with Sole Hope and are so thankful to see the amazing success you had at the shoe cutting party. I visited Uganda this summer and it was a sweet pleasure meeting our shoe makers and the children who wore our shoes after getting jiggers removed. It means so much to have your partnership.

With gratitude,  
Jessica  
Sole Hope team

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you."

Numbers 6:24,25

These Bible verses are my prayer for each and everyone who serves at SMBC. I am so thankful for the ones who came and did work for me.

They did a good job.

In Christ's love,  
Mrs. Ruby

## Retreat & Refresh

We are here for you during the fall, winter and spring to escape and seek the Lord for a season. The Prophet's Chamber is available to pastors and their wives, and there are numerous other facilities for your other church groups. Come refill to overflowing so the Lord can use us to change a lost world!

As a Pastor it is very important to get away and hear from the Lord and rest our souls. My wife and I enjoyed our time at South Mountain Baptist camp, in the prophets chamber. We were able to read and pray without the worldly interruptions. We took long walks and had time to spend as a couple and seek the Lord together. We left feeling renewed and ready to pick up the ministry again. It was time well worth it and cannot wait until we are able to draw away again. Thank you South Mountain Baptist Camp.

James and Rebecca Sommerville, Restoration Ministry

## Learning to Trust God



*Stephanie and I had mountain boards on a Thursday afternoon. We thought it was going to be so easy because there were only two kids from one church coming to mountain boards. As it turns out, after we put on their pads and got up the hill, one of the campers backed out and the other girl, Diane,\* was having doubts, too. We tried for thirty minutes to convince her it was fun but it didn't seem to be working. Everyone, Stephanie, I, and the other campers, started to encourage Diane to beat the spirit of fear and to show the enemy that he didn't have a place in her heart. She finally went down the mountain as we cheered her on. It was a joyful sight to see Diane stand up and fight the enemy with the Lord's strength.*

*-Hope Tinnin, SMBC Staff*

*\*Camper's name has been changed.*

*Pictured left is another camper enjoying mountain boards!*

# Day Camp 2014

July 8-10, 9:45am—2:30pm

During Day Camp, I had the wonderful privilege of interacting with our youngest campers, kindergarten through second graders. I was able to show Jesus to these children and demonstrate His love to them. One way I was able to share Jesus with these children was through object lessons. These object lessons consisted of Biblical truth presented in a way that connected with the kids. I can remember one specific moment when the lesson presented the Gospel through the use of a suitcase filled with many things in preparation for the journey to heaven; however, the one thing that was



missing was Jesus. The whole point was to teach the children that Jesus is the only way to salvation and is the key to obtaining eternal life in heaven with Him. It was in that moment that I looked up to see all the children focusing on and absorbing every word of the Gospel. In times like these, I am very thankful that God has chosen me to experience/serve Him in such God moments. This moment would not have been possible if not for church leaders, pastors, and parents being so willing to bring/pay for their kids to encounter and experience the living and active God. So, thank you for being a huge part in allowing me to experience the living and active God work in the lives of your children.

- Dustin Lovelace, SMBC Staff

## SPRING WORKDAY

We will only have one workday this spring, May 17!

This is an important day when we hope to put a huge dent in preparing the buildings and grounds for campers to have a comfortable and safe place to FOCUS on the Lord this summer. We need you and your Sunday school class, Mens Group, Ladies Circle, or favorite friends to come. You can arrive between 8:00 and 9:00, and we will celebrate our progress with a delicious South Mountain lunch about 12:30. Projects will include spring cleaning, painting, trail maintenance, landscaping, and more. If you would like to plan your project in advance so you can hit the ground running when you arrive, call Caleb at 828-437-8788.



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3558 Baptist Camp Rd.  
Connelly Springs, NC 28612  
828-437-8788

[www.southmountainbaptistcamp.com](http://www.southmountainbaptistcamp.com)

Where God Is Experienced  
and Lives Are Changed.



Post these dates as a prayer reminder on your fridge!

## 2014 Summer Camp : FOCUS

Children's Camp

*with Mel Lamar*

June 16-20

June 23-27

June 29 - July 3

Youth Mission Camp

*with Jody Jennings and*

*The Tim Johnson Band*

July 6-11

Day Camp

*for K-2nd Graders*

July 8-10

Coed Camp

*for 1st-12th Graders*

July 14-18

Children's Camp

*with Brad Brown*

July 21-25

July 28—Aug 1

August 4-8

Girls and Boys Camp

*with Dickie Spargo*

August 10-13

Philippians 3:13-16

There is still room for your group! Call Mary at 828-437-8788 or e-mail [mary@southmountainbaptistcamp.com](mailto:mary@southmountainbaptistcamp.com) for more information or to make a reservation.

## You are invited!

Spring Workday

May 17 at 8:00 am

Prayer Walk

June 15 at 3:00 pm

To be added to our summer prayer  
list please e-mail:

[al@southmountainbaptistcamp.com](mailto:al@southmountainbaptistcamp.com)

## SMBC Staff:

Camp Director: Al Tinnin

Facilities Manager: Caleb Siniard

Guest Services: Mary Siniard

Finances/Program: Mischia Tinnin