

The Legacy of Camp

- Al Tinnin

TWENTY YEARS.

That's how long Mischia and I will have served the Lord here at South Mountain Baptist Camp if we can make it to June! And what a blessed twenty years it has been.



It was with no small amount of fear and trepidation that we arrived here. Having attended camp here as campers, then serving on summer staff, we were aware of many of the challenges we would face. At the same time we were emboldened by the knowledge that this calling was of God and that He could be trusted to enable us to do His will.

These years have seen many changes...to program, worship, facilities, recreation, food, staff responsibilities. Those of you that have been a part of the camp during this time period are well aware of what I'm talking about. However it has been our goal to honor the legacy and foundation that this camp was built upon that has made SMBC unique to other camps. From the beginning this ministry has been focused on providing a quality, affordable Christian camp experience for children and young people. We have tried to stay true to that while, at the same time, positioning SMBC to be a factor in churches and the kingdom of God for the future.

And while we have experienced the changes described and no doubt will see many more if the Lord tarries, there is one thing that has remained a constant for almost 60 years. That is the presence and power of the Lord on this holy mountain! What a blessing it is to witness week after week, summer after summer, the lives of campers and staff members eternally changed by their encounter with God. It is no different in 2014 than it was in 1974. The only thing that has changed is the name of the campers.

As we look forward to the summer of 2015, I want to ask that you continue to pray for this ministry. Pray for new campers and returning campers alike. Pray as we put together another staff team that will be used in an incredible way by God. And most of all, pray that many would come to know the Lord and surrender completely to Him as a result of their time on the mountain.

For His Glory!

FORMER STAFF MEMBERS. As I was writing this, I paused to remember you. For these 20 years it has been my privilege to serve the Lord alongside the best Christian young people anywhere. Without going back through and counting, I would guess there must be at least 150 of you that have given one or more summers to serve the Lord here, just since I have been director.

And while you were a blessing to others while serving here, I believe that you would agree with me that the camp had a tremendous impact on your life as well. Many of you learned important life lessons here...like how to clean a toilet, or how to get yourself up for early kitchen duty. It was here as a staff member that many of you got your first taste of teaching through Bible study, or of leading in worship, or first led someone to faith in Christ. Some of you met your future spouses, some first heard and responded to God's call to ministry. I dare say that all of you made lifelong friends that are still a part of your life today during your time on the mountain. Would you not agree that your life today might look significantly different were it not for SMBC?

With that in mind, I want to challenge you to do something. I want to ask you to give back to the camp so that in the days ahead, others might have similar experiences. I am not the least bit hesitant to ask you to do this. The scripture is clear that those who have profited from a ministry should give back in support of it. Furthermore, I'm not asking you to do something that I am not doing. God has blessed me and I am able to give back, to invest in this ministry and its future.

I know for some of you, finances may be tight and while you may have the desire, you don't have the resources. But I believe that for the vast majority, by doing something as simple as giving up a soft drink or cup of coffee a day, you could give \$25 a month to SMBC. And while that doesn't sound like a lot, when that \$25 is multiplied by over a hundred of you, it makes a real difference.

It may have never occurred to some of you to give to the camp. Maybe you assumed that we didn't have needs since we don't fill your inbox or mailbox with appeals for money. Others may have been intending to do something like this for some time now. Let this appeal jog you to action. Give out of gratitude to the Lord for what He did in your life through SMBC. Give so that future staff members might have the camp experiences you have enjoyed. Most of all, give so that lives will be changed today and in the years to come.



Children's Camps

with illusionist

Brad Brown

June 15-19

June 22-26

June 28 - July 2

with storyteller

Sandy Noe

July 20-24

July 27-31

August 3-7

Specialty Camps

Youth Mission Camp

with Robby Christmas

July 5-10

Day Camp

for K-2nd graders

July 7-9

Youth Camp

with Craig Tackett

July 13-17

Girls and Boys Camp

with Jeff Lethco

August 9-12



We are getting ready for summer camp, and hope you are too! If you have not registered yet, please contact Mary to confirm your space at cmsiniard@yahoo.com or 828-437-8788.

Staff Testimony - Michael Weaklend

One day after Bible Study a girl came up to me and asked how she could really know whether she was a Christian or not. I shared with her some scripture and asked if she had ever given her life to Jesus. She said, 'Yes,' and shared that just a couple of years before, her Daddy helped lead her to the Lord. Her Daddy had a heart attack the following week and wasn't able to teach her what it is to follow Jesus. I was able to give her some more scripture that talks about how a Christian can never be taken out of God's hand once God has forgiven their sin and received them into His family. I believe that she had peace from the scripture I shared with her.

What are chaperones saying?

This was our first year attending the youth camp and the combination of work, worship, and fellowship was tremendous. Our youth group experienced spiritual growth and grew their bonds of fellowship.

[I enjoyed] watching the kids play and meet new friends. Not only that, but to watch them grow in the Lord blessed my heart.

I was most impressed with how my children grew closer to Christ. My daughter came home continuing her quiet time and she was even making sure that I was having my quiet time. Having five days without the distractions of TV, computer, iPods etc. really helped us focus on our purpose and helped us realize how much time we waste during "screen" time. The songs that we sang in Chapel were wonderful and my kids are still singing them. South Mountain does a great job in introducing some kids to Christ for the first time and helping others grow in their faith and in their walk with Jesus.

Chapel was my favorite part!! It was as amazing as I remembered it from when I was a child in attendance at SMBC!!

This was a wonderful experience! Thank you so much for seeking the Lord's guidance in preparing for camp sessions. Two of our children were saved during camp. That made it worth everything!!

It's good to be able to attend a camp where the GOSPEL is not compromised and takes priority to all else.

Wonderful staff at camp! Our kids absolutely love the staff workers every year we go! They are all so friendly and great Godly examples for children. Can't wait to come back next year!

Progress!

- Caleb Siniard

It has been a busy winter here at camp. We have hosted many retreat groups and several work groups have come to help with various projects. The Village has new gutters and downspouts, and will soon have all wiring moved underground. The Staff Cabin has a new roof. Two trees that overhung the Wilkies Grove Cabin have been removed. The firewood needed for next summer's Thursday night campfires has been cut, split and stacked. The Retreat Center has all new furniture. Big updates are in the works for the Pleasant Hill Cabin. It is an exciting time here at camp! If you or a group from your church would like to team up with us as we continue making preparations for summer camp, we still have plenty to do. Our two largest needs currently are finishing the metal work on the Chapel and replacing a retaining wall at the Retreat Center. Call me at 828-437-8788 to start planning your project!



Spring Workdays



We need your help! We've set aside the 3rd Saturdays of April and May to prepare the camp physically for what the Lord is preparing spiritually. We will have projects available in the dining hall beginning at 8:00. We will wrap up around 12:30 so we can enjoy lunch together! We'll have projects of all types, so bring your friends and your tools!



April 18 and May 16
8:00am

Sample Projects

Trail Maintenance
"Spring Clean" all cabins
Paint
Mow grass
Cover new carpet ball table
Assemble devotional books
Minor construction repairs
Spread mulch
Install window unit

The Gift That Keeps Giving

- Mischia Tinnin

I was cleaning out some old papers last year and came across a few old staff applications. Nicole Wilson Conley's was on top of the stack and this was part of her application:

Why do you want to work at South Mountain?

I have been a camper at SMBC for the past 8 summers (1987-1994). Each time it has helped me grow closer to Christ as my personal Savior. This camp has given me life. Christ died for me and camp lets me be thankful in a more fun way than at home. I feel God has wanted me to make this my first job. He showed me that I can look over the work as labor of my body and see it as a labor of love and thanks to camp for all it has given to me.

Nicole sent me an update on her life and how South Mountain has continued to affect her adult life: Working at SMBC was more than a childhood dream come true for me. It was a gift from God! I will forever be grateful for every day I spent in the kitchen at camp. I was surrounded by future church leaders, pastors, mommies and daddies, and so much laughter and love. I received friendship, counsel, and was prayed for in the sweetest and deepest ways. I learned so many skills that helped me through my 20's, and into my 30's, and now my marriage! I am humbled that God chose to adopt me as His own at a young age, and so thankful that years spent at camp built a strong foundation for me that I can still stand sturdy on today. I am grateful for a husband that pushes me to run hard after Jesus, reads scripture with me, and loves all my hilarious stories from the hot camp kitchen!



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Return Service Requested

New and Improved

- Mary Siniard

The Byrd Retreat Center renovations are scheduled to be complete by late April! We will now have six rooms with a king size bed and four rooms with two double size beds. Downstairs will remain a dining and meeting space. If you need time away with the Lord and fellow believers, contact Mary at 828-437-8788 or cmsiniard@yahoo.com to plan your retreat! The fall is a beautiful time here and tends to fill up, so don't delay!



SMBC Staff

Camp Director:

Al Tinnin

Facilities Manager:

Caleb Siniard

Guest Services:

Mary Siniard

Finances/Program:

Mischia Tinnin

SMBC Annual Prayer Walk

Sunday

June 14, 2015

3:00 pm

Join us in covering the
property and summer
staff in prayer!

Mission Camp Needs

During our Youth Mission Camp we will be doing several projects that reach outside of camp. We would love for you to participate by helping collect the items needed for these projects in your churches.

- ♦ Clean, old jeans and cotton material for a Sole Hope shoe cutting party.
- ♦ Bars of soap, 6 inch combs, wash cloths, toothbrushes, toothpaste for local-Back to School outreach events.
- ♦ Fleece material to make toboggans for the Romanian American Mission.

If you have questions or items in need of pick up please contact Mischia at 828-437-8308 or Mary at 828-437-8788. Thank you for partnering with us and our youth mission campers as we love a lost world in Jesus' name!