

Inside Out

- Al Tinnin

WOW! Just WOW! Sometimes words are just incapable of expressing what one wants to say. That is certainly true when I reflect on God's grace, His love, His goodness, His power, and His provision on the mountain this summer.

Our theme for this summer's camps was **"INSIDE OUT"**. We found our biblical foundation from Romans 12:1-2.

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - His good, pleasing and perfect will."

For nine weeks we taught, worshipped, played, and witnessed with 1565 campers and counselors with the goal of helping them understand that being a Christian involves a change in one's life that begins on the inside and in turn influences how we live, talk, play, study, and relate to others.

When the last camper left, we had witnessed over **259 decisions for Christ**. That number included 173 that trusted Christ for their salvation. Hallelujah! That's 173 souls that have been rescued from the path to hell, who have had their eternities changed. In addition over 59 campers made recommitments and 27 surrendered to God's call to ministry/missions. I hope you'll pray with me for these young missionaries/ministers as they continue to walk with God in preparation for a lifetime of service. What a privilege we enjoy, to see the hand of God at work as He continues to establish His kingdom, one soul at a time!

Some might wonder if doing the same thing for 20 summers ever gets old. Are you kidding?! How could being in the center of God's activity calling a lost world to Himself ever get "old"?

Besides, every summer is different. Our theme, speakers, campers, counselors, and staff form a new dynamic each year. The one constant is the hand of God at work.

And that's a good thing because I believe South Mountain Baptist Camp is needed more today than ever before. Studies of today's young people reveal:

- ⇒ Only 1 out of 3 get enough exercise. The average child plays outside only 4 minutes a day.
- ⇒ While youth want to be adventurous and courageous, they feel fearful and overwhelmed.
- ⇒ And while they are more plugged in than ever before, they say they don't really feel close to anyone.

Can you see why I say kids need SMBC? Through a Christian camp experience, all these needs can be addressed. Camp provides hope, friendships, significance, and connections necessary for healthy development. But most importantly, while here at camp they learn that:

- ⇒ They are loved by God.
- ⇒ They can have the promise of eternal life.
- ⇒ They can go home changed forever.

If you were one of those 1565 that attended this summer, you know what I'm talking about. If not, we sincerely hope and pray that we'll see a group from your church at our camp next summer. We would love to partner with your church to change the lives of your young people. Would you prayerfully consider leading your church to love children and youth enough to make summer camp possible for them?

Jesus Knows

- Mischia Tinnin

My favorite preacher taught on Zacchaeus, from Luke 19, one Sunday. He reminded us that Jesus knew where Zacchaeus was: in Jericho, up a tree. Jesus knew who Zacchaeus was: a hated tax collector, with few friends. Jesus also knew what Zacchaeus needed: a Savior.

This scripture reminded about how Jesus worked in a sweet camper's life this summer. Many churches bring children they meet at Vacation Bible School to camp. One sweet church brought a bus filled with such children who needed to know that someone knew them and loved them. Joanna (name changed) came to camp without enough clothes. Through a series of events, a staffer found out about this, followed the Holy Spirit's leading, and hunted down enough clothes for her to have clean clothes all week.

This staffer put the clothes in a box and gave it to one of the church chaperones. In a private moment, the chaperone told Joanna the box was from Jesus. She opened the box and exclaimed, *"These are my size! How did Jesus know my size?"* After trying on a new outfit the chaperone led a prayer to thank Jesus for the gift. Joanna finished the prayer: "I just don't know how you knew my size!" Praise God that Joanna is beginning to learn that Jesus knows and cares about her!

Just as with Zacchaeus, Jesus knew right where Joanna was and what she needed. Jesus put the staff member and the chaperone right where He needed them and met Joanna's needs though them. What a glorious thing to remember. Jesus knows where you are, He knows who you are, and He knows your need.

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny?
Yet not one of them will fall to the ground
outside your Father's care.
And even the very hairs of your head are
all numbered. So don't be afraid;
you are worth more than many sparrows.
-Matthew 10:29-31

The "Off" Season

- Caleb Siniard

Another awesome summer has come and gone! Now what? A lot of people ask that question: "What do you do the rest of the year?"



The "off season" is a time when repairs and renovations are made. Individuals and church groups come and volunteer their time and talents to make SMBC a better place. We hope to accomplish some of the following projects before summer of 2016.

- ✂ Replace retaining walls at the retreat center
- ✂ Directional signs to and around camp
- ✂ Interior and exterior painting
- ✂ Repair driveway at Hope Haven
- ✂ Install guttering on two cabins
- ✂ Spread gravel behind Pleasant Brook
- ✂ Landscape at the chapel and retreat center
- ✂ Replace lighting in #8 and #9 basements

We also host retreat groups on the weekends during the fall, winter and spring. The Byrd Retreat Center, a hotel style building for adults, was renovated earlier this year and is ready for your next get away. Cabin rentals are also available to groups of any age looking to spend time with the Lord and each other.

If you would like to keep up with us during the year, follow us on Facebook! We will be posting monthly updates complete with pictures of any updates going on that month. If you would like to be part of the behind the scenes crew who makes camp possible call me at 828-437-8788 to choose a project and plan a time to work.

Encouraging Believers

The chaperone of a small group shared one of her children's highlights of camp: Chapel was her favorite part. She enjoyed worshipping with a bunch of other people who loved Jesus. She had never realized there were so many Christians in the world. The chaperone went on to say that being with other believers was also her favorite part of camp, since she often feels alone in her faith in day to day living.

Cleaned Heart

We often use the "Dirty Heart, Clean Heart" presentation of the gospel at camp. We draw marks on a heart as campers list sins to show the dirty heart. One young man thought these marks made his heart look hairy. This visual resonated with him and later in the day he asked Christ clean him up and be his Lord. While counseling, he rejoiced: "Clay, now my heart isn't hairy anymore!"

Youth Mission Camp

- ◆ 18 nonprofits served
- ◆ 2 handicapped ramps built
- ◆ Day Camp for 49 K-2 graders
- ◆ Mini Camp for children through Safe Harbor Rescue Ministry
- ◆ 731 hygiene packs for local missions
- ◆ 256 toboggans for Romanian American Mission Teams
- ◆ 2,040 volunteer hours total
- ◆ 200 hygiene packs for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes
- ◆ 75 get well cards for Kenyan World Mission Hospital patients
- ◆ 65 picture frames for Romanian Medical Missions
- ◆ 65 encouragement cards for a local nursing home
- ◆ 50 pairs of shoes cut for Sole Hope's ministry in Uganda

Camp at School

Every Friday Al reminds the campers that the God they met at camp is the same God at home. One group of children took that to heart this past year. By the time they got back home they had a plan to have their own sort of camp at school so they could worship and share Jesus there. The students got the appropriate permissions and started a student led Bible club at their elementary school. The kids who started the club went on to middle school this fall, but the new upperclassmen were eager to take over and keep worshipping in the library!

Delivering Christ's Word

My grandson, Dylan, came to your camp this summer with Hiddenite Baptist Church. All your counselors got together and raised money for a mission that my grandson is in charge of, Delivering Christ's Word (DCW). He purchases Bibles for kids who do not have one in hopes that they will learn about Jesus. He was saved at your camp summer 2014. He came up with the idea for DCW after his baptism. I just wanted to say "Thank You" for supporting his ministry. As of today he is up to 25 Bibles and the school year is getting ready to start.

School Prayer

A group of high school students in Pender County meets for prayer before school each week. A few weeks ago they had a record turnout of 40 students. These ladies decided to match in their camp t-shirts and sent this picture!





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Praise Him!

- Mary Siniard



I love this year's theme artwork. It captured so perfectly what we hoped and prayed would happen in the hearts and lives of everyone who set foot on the mountain this summer. First, every night at my house we pray that people would "know Jesus loves

them and learn to love Him too." Jesus changes us from the Inside Out. Second, I hope the habits learned at camp continue in the hearts of campers year round. What a blessing to hear the various ways God is working outside these gates! Join me on page three to relive some of these stories and praise God for His work at camp and at home. If you would like to share an *Inside Out* story, e-mail me at cmsiniard@yahoo.com!

Get Ready...

All these camper stories have inspired us to jump in and start preparing for 2016. We are still finalizing the schedule, but we've had several requests for what we know at this point. So, without further delay...mark your calendars:

Children's Camps:

June 13-17, June 20-24, June 27—July 1
July 18-22, July 25-29, and August 1-5

Youth Mission Camp: July 10-15

Girls and Boys Camp: August 7-10

If you are interested in a Do It Yourself program, contact us about hosting for the following dates: June 6-10, July 4-8, and after August 10.

SMBC Staff

Camp Director:

Al Tinnin

Facilities Manager:

Caleb Siniard

Guest Services:

Mary Siniard

Finances/Program:

Mischia Tinnin

