

## Ridiculous Faith

- Al Tinnin

The Lord left us one assignment when He left this earth to return to heaven... *"Go into all the world and make disciples..."* It's so simple and so important. Yet somehow along the way many of us have become distracted. We exert a tremendous amount of time, energy, and resources on doing good things at the expense of the one thing. That is why it is helpful from time to time to go back to those words of the Lord (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8) for a reminder of what should be the driving force behind how we live our lives as Christ followers.

At South Mountain, we are committed to do one thing, make disciples. Our theme for this summer's camps was **"Ridiculous Faith"** and we found our biblical foundation from Hebrews 11:1. *"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."* For nine weeks we taught, worshipped, played, and witnessed with 1579 campers and counselors with the goal of helping them understand that following Jesus will cause us to believe and behave in a manner that will seem ridiculous to the world. However as we obey God, He will be glorified in our lives.

When the last camper left, we had witnessed over 272 decisions for Christ. That number included 188 that trusted Christ for their salvation. Hallelujah! In addition over 67 campers made commitments and 17 surrendered to God's call to ministry/missions. We are praying that God would continue the good work He has begun in these young lives and are excited to see how He will use them.

Some may wonder about the value of a camp in today's world. But I believe South Mountain Baptist Camp is needed more today than ever before. There are many ways the camp experience positively impacts campers:

**It provides an opportunity to disconnect.** Between school, sports, homework, cell phones, video games, Facebook, etc. kids today can be spread so thin they are ready to break. When they come to camp, turn off

their phones, unplug their music, etc., they come face to face with the God of creation and the walls that isolate them from others come down. Who said no cell service was a bad thing?!

**It's a great place to be known.** In an increasingly nameless, faceless world, we all need to be known. At camp, wonderful friendships are formed between campers, counselors, and staff and God works through these relationships to open dialogue that points campers to Him. At SMBC, the size of our camps makes this a real strength for us.

**It's a great way to gain confidence.** Many new adventures and experiences are enjoyed at camp. Being away from home for the first time, catching a fish, learning to shoot a bow and arrow, serving others, etc. are wonderful avenues to promote courage and self esteem in campers.

**Many are eternally transformed.** God speaks through His Word, His people, and His creation. Camp combines all three of these elements in a unique way that results in many being transformed. Over 80% of those that accept Christ do so by age 18 and a large percentage of those, perhaps as many as 60%, do so at a Christian camp.

If you were one of the 1579 campers/counselors that attended SMBC this summer, you have witnessed these values first hand. If not, I hope that you would prayerfully consider mobilizing your church to invest in the lives of young people and make summer camp a possibility for them. We would love to partner with you in this effort that will impact souls for eternity!



# Meet the Cromers!

Whenever I was in high school, I felt a calling to ministry; the only problem was, I had no idea in what way or capacity that might be! I attended South Mountain Baptist Camp from the years 2000 to 2010. I loved camp so much, and I loved getting to experience God in such an unexplainable way that I knew I wanted to serve on staff one day. Following my sophomore year of college in 2013, I served the Lord as a summer staffer at SMBC for the first of four summers that I would serve. That summer was the summer that I met Ethan, and it was

also the first time in my life that I truly felt that I told God: "I will follow wherever you want me to go, no matter what it costs me." I would have never predicted that I would be working for SMBC full-time, but I am so glad that God uses His plan instead of our own. I look forward to getting to know and serving each of you as we further God's Kingdom together.

-Sara

I, too, visited South Mountain as a camper. In fact, this is where I met Jesus. I have always wanted to be a teacher and God allowed me to do that for a year, but He also put me in a place to work with the youth group at my church. After doing this for a



short time, I knew that I wanted to be involved in ministry full-time. It never occurred to me that it would be at the place I love most. God is continuing to teach me and work through me everyday, because I am no where near the handy-man type. So please be praying for both Sara and me as we learn and start this new journey.

-Cromer



The ECFA  
(Evangelical

Council for Financial Accountability) announced the accreditation of South Mountain Baptist Camp of Connelly Springs, NC.

## South Mountain Baptist Camp Accredited by National Financial Accountability Organization

ECFA accreditation is based on the [ECFA Seven Standards of Responsible Stewardship™](#), including financial accountability, transparency, sound board governance and ethical fundraising.

[South Mountain Baptist Camp](#) joins a growing number of Christ-centered churches and ministries across America, supported by over 27 million donors that have earned the right to display the ECFA seal. When an organization is accredited by ECFA, it demonstrates its willingness to follow the model of biblical accountability.

"We are pleased to accredit a ministry committed to engage in activities and provide Bible centered teaching that will lead adults, youth, and children to experience a personal relationship with Jesus Christ," said Dan Busby, president of ECFA.

## IMPACT THE KINGDOM WITH YOUR GIFTS....

- Designate your gifts through your local United Way campaign.
- Give through our website: [www.smbc.camp](http://www.smbc.camp). Find the link on the right side of the Home page of our website.
- Of course, use the envelope inside to send the camp a check.
- Shop on our Amazon wishlist. Check on our Facebook page, South Mountain Baptist Camp, for a link to our wishes.
- Give to the Go Fund Me 5K. These gifts help underwrite the startup costs of our First Annual 5K/ Fun Run. Check our Facebook page for this link also.

### Help a Child Go to Camp!...

On **March 11, 2017** at Catawba Meadows Park in Morganton, NC, we will host our first annual 5K/ Fun Run for campers. This race will offset the cost of summer camp for children and teenagers. The cost of summer camp in 2017 is \$165, and we estimate the real cost of camp is over \$265. This race celebrates camp and the ability to experience a great, low cost camp.

Here are ways you can be involved!:

**\*\*Like our Facebook page for the race: 5K for South Mountain Baptist Camp.**

**\*\*Register for the race. Check out our Facebook page: "5K for South Mountain Baptist Camp" for more details.**

**\*\*Be a sponsor for the race. Contact Mischia at 828-437-8308.**

**\*\*Enlist some old camp friends or new camp friends to run or walk with you. Plan to wear an**

old camp t-shirt to celebrate South Mountain Baptist Camp.

**\*\*Volunteer to cheer people on, hand out water or snacks. Contact Mischia 828-437-8308.**

**\*\*And, as always, pray God will**



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## God is Faithful!

Serving in a ministry like SMBC can be a real challenge in so many ways but it is also a wonderful faith builder. It is such a blessing to be living on the edge and to see God come through, time after time! Just this summer we saw the hand of God in several ways.

-Last spring, we learned that we would be losing ½ of our ministry team as Caleb & Mary left to take a position elsewhere. What could have been a negative has become a positive as the Lord provided Ethan and Sara Cromer to fill those roles on our team! You can read about them elsewhere in this newsletter.

-One of our challenges was a well that could no longer meet our needs. Because of this, we had to dig a new well. The cost of this well was \$14,781 but to date we have received designated gifts to cover 80% of that cost! Praise the Lord!

-We mentioned the need for a commercial dishwasher for our main kitchen. God moved on a family's heart and they provided the funds needed, almost \$5,000 for this dishwasher. It is here right now, just waiting to be installed!

-Several years ago, we attempted to acquire about 7 acres of adjoining land to the camp property but were unsuccessful. However within the last month, we received a call from the family that owns the property expressing their desire to DONATE it to the camp. Isn't that incredible?!

All of this is on top of the day-to-day needs that God handles like faulty septic tanks, broken air conditioner compressors, etc. I don't know what challenges you might be facing in your life/ministry but I can testify with 100% assurance that God is faithful! Trust Him!



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[www.smbc.camp](http://www.smbc.camp)

Camp Director: Al Tinnin  
Facilities Manager: Ethan Cromer  
Guest Services: Sara Cromer  
Finances/Program: Mischia Tinnin

Where God Is Experienced  
and Lives Are Changed.



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PERMIT #45

Return Service Requested

### **Can't Wait For Summer!?!**

Summer isn't the only time God does work here at South Mountain!...book your retreat today! To make reservations, call or e-mail Sara at: [sara@smbc.camp](mailto:sara@smbc.camp).

**Thought about doing your own  
camp or rental at SMBC?**

We're available for the following  
dates next summer!:

-June 5-9

-June 30-July 7

-August 11-18

## **Mark your calendar for.... 2017 Summer Camp!**

<b><u>Children's Camp</u></b> <i>for 1st-6th graders</i> June 12-16 June 19-23 June 25-29 July 17-21 July 24-28 July 31-August 4	<b><u>Youth Mission Camp</u></b> <i>for 7th-12th graders</i> July 9-14 <b><u>Day Camp</u></b> <i>for K-2nd graders</i> July 11-13 <b><u>Co-Ed Camp</u></b> <i>for 1st-12th graders</i> August 6-10
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### **SUMMER REGISTRATION!**

Don't forget that early registration for churches that brought a group during the summer 2016 camp year opens December 1st! All other groups may begin to register on January 1, 2017. You can find your registration forms and more at [www.smbc.camp](http://www.smbc.camp)!