

ALPINE ECHOES

Providing a mountaintop encounter with Jesus Christ through Christian camping

FALL 2017

Oh, What a Summer!

We are still celebrating a fruitful and dynamic 2017 summer of full-to-overflowing program camps. "Operation 490" was the theme driving each week. Based on Matthew 18: 21-22,

the theme put hands and feet to Jesus' answer to the disciples' question on how many times to forgive someone: "70 x 7!" Yikes! Is that even possible?

Well, forgiveness is a powerful action...and many campers responded in some ways. Lauren, a high school student, had been bullied by several friends who turned on her during recent years. At Alpine, the transformational message of Operation 490 took hold through the speaker, the worship and cabin discussions. Lauren made a decision on Wednesday of her week at camp to call those four former friends to forgive them. She left her message with two of those friends, and spoke directly with the other two. There was forgiveness and reconciliation that day! Lauren saw forgiveness as a first step, and planned to walk that out moving forward.

Forgiveness is a crucial life lesson. For Lauren and others, the Alpine experience was the springboard for putting that lesson into action. 🌲

Worship and inspiration



Fun and fellowship



Oh, What a CELEBRATION!



Our future will be most fruitful if its roots are well nourished by our past." Alpine's 60th Anniversary Reunion and Celebration September 15-17 certainly clarified its original story through our founding fathers' testimonies, and connected our current staff to the people who embodied its original purpose of *helping churches disciple their children*. Gaining insight from the past has energized the staff and supporters of the present.

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Time to reminisce with friends from Alpine's rich history

Do you recognize these staff from 2005-2014? Over the years, it is servant leaders like these that Alpine guests have come to love.





WE CELEBRATED with founding father, **Dan Seagren**, and his inspiring and well-told story of how, in 1956, after looking at 40 sites on behalf of the California Conference of Covenant churches, God opened the door to purchase Alpine's present site, starting with just 3 acres! And on a stormy and foggy March day in 1957, over 700 people traveled up the mountain to show their support of this step of faith!

Joel and Laurie Rude with Dan and Barb Seagren. Dan, aka Mr. Alpine, was instrumental in finding and acquiring Alpine's property and as Alpine's first Caretaker.



WE CELEBRATED with **Jim and Gordon Stayboldt** and **ECC President Gary Walters** through their video greetings and their individual and corporate connections to this vital ministry.

Some friends from Mt. Miguel retirement community joined the celebration weekend, adding memories and rekindling friendships.

WE CELEBRATED with pictures taken and shared through **Facebook** and other social media venues.

The celebration included walking down memory lane with Alpine's archives... several former campers and staff posted their findings on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.



WE CELEBRATED with close to **300 attendees**, many of whom looked through the archives on display to find their own camp photos and memories, reconnecting to their past...and how God made a difference in their lives through their early years at Alpine.

Alpine staff and board with Amistad Covenant Church Las Vegas...they presented a plaque to Alpine as our brothers and sisters in this ministry.



WE CELEBRATED while playing our hearts out, camp-style, at the zip line, archery, airsoft and the ropes course, and relaxed by visiting the Branch for drinks, snacks and Alpine souvenirs.

Bob Stromberg joined the celebration with inspiring words and some great entertainment.



Reconnecting from Alpine's early years. Judy Mason, a current board member, and Victoria Ward represent many years of campers and staff.



WE CELEBRATED through former staff and campers' testimonies describing how God intersected with their lives at Alpine forming their views of ministry and growth. So many have gone on to be pastors, teachers and servants in their fields of work.

Friends and relatives reunite for the weekend.

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In fact, the celebration continues...every time a camper or guest is reconciled or restored, renewed or rejuvenated while on the grounds and through the ministry of Alpine Camp and Conference Center. 🌲

WE REMEMBER

JAY CARTY came to Alpine (1975-1979) following a season with the Los Angeles Lakers and then a successful spin through the Southern California business world.

Alpine experienced new growth under Jay's guidance. Valley schools were invited up the hill so that inner-city kids could experience God's creation as displayed at Alpine through the developing nature program under Doris Bowers. Facilities grew – the building next to the pool had burned down years before, but was rebuilt to meet the needs of the increasing population of campers and staff. However, the greatest joy for Jay and his wife, Mary, was building relationships among the camp staff.

Jay took the beauty and strength of staff relationships and formed traveling groups to reach churches within the Covenant family and beyond. During these fundraising outreaches, Jay developed his testimony of faith and salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Jay threw in some basketball



Jay Carty

stories and found that people were entertained, blessed and challenged. Thus, Jay's next career as an author and public speaker was developed at Alpine.

If Jay were writing this letter, he would thank so many of you who helped make the work of these precious years possible. He would appreciate all of you who took the ball and ran with it (dribbling of course, because if you run with the ball, that's traveling). Jay passed away in May 2017. Peace to his memory. 🌲

RALPH JOHNSON was an active member of the Covenant community for most of his life from Los Angeles First Covenant to Pasadena Covenant to Montecito Covenant. **A veteran of many Covenant boards, his association with Alpine was one that touched his heart.** As



Ralph Johnson

a family, Ralph, his wife Barbara, and his sons, Dennis and Chuck, attended many family camps, dating back to the 1960s, and the boys were regular youth camp attendees. Ralph even encouraged Chuck to serve on a summer staff in 1971.

After a career in banking and finance, Ralph retired and continued to contribute as a board member. Following Barbara's death, **Ralph accepted the opportunity to serve as Interim Executive Director during 1994 and 1995, using his administrative experience to help the Conference Center bridge the gap between the directorships of Ray Warren and Stan White.** He continued to be a strong supporter of Alpine after he moved to The Samarkand in Santa Barbara with his second wife, Marilyn (who was also a longtime Alpine participant), and together they attended the 50th anniversary rededication service in 2007. Ralph died in January, 2016. Peace to his memory. 🌲

"JIM" REUBEN WILLIAM STAYBOLDT – In 1936, at the age of 18, Jim began his 54-yr career with Douglas Aircraft Co. in Santa Monica.

When Jim was 30, a young woman of the church, sensing the leading of the Holy Spirit, asked Jim "How are things between you and the Lord?" This most direct and simple question led to the crowning event of Jim's spiritual life: his recognition of Jesus Christ as his Savior and Lord in 1947. He became a quiet witness of God's grace, and later on a helper and encourager.

In 1951, Jim married June Cattron. They were a great team in youth and church leadership in the Covenant Church, even though they had no children themselves. Working together, **they were instrumental in helping to found Alpine Camp and Conference Center, to which he freely gave of his administrative talents in the early days. He continued to be a champion of Alpine in several roles: as a counselor, board member, volunteer, donor, and most importantly, faithful prayer warrior.**

Prior to his death, Jim identified three things that were pivotal in his spiritual life:

1. his conversion,
2. his work on the founding of Alpine, and
3. the establishment of CHET, the Hispanic Center for Theological Studies, located in Compton, CA.

There was nothing that thrilled Jim more than to have his experience and administrative talents used by God for His glory.

Jim, at the age of 100, joined his Savior on October 25, 2017. Jim wants to leave this question with you today, "How are things between you and the Lord?" 🌲

Jim Stayboldt as a young camp counselor





P.O. Box 155
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**BECAUSE GOD
HEARS OUR NEEDS...**

Please Join Us in Prayer For:

Winter camps coming up in
January and February.

We are already working on staff
recruiting for summer 2018.

Additional summer
staff housing needs.

For God's protection of the
Alpine ministry and mission as
it serves in a fallen world.

Skilled volunteers to come
"out of the woodwork" to
help with Alpine projects.

The items on the Wish List
to be received in a timely
manner and in top condition.

UPCOMING PROGRAMMED EVENTS

All are welcome.

To register, visit www.alpine-cc.org
or call (800) 350-6289.

WINTER CAMPS

JANUARY 26-28

High School (Grades 9-12)

FEBRUARY 2-4

Junior High #1 (Grades 6-8)

FEBRUARY 23-25

Junior High #2 (Grades 6-8)

MARCH 2-4

Junior High / High School
Combo (Grades 7-12)

JANUARY 19-21

Elementary with Mr. J
(Grades 3-6)



**ARE YOU A FORMER
STAFF MEMBER,
CAMPER, OR
BOARD MEMBER?**

**WE INVITE YOU TO
VISIT YOUR ALPINE ALUMNI
FACEBOOK PAGE. WHILE ON
FACEBOOK, SEARCH
"ALPINE ALUMNI," CLICK
"LIKE," AND JOIN THE PARTY!**

WISH LIST BIG NEEDS

(Funding for and/or Gifts-in-Kind)

1. A new or used Ford F350 4WD pickup with a snowplow (or equivalent)
2. A heavy duty golf cart or utility cart for our program department
3. A new or lightly used commercial, 30" wide conventional oven with a 6-burner stovetop
4. Two 97" or larger flat screen TVs for chapel worship lyrics and video viewing
5. Wholesale or factory direct access to sports equipment
6. A large, 4-wheel utility trailer with stake sides

For questions about this issue of the ECHOES Newsletter, please email info@alpine-cc.org