

ALPINE ECHOES

Providing a mountaintop
encounter with Jesus Christ
through Christian camping

SPRING 2018

HOPELESSNESS.

It's an emptiness that gnaws. Imagine living in hopelessness every day. Maybe you have; no imagination needed. Every year in America over 3.2 million children are abused, neglected or abandoned. Those are just the reported cases. It happens in obscene and evil ways. **It crushes hope.**

The good news? Hope can be restored. And you can be a part of it.

Alpine is currently partnering with 4 separate agencies and ministries which focus on providing hope-filled camping experiences for children who have experienced trauma. We have done so for years with 3 of them. This summer, Alpine will be partnering with Camp Hope America for the first time.

ROYAL FAMILY KIDS CAMP is an international ministry that has held camps at Alpine for years. Their "primary purpose is to give foster children ages 6-12 a week of positive memories and royal treatment in a Christian Camp environment" by creating "life-changing moments for children of abuse". They do this well. I have seen it often. You can learn more at www.rfk.org. Currently, RFKC holds two simultaneous weeks of camp at Alpine each June. This year, one more will be added in August.



THE TESORO CLUB

focuses on discipling the children of low income farm workers in the poorest areas of the Coachella Valley. They do this through camps, sports and

– Joel Rude, Executive Director

Bible clubs. Along with **Bargains Thrift Store** in Palm Desert, they have sent 300-500 campers per year to Alpine for over 10 consecutive years. Learn more at www.tesoroclub.org.

CAMP HOPE AMERICA, "...a program of Alliance for HOPE International, is the first nationwide camping and mentoring initiative in the US to focus on children exposed to domestic violence. Camp Hope America operates in collaboration with Family Justice Centers, Multi-Agency Centers, and community-based domestic violence and child advocacy agencies across the US at no cost to the camper or their families. The vision of Camp Hope America is to break the generational cycle of family violence by offering healing and hope to children who have been exposed to the trauma and abuse of family violence." Learn more at www.camphopeamerica.org. They will bring children ages 7-11 to Alpine this August.



There is biblical precedent for and documented testimonials of what these organizations are doing. Scientific research also validates a description of hope, measured and increased in campers that encounter Jesus and principles from His Word.

Alpine continues to explore partnerships with these ministries and agencies. All of them raise funds to pay for these kids to come to camp. Some have asked for and received discounts on camper fees. Alpine wants to cover those discounts. **You can help through prayer, generous financial support and connecting Alpine to additional sources of funding, not only as a champion of Alpine, but as a champion of...**

HOPE.



{TESTIFY:

1. To bear witness; give or afford evidence.
2a. To make a statement based on personal knowledge or belief; bear witness. 2b. To serve as evidence or proof.

There is so much **testifying** going on around Alpine...always has been. Even the trees **testify** — and we've got a lot of 'em!

(i.e. Romans 1:20: "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.")

Mike Mandel has volunteered as a counselor for junior high students at Rolling Hills Covenant Church for several years. He has been coming to Alpine for over 13 years, beginning as a high school student. (RHCC has been involved with Alpine since its beginning).

Mike testifies to the effectiveness of the Alpine experience for his students: *"This is a mountain of refuge for our kids...they get to experience a kind of organic Christianity since they are here for an entire weekend or week, and have time to live out their faith in an organic way. They get to see a group of people (the counselors, band members, speakers and staff) living out the gospel, accepting them and encouraging them right where they are over a few days...It gives them a clearer perspective. I have literally seen hundreds of kids grow in their faith over the years because the time here at Alpine is a stepping stone and sometimes a pinnacle in the spiritual lives of these students."*

Braden Hokuf, another RHCC volunteer, agrees: *"At camp, it is like we are living out the parable of the seeds and the soil...here at Alpine, there is a little more time to tend to the seeds...and the campers end up more "planted" and prepared for the real world."*

Nikki Hernandez, RHCC's High School Associate, has ministered with Rolling Hills youth for over 19 years. **Nikki testifies** to the partnership they enjoy with Alpine: *"Our kids are all over-scheduled and have such a pressure to perform. They need the time at Alpine to get away and have space to be in God's creation. Even looking out the windows at chapel: God gains access to their hearts as they experience His beauty. And because Alpine is a smaller camp, their*

ability to cater to our specific needs (and sometimes crazy requests) is helpful for the unique ministry we are trying to accomplish. The staff will bend over backwards to accommodate our ministry to these kids."

Nikki sees their winter camp experience at Alpine as a turning point: *"the number of hours at camp can't be matched...*

when else can you spend this much time with them? We always see our small groups solidify into something richer and deeper. And we have so much history with Alpine. It is home for these kids: their parents and grandparents have come to Alpine for decades."

Alpine's Program team leaders, Andrew and Rance, are intentional about the band members that Alpine hires to lead authentic worship experiences. They understand the power of song to **testify** to God's goodness and our great need. They choose band members who are willing to not only lead worship well, but who also hang out with campers to be a **testimony** and a one-on-one presence.

Band member Brad (guitar) testifies to their accessibility and why it's important: *"I think we all experience a deeper worship experience when the kids know us and we know them. In some camp situations, the band is not accessible to the campers. Here at Alpine, we are accessible. We bridge a gap that helps all of us in our relationships and worship experience. I talked to one camper recently who wanted to join a worship team, and one who wanted to play guitar. We don't always know the impact of those short conversations, but we know it adds to their camp experience."*

Band member Markay (keyboard) adds: *"We know each worship time is an opportunity for God's movement. We posture our hearts to be ready for God to move."* Markay testifies that they aren't in it for the glory in that *"some of the best times of worship are when we take ourselves out of the equation (they stop playing) and let the kids sing out so they can hear their*



voices together...it's a beautiful moment. We get to take them to the presence of the Father: it's organic, gracious and authentic. I love the posture of our band: we love to spend time with the kids and see spiritual chains broken during the weekend. Sometimes it's as simple as playing basketball with them...connecting with the kids is a blessing. I met a kid who wants to be a piano player and I ended up answering questions about what worship looks like. I was encouraged, and so was the camper."



Band member Lance (bass) and his wife, Nichole (lead vocal): "At Alpine, there is opportunity to connect throughout

the weekend, onstage and off. And when a camper starts to open up, we get to pray with them."

Early this year, Alpine received a letter from the junior high youth ministry team at Grace Community Church testifying to why Alpine exists: to help churches disciple their children. Here's what they said:

"We had such a great weekend connecting with our kids and diving into the Bible, unpacking the lessons from Chapel. And you all did AN AMAZING job planning for Sunday. The time we had in prayer for each of our kids during the devotion and worship time was so meaningful and impactful. How many kids, even in our churches, can say they have been specifically prayed over? I now know 16 that have! Several of our girls got up with tears in their eyes from hearing our prayers to God on their behalf. Two of our kids have families that don't attend church. I can almost guarantee those two kids have never had a prayer just for them like that.

We could write all day about how well done the camp journal was; and the take home devotional is just as solid. We have encouraged our group to do it and we are talking to them about it at our Wednesday night youth group. We can't wait to hear what God is doing in the lives of these kids as they go to His Word, on their own, with this devotional this week!"

At Alpine, we value each testimony of a life changed and redeemed for Christ. This becomes holy ground for planting, watering or harvesting whenever campers are on site. We love to testify to God's movement in the lives of people through their encounters at Alpine. If you have a testimonial to share with us, we'd love to hear it! Contact us at stories@alpine-cc.org.



THE MANY FACES OF GIVING




Will giving to Alpine make a difference in the long run? According to Tom Vogt, who recommitted his life to Christ 25 years ago at Alpine, the

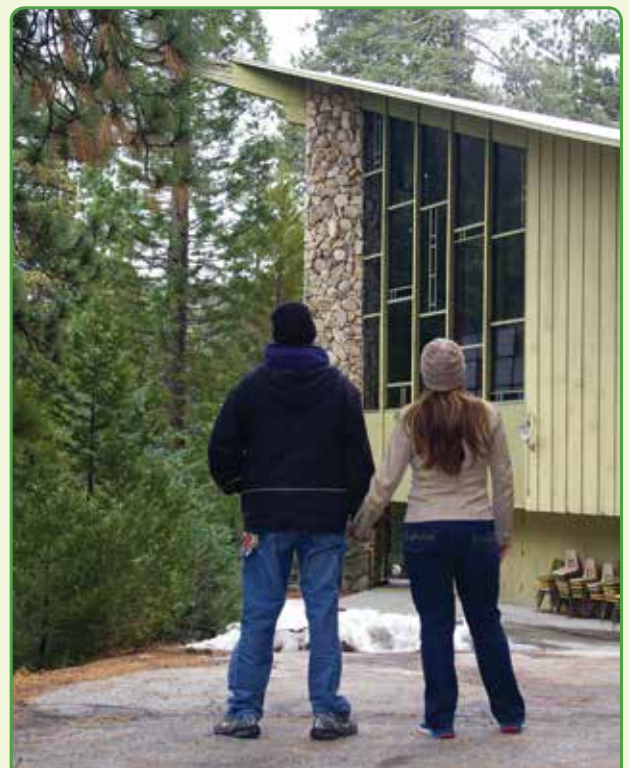
answer is a resounding "Yes!"

Here's what a note which came with his recent donation said,

"Please accept this donation as a token of appreciation for the rich contribution Alpine has made to my life. Some of my best memories are from time spent there. Recently, I had a strong desire to drive up to Alpine to see the chapel. So, as a part of our 20th anniversary celebration, my wife and I stopped by. It was a very foggy afternoon, and when we arrived, we walked around the grounds, making our way to the chapel where I learned so many lessons about worshiping the Lord. Just being there and smelling the piney mountain air lifted my spirits. At one point it came to me that it had been just one week past 25 years since I had recommitted my life to Jesus while on a winter retreat in that very place. I'm hoping my donation will help make it possible for many more souls to feel their worth as I did at age 26.

In Christ, Tom Vogt."

As a champion of Alpine, your financial gifts are the bedrock of future stories like Tom's. 





P.O. Box 155
Blue Jay, CA 92317

PRAY WITH US!

Need funds for
Basketball Court/ Entry
Asphalt replacement.
\$32,000 still needed!

Summer Staff recruitment
happening now: as of May 4,
we have 30 of the 45 needed
qualified college-age staff.

Skilled volunteers
always needed!

Opportunities to serve
churches and organizations
looking for a place to hold
their own camp or retreat.

Donations for the 2018
General Fund, totaling \$220,000.

✓ GOT IT!

Thanks to the 22
generous donors
who made possible
Alpine's recent
purchase of a greatly
needed 2011 Ford
F350 4wd diesel with
plow! We are grateful
for this provision!

UPCOMING PROGRAMMED EVENTS

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

WORK AND WORSHIP FAMILY CAMPS:

MAY 11-13 • SEPTEMBER 21-23

MAKUALA VILLAGE ELEMENTARY CAMPS:

JUNE 25-29

Day Camp #1

JULY 2-4

Day Camp #2

JULY 5-8

Resident Camp #1 (**Reserved / Full**)

JULY 8-13

Resident Camp #2

JULY 15-20

Resident Camp #3

JULY 22-27

Resident Camp #4

JULY 29-AUGUST 3

Resident Camp #5

SAWMILL CAMPS (JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH)

JULY 5-8

Breakaway Junior High #1

(**Waiting List**)

JULY 8-13

MAC High School

JULY 22-27

Breakaway Junior High #2

JULY 29-AUGUST 3

MAC Combo (**Waiting List**)

(Junior High and High School)

WOMEN'S AND MEN'S RETREATS

OCTOBER 12-14

Women's Retreat

NOVEMBER 2-4

Men's Retreat

Contact us for information
on booking your own group's
camp, retreat, team-building
or banquet experience.

Outdoor Education

Alpine's Outdoor Education
Program continues to engage
and impress both students
and teachers alike.

This 2018 spring season,
Alpine will host over 800 students
from 24 school groups.

