

ALPINE ECHOES

Providing a mountaintop
encounter with Jesus Christ
through Christian camping

WINTER 2020

Encountering God at Alpine

ABBY'S TESTIMONY

The first time I went to Alpine I was going into the fifth grade. That summer I was battling a painful and scary foot injury, and had to go home the second day of camp. I was sad, scared, and nervous to go back to camp.

Over the next few years, I was too scared to come back to camp. However, in 2018, I finally decided to give it



Abby (right) with
"Sharkbait," a beloved
summer staff leader.

another try. I was really close to my youth pastor, and he encouraged me to come. Little did I know it would be the most


influential week of my life. I was having a lot of doubts about God. I was mad at Him, and turned my back to Him. I was in a dark and scary place, and was anxious about the topic for that year, **Emerge**. I didn't want to talk about my past or bring God into it. But the topic was no coincidence, it was God's way of changing my life.

One night during camp that week, I experienced what I call a miracle.

God showed himself to me in a big and visible way. During chapel that night, I had a growing sense of anxiety. It was so strong that I spiraled into a panic attack. My youth pastor tried to calm me down, but nothing was working. Finally he put his hands on my shoulders and prayed. He

called on the name of God to remove the spirit of anxiety imprisoning me. He prayed in that moment for God to give me breath again. **He prayed that God would show himself to me by healing me from the attack. The next thing I know, I was calm again. I could breathe, and my pounding heart settled. The rest of the night I was more joyful than I've ever been.** I knew God had to be real, He showed Himself to me in a way that He knew I would notice and would be personal to me.

Ever since my encounter with God at Alpine, I've grown closer and closer to Him. I praise Him for showing Himself to me and giving me so much grace. I even went to camp the next year, and it was another influential week of camp where God revealed himself yet again to me. God showed Himself to me through counselors, Alpine staff, and the entire camp itself. God even repeated the miracle and revealed himself to me again in the midst of another anxiety attack. **Months and months worth of prayer came true at Alpine, and it was such an amazing experience.**


Alpine and its staff has changed my life in so many ways, and I cannot thank them enough. If I hadn't gone to Alpine and met God in a very real way, I don't know where I'd be today. I think about Alpine every day, and I thank God for using Alpine to change my life. **When I grow up, I want to work at Alpine and give back to them for all they've done.** 



Making an Impact at 2020 Winter Camps

Snow on the ground, anticipation high, snowballs flying upon arrival...so far, Alpine's programmed winter camps have been just the right combination of winter fun, relationship building and challenges to build faith upon.

We expect over 1,000 youth campers for our programmed events from January thru March. And we are excited! While planning for winter camps, the program team responded to an overwhelming sense that the Holy Spirit wasn't finished with last summer's theme. **So, "Unconfused: Resurrected" will continue to take an in-depth look at the top 5 questions young people have about God and faith in Jesus Christ, like "How do we know God exists?" and "Why is there pain and suffering in the world?".** These are hard questions that can be barriers to faith, and focusing on the historical character of Jesus Christ himself becomes a crucial building block.

We invite you to join us in praying for these faith-building weekends for these youth. It's high impact on so many levels. **And it continues to be all about that mountaintop encounter with Jesus Christ.** 

And it Happened on the Prayer Trail...

There are sacred spaces. Places where God's presence is keenly felt. The Alpine Trail has become such a place.

The idea for the trail came out of a 2007 camping seminar which Bob Hill and Ken Polson attended. Ken is Alpine's Facilities Manager, and Bob was on his team at the time. They were impressed with the thought that the facilities department could have a direct impact on the spiritual formation of campers by providing intentional spaces for reflection in nature. We certainly have an abundance of nature in Alpine's corner of the forest, and thus, the idea of an Alpine Trail was born.

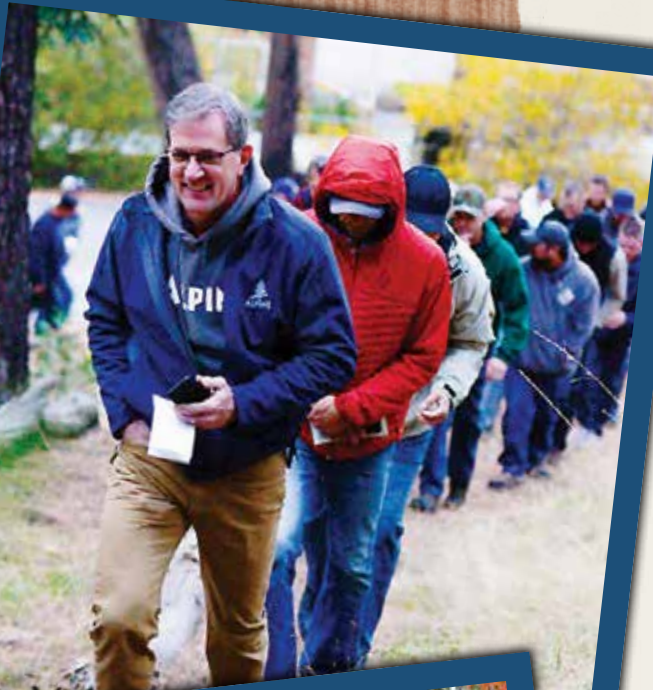
The trail was laid out by Ken, Bob and Joel, with prayer stations along the way featuring the most unique features of the terrain. Then in the spring of 2008, a missions team from In Christ Alone (a campus ministry at USC) volunteered the mornings of their 22-day training camp at Alpine. **Under Ken's and Bob's direction, they cut the trail into the hillside, installed erosion controls and trimmed back the trees. That year Joel walked the trail often, praying over the writing of the prayer guide.**

On a Sunday morning of a men's retreat, one man came to Joel with his own experience on the prayer trail. *"For three years, one of my best friends and I had not spoken due to a past conflict. While on the prayer*

*trail we ended up standing next to each other at the last station. We looked at each other and agreed that we needed to talk. We stayed behind as the group went down to breakfast and reconciled our relationship. **It was the time on the trail, stopping at the stations, pausing long enough in God's presence and each other's presence, that brought us to a place of mutual forgiveness. On this prayer trail, I got my friend back.**"*

When guiding a group through the trail, by station three the facilitator knows the group is usually ready to open up to share with each other. Station three of the prayer guide recommends the reading of Psalm 23. During a women's retreat, one woman resonated with the "valley of the shadow of death" section of the Psalm. She shared about her grief over her husband's death. Women gathered around her with hugs and affirmation as she spoke. They prayed for her. Then another woman shared about her pain... same response. That went on for several rounds of women sharing and continued throughout the rest of the stations of the trail. **Women who were strangers at the trailhead became sisters along the way.**

Camp is full of sacred spaces. The Alpine Trail continues to be a place set apart to make room for experiencing God. 🌲





THOUGHTS

PASSING THE BATON

Words are essential to the 'Echoes', the Alpine newsletter. Early issues included a sketch of a person sounding an alpenhorn atop a mountain, calling attention to something of value. Words of value spoken on this mountain have reverberated through various valleys for six decades.

The Word of God is of ultimate value. Trusting in Jesus (The Word) for this life and the next means we are signposts pointing to Jesus without making it about ourselves. I hope that is true of my 12 years at Alpine. My family was shaped through growing up in three Bible camps in three states. Laurie, our two daughters, their husbands, and our son are currently all in ministry roles or preparing for them.


The Word of God will accomplish its purpose. This January, I handed the baton over to Transitional

Executive Director Rachel Weimer, a 10-year veteran of Alpine's year-round staff, and Director of Public Relations Melody Johnson, an almost life-long Alpine participant, youth leader, board member and member of one of Alpine's founding families. God's Word has shaped them. They are humble, capable, and courageous servant-leaders.

Hiking through the forest this morning, I asked Jesus how to say farewell in my final S'more Thoughts. A scripture passage came to mind: Isaiah 55:10-11. **"...so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire..."** Perfect for this purpose. Then I read on. Isaiah 55:12 was the theme verse for my very first summer as a full-time program director in 1985: **"You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you..."** Wow.



Rachel Weimer, Joel Rude and Melody Johnson.

Those three verses together illustrate the "full circle" way in which God's Word does its work. Let their meaning reverberate within you. **Camp staff and camp events come and go. Let His eternal Word dwell in you richly.** 

Joel Rude

Former Executive Director

THE MANY FACES OF GIVING

Over the last 62 years, many have experienced restoration and renewal at Alpine. For this reason, and many others, some choose to remember and honor their loved ones with memorial gifts to Alpine.

Memorials given to Alpine during 2019 totaled \$64,447.


Financial gifts were donated in memory of the following dear people:

Carmen Anderson
Donna Ekblad
Blenda Lindholm
Ralph "Bud" Logan
Sara Jane Magner-Svendsen
Rose Miller
Elsa Olen
Jim Olson

Daniel Solway
Gordon Stayboldt
Jim Stayboldt
Phil Thorsell
Rosalind Thorsell
John Ward
Beth Wilbern

Many thanks to those who gave gifts which benefited camper scholarships, special projects and daily operations as specified by each donor.

Want to give a gift to the ministry or special project at Alpine in memory of someone you love? What a meaningful way to remember your loved ones! And the gift goes on...

If you are interested in giving to Alpine in memory of a loved one, you may send a check, give online at www.alpine-cc.org, or call us at 1-800-350-6289. Please indicate in whose memory you are donating. Alpine gratefully posts those who have been remembered this way during the previous year in the Winter issue of the Alpine Echoes. You may also give a gift **In Honor Of** any living loved one you would like to honor. 





P.O. Box 155
Blue Jay, CA 92317



**WINTER
CAMP FUN!**



UPCOMING PROGRAMMED EVENTS

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

SPRING WORK & WORSHIP

For church groups,
families and individuals

MAY 8-10

MAKUALA CAMPS

JUNE 22-26

Makuala Day Camp #1
Entering Grades 1-6

JUNE 29-JULY 2

Makuala Resident Elementary #1
Entering Grades 3-6

JULY 5-10

Makuala Day Camp #2
Entering Grades 1-6

JULY 19-24

Makuala Resident Elementary #2
Entering Grades 3-6

SAWMILL CAMPS (JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL)

JUNE 29-JULY 2

Junior High #1

JULY 5-10

High School #1

JULY 19-24

Junior High #2

JULY 26-31

Combo (JH and HS)

FALL WORK & WORSHIP

For church groups, families and individuals

SEPTEMBER 18-20

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