

May 2010

MOUNTAIN T.O.P.

This newsletter is to keep you connected with what is happening on the mountain.



REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

God's ministry through Mountain T.O.P. remains busier than ever. It's a very good thing too. We continue to experience a need greater than we have the resources to provide. The areas we serve through this ministry continue to experience unprecedented challenges. Every day the phone rings with opportunities to reach out with the hand of Christ and share a bit of hope. We are committed to be a people of hope this year. The only limit to what this ministry can do is you! Your help is needed in either participating as a camper or sharing your resources through our "Equipping the Saints" for service effort. If you have been blessed and are able, we ask that you prayerfully consider how you can help. The needs are great but nothing is impossible through Christ.

Staff training begins in less than 20 days! We just completed a wonderful weekend with this summer's directors. Their excitement and passion for service is so contagious. Soon they will be joined by the rest of the staff. Please keep these young people in your prayers. They will be the ones to help lead our campers to new

spiritual heights this summer and help them to be a people of hope. They sacrifice so much to serve God and this ministry. Their reward certainly isn't a cash salary. They serve knowing that lives will be changed, hope given and Christ's love shared.



TOM MCINTOSH - DUNWOODY, GA

LIVIN' HOPE

Peter's first letter calls us back to the hope we have in the living God as a body of believers. He writes, "In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1:3). Join us this year as we strive to more deeply know the living God, live in the hope of His promises and spread that hope through our camp and home communities.

SUMMER UPDATES

As of the middle of April, we have 1,692 YSM campers coming to the mountain, and a few more churches adding to that number! We still need campers Weeks 2, 4, 5 and 8. Remember that Week 4 has a reduced rate of \$325.

Additionally, we are gearing up to kick off our brand new Fish Camp and Quest programs! Fish Camp is a JR High youth retreat for rising 6th graders - rising 8th graders and will be held June 9th - 12th at Camp Cumberland Pines. Cost is \$160 per camper, which includes all meals, lodging, material and staffing fees, and a Fish Camp t-shirt! As of right now, Monticello UMC, a church new to Mountain T.O.P., will be bringing 14 campers. We would love to have 30 - 35 more!

Between AIM Weeks 1 and 2, we have over 40 campers getting ready to come to the mountain this summer with several more still applying. However, we really need more campers for AIM Week 3, July 11th - 17th, to be held at Camp Cumberland Pines. This is a brand new AIM week we have added to the summer to kick off Quest and run camp out of Pines. Quest is an adventure style camp for teenagers who live in Grundy County.

Though Mountain T.O.P. staff sets the program for Quest, AIM participants actually facilitate the week. They act as mentors, guides, and caregivers for the youth by encouraging each other in word and deed. Each day's activities are centered on a specific character trait. Specifics of the week and a schedule are provided to AIM participants closer to the week. There are also opportunities for you to share your faith story in group and individual settings. Quest culminates on Friday with a special time to celebrate with friends and family.

Participation in all of the adventure challenges is not a requirement to be involved with Quest and experience is never a prerequisite for AIM. However, a love of Jesus and a calling to share this love in a unique environment is a necessity!

WE SAY GOOD-BYE TO SOME SPECIAL FRIENDS

Just after Easter, we said good-bye to a couple of our very special neighbors. Bill & Bobbie Joy, who have been an instrumental part of this ministry on a daily basis for the past 5 years, moved back home to Ohio. Their smiling faces and huge servant hearts will be missed around our offices. The things they did for this staff and ministry will be impossible to replace. From serving on the Board to being the primary Lowes shopper, from being the motivating force behind the restart of Summer Plus & Kaleidoscope to helping with mailings, this couple did anything they were asked and more. What we all will miss most is the constant love and support they shared every time they came to camp.

NEW STAFF MEMBER: BO MYERS



Bo Myers joined our staff February 1st as our Ministry Intern for the Spring and Summer. He is primarily responsible for supporting our busy Spring BreakOut program and Youth Summer Ministry program, both in the office and the field. He served on summer staff for three years and was most recently a Director at Camp Baker Mountain in 2009. He will be graduating from Louisiana State University with a Bachelor's in Mass Communication with a concentration in Broadcast Journalism. Bo's willingness to do any task asked of him and his "behind the scenes" servanthood attitude make him a real asset to the full-time family.

We know we will see them again as campers, but it just won't be the same as having them as neighbors. They are missed already.

BAKER WORK WEEKEND: WE NEED YOU!

May 13th - 16th is a long weekend dedicated to prepping Camp Baker Mountain for the summer. In the past, this weekend was offered to Former Staff looking for a way to serve the camp home they know and love. This year, we have revamped that weekend to include anyone willing to help us get Baker ready for the summer. Specifically, we need a group of people willing to clean cabins, paint, weed eat, wipe down mattresses and sweep. We also need a group of people with specific construction skills to help install ventilation in the dining hall. We will be putting a whole house attic fan, vents, closing in two gable ends, and installing mini blinds. We are hoping that those people who live in a two - three hour radius can help us out, even if it is just for one day. Remember, this weekend is FREE, and includes meals and lodging!



FRIENDS WORKING ON THE PEABODY EXPANSION



BEN, ROBERT & TRISTAN AT FAMILY WEEKEND



DOUG LAMB - GERMANTOWN, TN

CAMP IMPROVEMENTS

Thanks to the hard work of local volunteers, 288 BreakOut campers & 40 Friends of the ministry, the camps are getting ready for another incredible year of ministry. At Cumberland Pines, we have made additional improvements that will make a difference in participants in camp experience.



PEABODY EXPANSION

The last of our sub-standard bathrooms is being replaced with an expansion to the Peabody Cabin. The addition to the existing cabin will include 6 showers, 6 new toilets, 6 sinks and a brand new 100 gallon commercial water heater. Once the addition is completed, the old bathrooms will be removed and additional sleeping rooms built in their place. We are hoping this project will be completed before our Fall programming begins in September.



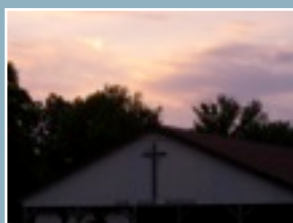
AIM PAVILION

A new program area is being built behind the Friends Cabin and beside the Three Crosses Worship Area. This new covered pavilion is being constructed to commemorate last year's 20th Anniversary of our Adults in Ministry Program. The pavilion includes an altar area designed to showcase the custom altar and crosses giving to recognize the AIM ministry. The new pavilion will be utilized by all Mountain TOP programs and will host the summer AIM cookouts.



YODA'S HUT

The summer staff offices have received a facelift. New windows, doors and siding have been added to Yoda's Hut. Our hope is this building will become more secure against attacks from weather and fuzzy-tailed rats (aka squirrels!). It also received a fresh coat of paint.



BAKER MOUNTAIN

This is the year of ventilation at Baker Mountain. During the Baker Work Weekend we will add extensive ventilation to the dining hall, install donated window air conditioners in the staff lodge and add window coverings in the dining hall and staff lodge. We will also move the ice machine out of the dining hall and relocate the kitchen air conditioner. All these improvements should dramatically improve temperature control in these two historically hot buildings.

2010 MOUNTAIN TOP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board met in February at Cumberland Pines for their annual planning meeting. It was a very productive meeting and some wonderful ideas were discussed and plans made. The Board began the process of developing a new Long Range Plan. Their hope is to finish this plan by the end of the year. They also began to discuss plans for a Fall 35th Anniversary Celebration.

Officers

Fred Kaserman – Lenoir City, TN (Board Chair)
 Steve Koelbl – McMinnville, TN (Secretary)
 Tom Hayes – Nashville, TN (Trustees Chair)
 J. Doehring - Katy, TX (Vice Chair)
 Andy Borders - Shelbyville, TN (Finance Chair)

Members

Reed Bradford – Altamont, TN
 Sally Chambers – Brentwood, TN
 Erin Hepper – Nashville, TN
 Dave Howell – Goodlettsville, TN
 Bill Joy – Cleveland, OH (Past Chair)
 Curtis Piper – Nashville, TN
 Steve Ridley – Lilburn, GA
 Amy Smith – Nashville, TN
 Steven Solomon – Memphis, TN

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS FOR SERVICE CAMPAIGN

Each year over 1600 campers join approximately 45 summer staff to serve the families in our many service areas in middle Tennessee. These saints come with huge servant hearts, willing attitudes and strong work ethics to volunteer their time to be the hands and feet of Christ. It takes resources of various types to help them make the most of their efforts. For many of us, the only way we have to participate in this life changing ministry is to provide some of these badly needed resources. Through our **Equipping the Saints for Service** effort you can help this ministry and its servants make a big difference in the lives of families throughout our service area. The attached form provides several ways you can partner with the campers and staff that come each year to the mountain to serve. Financial gifts toward these items or in-kind gifts of items will help maximize the efforts of all involved.

2010 SUMMER STAFF

Directors:

Thomas Harness - Sanford, FL
Elise Low - Ann Arbor, MI
Sarah Gothard - Montevallo, AL
Mark McGlothlin - Austin, TX

Field Managers:

Steve Frankenfield - Perkasio, PA
Amelia Millemon - Alton, IL
Michael Reed - Sycamore, IL
Vincent Vasquez - Austin, TX

Day Camp Manager:

Andrew Phillips - Germantown, TN

Program Managers:

Kim Fall - Ellisville, MS
Mary Kate Fisher - McMinnville, TN

Erin Moore - Stow, OH
Cayce Powers - Nolensville, TN

Service Project Ministry Coordinators:

Michael Junard - Brentwood, TN
Chelsea Scheck - Akron, OH
William Holloway - Long Beach, MS
Nicholas Beegle - Collierville, TN
Keith Makar - Whippany, NJ
Rachael Head - Nashville, TN
Danielle Mitchell - Thompson Station, TN
Hannah Brock - Naperville, IL
Olivia Evans - Thompson Station, TN
Emily Mistrzak - DeRidder, LA
Stephen Wright - Mt. Pleasant, TN
Matthew Phillips - Lilburn, GA
Joshua Sakalaukus - Pass Christian, MS
Rebecca Goltry - Wichita, KS
Shannon Jablonski - Marietta, GA
Jenny Chappuis - Ann Arbor, MI

Ginny Severns - Williamsburg, IA
Justin Campbell - Memphis, TN

Day Camp Ministry Coordinators:

Chelsi Warren - Clarksville, TN
Emily Hurst - Nashville, TN

A.I.M. Staff:

Director:

Leigh Shepherd - Brownsburg, IN

Field Manager:

Scott Dorton - Livonia, MI

Program Manager:

Diana Woodlock - Spring, TX

Sum +, KAL & Quest Manager:

Betsy Galbraith - Greenfield, IN



**"AND HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT US, BECAUSE GOD HAS Poured OUT HIS LOVE INTO OUR HEARTS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHOM HE HAS GIVEN US."
ROMANS 5:5**

**CELEBRATING
35 YEARS OF MINISTRY!!!**

Be looking out for more information about a celebration to come!

MOUNTAIN T.O.P.

P.O. Box 128
Altamont, TN 37301



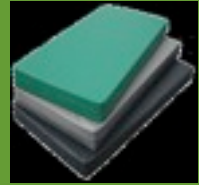
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EQUIPPING THE SAINTS CAMPAIGN

"May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." Hebrews 13:20-21

Camp Mattresses – Our bunk mattresses are in need of replacement. This year our goal is to replace 75 of these at a cost of \$100 each. We are upgrading to a 5" mattresses with a special nylon cover. It is our intent to replace all our mattresses over the next 5 years.



5 gal. Drink Coolers & 52 qt. Ice Chests – Our goal is to increase our inventory in order to be able to provide every work team with a drink cooler and ice chest for their lunch. We need 25 of each of these sets per camp. The cost for both items is \$105.

Summer Staff Partnerships – We will have 38 young people that have committed to serve this summer on staff. Since we are a partnership-based ministry, the summer staff invites family, friends and others to support them financially. The average amount each person is asked to raise is \$2,250.



Building Materials – Mountain TOP is fortunate to have lumber companies that annually donate wood to our mission. However, not all our material needs are met by these donations. We are required to purchase materials in order to meet all our project needs. Please consider giving toward the following types of projects:

- Porch with Roof \$175
- Wheelchair Ramp \$200
- Storage Shed \$225
- Bundle of rough cut 1x \$125



Children & Youth Program Scholarships – Each year we offer several programs to the children and youth in Grundy County. We ask all families to contribute something toward the program fees. Often families cannot afford the total cost or have multiple children that want to participate. When resources are available we try to provide scholarships to these families.

- Day Camp Scholarship \$25
- Kaleidoscope Scholarship \$25
- Summer Plus Scholarship \$25
- Quest Scholarship \$25



Tools – We have a goal to fill our tool sheds with a permanent inventory of large tools. By having these tools on hand, it will help churches with the logistics of traveling to our camps. Tools we need include:

- Wheelbarrows \$100
- 6ft fiberglass ladders \$125
- Fiberglass extension ladders \$250
- Post-hole diggers \$30
- Rakes (garden & leaf) \$25

If you have questions or are interested in participating in the *Equipping the Saints for Service* effort, please contact Kim VanGundy at kim@mountain-top.org or call her at 931-692-3999. To give, simply send in the information below with a check to P.O. Box 128, Altamont, TN 37301

Name: _____

Email: _____

Gift Selection: _____