

NEWSLETTER



Summer

Passage:

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- ESV

1 Cor. 15:57

VBC: Summer-2023

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

It is good to sit down and type this letter to you. I wanted to share how Jesus Christ has worked in my life and the lives here in Alaska through Victory Ministries of Alaska at Victory Bible Camp.

I have witnessed God the Father answer prayers, how the Holy Spirit convicted the hearts of the campers and adults, and people's relationships growing further with their Lord Savior, Jesus Christ.

For the past two years, I directed the Venture program, one of four summer programs for the campers to attend at Victory Bible Camp. It was a blessing to be able to lead the summer staff and invest in them so they could invest in their campers.

The Venture program allows the campers to be out in God's creation (Hiking, Swimming, White Water Rafting) and within The Word of God; each day (Devotionals and Fireside-Chapels). It was a joy to teach and preach God's Word to the summer staff & campers, but it was difficult leading Venture and Guest Services at the same time.

The Lord brought a God fearing family to Victory Bible Camp as full-time staff in the Fall of 2022 and they were able to lead the Venture program for this summer of 2023. I praise God for their desire to lead kids to Jesus Christ by being out in God's creation! Because they are here leading the Venture program now, I am able to focus on Guest Services without being weighed down by multiple responsibilities.



Because I did not lead the Venture program this summer and only served in Guest Services, it brings the question: **Steven, what did you do during the summer of 2023?**

At the beginning of the summer, I knew I would be working more in the admin office, preparing contracts, writing emails, and following up with the groups and retreats by phone for this upcoming fall while helping with morning devotionals and possibly teaching the Work Teams and Volunteers during the evening. However, I did not know the extent of how much my Father wanted me to teach and disciple the work teams and volunteers of His Son while they were here at Victory Bible Camp. As I served throughout the summer, the Lord provided the time I needed to be in the Word so I would invest in the His sons and daughters.

Before I get into details of the work teams and volunteers, I want to share how the Holy Spirit worked in the young lives of the last guest group Victory Bible Camp hosted at the beginning of June and how He used our summer staff to share The Gospel with the campers.

First Week of June

Hockey Ministries International (HMI) shares The Good News of Jesus Christ with kids through hockey. Each summer since I have been here at Victory Bible Camp, HMI comes on our first week of summer camp to use our facility to run their hockey camp. There were about 90 people who attended the hockey camp in June.

Many children came to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and re-dedicated their lives to Him. God does not just use our summer

programs here at Victory Bible Camp but also other Christian ministries.

Below I will provide a few testimonies that a leader provided me after their hockey camp here at Victory Bible Camp:

Testimonies from Coaches & Cabin Counselors,

“Two ice coaches shared how one camper came the second night after chapel and asked for a Bible for his dad.”

“I noticed, after the huddle, one camper was making notes in his book. He stayed after to receive Christ during the first altar call.”

“20 decisions from the campers accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.”

The Holy Spirit changed many lives by using HMI to share the Truth of Jesus Christ to those young kids. I am looking forward to seeing them next summer, 2024!

Victory's Summer Staff

The four summer programs that we have to offer here at Victory Bible Camp: Alpine, Ranch, S.A.L.T., and Venture, varied to the ages of the campers each week. We had children as young as eight years old to seventeen years old.

The Lord has provided us with some great summer staff counselors and leadership. Their faithfulness and zeal for serving Jesus Christ were evident to all. I heard many of their testimonies during the prayer and praise worship sessions. How the Holy Spirit convicted the hearts of the campers with hearts of stone to become hearts of flesh was exciting, born again! Also, campers rededicating their lives as



obedient followers of Jesus Christ was comforting.

However, though I and many others heard the testimonies of the lost coming to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, we also heard stories of how many denied The Gospel for various reasons. It was sad knowing the kids were leaving the same way when they first

arrived here at Victory Bible Camp, with no hope in the eternal life that Jesus Christ gives. All we can do is pray that God will call those children to Himself, and they will come to accept the gift of grace that Jesus Christ has provided to man by his incarnation, life, death, resurrection, and ascension.

Though numbers do not define a church or ministry, when it comes to baptisms, membership, rededications, or salvation, it does encourage the Body of Christ to see how our God is furthering His kingdom. The numbers below are the information that the Victory Staff has received from our summer staff at this time:

Information –

Campers who came to VBC this summer: 869

- Already Saved: 512
- Rededication: 46
- Salvation: 56

Though I did not engage with the campers, I helped with the volunteers and work teams by leading morning devotionals and evening Bible studies. The summer theme was Victory In Jesus, which focuses on the verse of 1 Cor. 15:57.

I was able to teach within the epistle of 1 Corinthians 15 to the adults how Paul had to reassure the church of Corinth that Jesus Christ did rise from the dead, conquered death and sin, and provided hope to His disciples for the day of glorification with new resurrected bodies as Christ victors because He, Jesus Christ, is the Victor!

The Three Amigos

It was encouraging how my Father answered my prayer at the beginning of summer. I asked God to allow me to teach from His Word and be able to disciple a Brother in Christ, and guess what - He did just that!

After the first week of summer camp passed, three younger guys from PA came to Victory to help serve on the maintenance team. They are all good friends and grew up together, so everyone from Victory knew them as the three amigos. One of the amigos was Blake, and he came up to me during an evening and asked, would you teach me more about God from the Bible? God was at work in Blake's life because he witnessed the summer and full-time staff being bold in their faith in Jesus Christ, and he saw that in me. Blake told me, I can tell you know of God's Word, and I want to use the time while I am here in Alaska to grow my faith in

Jesus Christ. Would you be willing to meet on Monday and Friday evenings?

Let me tell you, I was excited! Throughout the summer, I talked with him about the importance of prayer, the local church, and baptism. Then one evening, he brought the other amigos with him, so we discussed the importance of The Gospel in our lives and how we can respond to a person who might ask how someone becomes saved. They understood how to explain The Gospel: Incarnation, Life of Christ, Death, Resurrection, and His Ascension.

As time went on through the summer, we started reading the Gospel of John and studying some areas of doctrine: Perseverance of the Saints, Predestination, and a little in Eschatology. We also looked at the difference between Calvinism and Arminianism beliefs.

Change of Heart

A gentleman came up to Victory Bible Camp and served for two weeks.

He shared with me and others how he was a workaholic and struggled with saying no when making money when he didn't need it. The two weeks since he was here at VBC, God has helped him to slow down and be less busy. The three amigos listened when he spoke to them, especially when he shared the importance of not idolizing work but worshiping the One who has created work for man.

He received physical and emotional rest, but more importantly, spiritual rest from our Father by being within God's Word. He told me he had not laughed with joy and contentment in many years. Being able to drive the motor boat for the campers and seeing how God was working in the lives of

the children and young adults helped soften his heart during his stay. It was a joy for me to see how God worked in his life while he was here at VBC and how he wanted to serve Jesus and not the things of this world when he returned to the lower 48.

ABC (Alaska Bible College)

While serving at VBC this summer, I applied at Alaska Bible College to become a student for this Fall Semester.

I am excited to share that I have been accepted as a student and will take a course this Fall.

The course I have enrolled in, Old Testament Survey, will start the week after orientation.

I look forward to taking the course, since it has been three years since the last time that I have taken the Old Testament Survey through the Timothy Pastoral Apprenticeship program in South Dakota, Rapid City.

I know this will be a humbling time as I go through the Old Testament, re-learning what I have learned in the past and how the Holy Spirit will also make known things within God's Word that I have missed or forgotten.





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Denomination

Non-Denominational

Our Mission

We exist to evangelize and disciple children, youth, and adults in Alaska for Jesus Christ through Christian Camping.

Foundational Scripture

2 Cor. 5:20 "Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."

Thank you for your prayers, love, and financial support. By God's grace, He has allowed me to be here at Victory Bible Camp to use my skills, time, and spiritual gifts to invest in the lives of those who come to VBC and within the community of Glacier View throughout the year.

Prayer

Financial Support:

- Pray that God provides the financial support I need to continue to serve year-round living at Victory Bible Camp. I need to raise \$800 more each month to be supported financially.

- Pray that God will make known to me who want to find a missionary to support: prayer and financial.

Community, Fellowship, and Unity:

- Pray that God will help me to love and lift others in the community as I live amongst the VBC Staff in unity.

Guest Services:

- Pray that God will help me to engage with the guest groups with love, kindness, and patience so my words and actions will bring honor to Jesus Christ as the groups can evangelize and disciple the men and women within their groups.

Maturity:

- Pray that God will help me keep in step with the Holy Spirit and grow in my faith and relationship with Jesus Christ.

Ministry:

- Pray that God will protect the Victory Staff and me from the things of this world, our flesh, and Satan.

- Pray that God will help us to put on His armor and boldly proclaim The Good News to all He puts in our life.

Passion:

- Pray that God will help me to teach and lead others to grow more in their relationship with Jesus Christ while I grow in my relation with my Lord and Savior.

Relationship:

- Pray that God will continue to build relationships for the Victory Staff, people in the Glacier View community, and our guest groups.

Rest:

- Pray that God will provide the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health needed to serve year-round at VBC so I may have rest and peace.

Sanctification:

- Pray that God will help me to become more like Him.

Wisdom & Discernment:

Use the time that I have to glorify Christ:

- Serving guest groups/retreats before arrival, while on the campground, and after they leave.

- To study and grow in understanding of God's Word while going to Alaska Bible College.

- To study and use my spiritual gift of teaching to teach at GlacierView Bible Church and The OutPost program classes at VBC this winter.