

"Life Is A Series Of Ups & Downs"

You did a good thing as an Association last year. You embraced the idea of bringing as many 'unchurched' kids to Camp as possible. Our churches encouraged their students to invite their friends. You supported fundraisers that guaranteed every kid could afford to go to Camp. Your adult church members gave unattached 'sponsorships' to make sure every student who wanted to go could make the journey. Almost every church in the Association made it their mission to 'chase the unchurched' for Camp. The result?

- 78 kids attended Church Camp for the first time
 - 74 students were born again.
 - 20+ other decisions

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We pointed out in last month's Newsletter that last year's ARVBA Church Camp set the standard for years to come. The passion that was birthed at Camp 2023 carried over to the Annual Mission Trip where God used our revived teens and adults to bring hope and excitement to an area of the state that had long ceased to have any. It was a week that is talked about to this day *and it all started at your Associational Church Camp!*

It would be easy to rest on our laurels and be satisfied with deeds of the past, but let's don't, you want to not?!

We saw what the Lord chose to do with the passion and commitment of so many of His churches last year. Let's challenge ourselves to do Camp even better this time around! Let's each encourage our ARVBA church to 'Chase The Unchurched' again this year and ask God to send more first-time campers than ever before. We have had a year to prepare our church kids for Camp 2024 and they have had a year to think about how the Holy Spirit touched their lives last time. Because of that, we should be more open to the Spirit's leading and more expectant of something extraordinary than ever before. So what do we do in the meantime?

Time is short so encourage your campers to invite their unchurched friends to Camp right now. Don't let the invitation wait another. Set aside specific times of individual and corporate Camp-directed prayer times. Consider volunteering as an extra cabin supervisor for your church or as a teacher or lifeguard at Camp.

Church Camp is still one of the most effective evangelistic tools in the church's arsenal. Let's give it all we've got and 'see what the lord will do!'.

"For God has not given us a spirit of fearfulness, but one of power, love, and sound judgment"
(2 Timothy 1:7, HCSB).

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Spring Lake Camp & Retreat Center

