

CSB Battalion N-Counter 2011 was envisioned to be big, and as it turned out, God gave the increase! Did we really imagine a gathering like this would bring out 475 brothers in Christ for a weekend of camping and synchronized activities? Did we think young men, their leaders and some fathers would come from 30 different churches in 5 Brigade regions; from 10 States and 2 Canadian Provinces? Yet, after over a year of planning, this event did take place on a fair weather weekend, April 29 – May 1, at a camp in Birdsboro, PA. And these young men went home with more than they would have imagined, not only new experiences in Brigade, but a new appreciation of fellowship in Christ with other young men.



Some creative minds on our planning team found a way to place a several young men from each church together with others on teams of about 15. They would spend all day on Saturday in a rotation of 11 different activities, getting to know each other through doing activities as diverse as fly fishing, Ultimate Frisbee, skeet shooting, team building exercises and a chicken barbeque dinner. They spent time in small group devotions, and one period of interactive conversation with CSB President, John Launstein.



That was the activity during daylight! After dark the entire group met in the pavilion for a time of worship and heard a testimony by Lee Troup, from the early days of Christian Service Brigade. Chuck Stecker challenged the “young men” across the generations, to be men of God who will go the distance. Amazingly, 30 stood to say they wanted to receive Jesus Christ and be known by name when they stand before Him. In the dark of night, the whole camp surrounded the lake in a torch lighting activity, and every one, with lit torch filed back around to one corner where each torch was added to make a bonfire! The imagery used by Chuck was amazing, and no one will forget that scene, with the effect of our lights.



On Sunday morning 20 adult Heralds of Christ came to the platform and stood behind the 7 candidates, new recipients of Herald of Christ, as these received their pins from CSB's President; 4 youth members and 3 adult leaders, one of whom was myself. An honorary Herald of Christ was given to Lee Troup, who as a CSB Field Staff Director in the 1950's-60's has influenced many men to be Christian leaders over the years. We hear the dedication and commitment achieved by these Heralds of Christ was an inspiration to many young men. Our battalion mentoring program is "building godly men of today and tomorrow".

Thank you for your interest and your prayers over this past year in the planning and development of this truly significant event. It was a challenge to build CSB Battalion N-Counter 2011 from the ground up, and God definitely answered prayers and guided the process at every turn. I believe our purpose for this event, for the many young men who came from all these churches and programs was close to His heart. We know oneness in Christ is something Jesus Himself prayed for, and we aimed to pursue Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith. Our theme, "Go the Distance" came from Hebrews 12:1,2.



Thank you for praying, that God would be glorified in this event, and for giving us your support to this ministry that has as much purpose and potential as ever before, knowing that it is God who gives the increase. We will be counting on our support team of friends to help us go the distance again this year.

Thanks so much,

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