



THEREFORE GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT... - JESUS

MEET THE AUTHOR



David is founder of both Camps International, a USA-based non-profit that starts camps throughout the world, and RYCCA, a Mexico-based non-profit that aids under-resourced camps. David has

served multiple years on the board of Christian Camping International Latin America: Mexico. In 1994, David and his wife Karen, a second-generation missionary, came to Mexico to grow the church through Christian camps. David Caldwell has dedicated the last two decades to developing Christian youth camps with the purpose of raising up leadership in the local church. He wrote *Collaboration of Church and Camp* to share with pastors and leaders more about what camp can do for their church and community.

SEVEN ELEMENTS

Camps International partners with local churches to start discipleship-driven camps where there are none.

Christian camps use an effective means (counselors) to reach the most receptive hearts (kids). We train counselors who love Jesus so they can minister to kids through the authority of their church in a place removed from distraction.

In line with our philosophy, David explains seven basic elements that work together to provide synergistic results through camp experiences when working with the local church.

GET THE EBOOK

To download an electronic copy of the *Collaboration Between Church and Camp* eBook, visit our website at:

www.CampsInternational.org/Resources

If you're interested in receiving more information, please contact us at info@campsinternational.org.

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COLLABORATION BETWEEN Church & Camp



KIDS AREN'T KIDS FOREVER, THAT'S WHY WE DO CAMPS.



Camps International
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A church growth resource for pastors.

1. CHURCH

The Camps International camp method supports the pastor by training members of the congregation to be an arm of the pastor's efforts to do outreach, evangelize, and disciple.

We orient, train and give counselors the hands-on experience of camp, and send them and their campers back to the church. Once back in the ministry system of local church, the nurturing process continues. The pastor is blessed because the counselor has practiced doing ministry and can now serve in greater capacity.

2. KIDS

Children are very receptive to the gospel and are at an ideal age to be disciplined. A church is to send teams of five kids and two counselors to camp. Kids then learn about God from nature and from counselors. Giving counselors an opportunity to minister to a few will ensure success for both campers and counselors.

Continuing relationships built from the local church through the counselor to the child at camp is fundamental to the purposes of camp. Counselors ministering to these kids after camp is our definition of success.

3. COUNSELORS

From the local church, the pastor selects and endorses a counselor and a co-counselor. They are volunteers, who, as a team, represent the pastor and church. At camp, these counselors will nurture five children from their church or neighborhood.

Camp gives counselors an opportunity to minister to a few, promoting a discipleship relationship between the campers and the counselors. Through the experience of ministering at camp the counselors are going to be able to continue on serving the children and serving the church after camp.

4. NATURE

Nature is an integral and important part of Christian camping. Comforts and discomforts beyond our control challenge us to accept ourselves in our frailty. We see our finiteness in comparison to God's huge greatness. We see God's love and concern for us in how He created resilience and diversity in plants and animals, and how He provides for us on a daily basis through that creativity.

While at camp, nature is inescapable and every facet of creation points us to God. Sharing discoveries of nature in community is a bonding experience.

5. ACTIVITIES

Activities and camp challenge the whole being. They also bring people together. There are many activities, but a main reason to use activities is to build relationships between the counselors and children, between the campers themselves, and between the campers and God. The activity is to evoke something more significant than just the winning of the game or the bettering of a skill.

The counselors increase their skills using activities at camp, and become more interesting people. Through good use of activities counselors can carry a group, motivate a crowd, and use activities to nurture people in ways that enhances a camper to become closer to God and be a better person.

6. PRACTICAL EDUCATION

The church raises up future leaders, future disciplers, future workers, and servants. The counselors begin to see their own talents when they give time and nurture the camper. They glean knowledge from practical application, from doing, from becoming a person that can be relied on, and who can do yet even more. As the counselor betters himself, he is blessing the local church and the local pastor because he is becoming more skilled in dealing with people.

7. SMALL GROUP

The small group, the cabin group, is where the counselor and the co-counselor interact, work with, and relate to their five campers. Moving into a position where trust has been demonstrated allows the cabin group to be real with each other. After camp ends, the counselors can disciple the campers in the local church because they have a relationship.