

## MIEN YOUTH CAMP USA 2009 – *SEARCH & RESCUE*

*MCYA (Mien Christian Youth Association)*

“Do you consider yourself to be good or evil?” Many were asked this in a survey & a whopping 90% plus replied “good.” That’s because people can always think of at least one person they think is worse than they are!. But compare that with God’s perspective. He says, “...*there is no one who does good, not even one.*” Rom. 3:12b (italics added) The only safe course is to go by God’s view. But the good news is that even though we have all sinned and fallen far short of God’s glory there is one way our badness can be overcome and we can still enter heaven. By relying upon Jesus we are “justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.” (see Romans 3:21-31)

The theme of this years’ Mien youth camp was “*Search and Rescue.*” The main scripture was “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.” Luke 19:10. By the foregoing and many other scriptures Evangelist Andy Lapins powerfully presented how bad and how lost we are without Christ and thus our need of rescue. Many youth were rescued and then challenged to search for and rescue others. This theme was also emphasized in skits and many other ways at the camp and also in sermons by Vince Antonucci and Sen Chao.

Out of 203 registered for the camp there were 71 making life-changing decisions as follows:  
17 accepted Christ as their personal Savior and  
8 of those were baptized at camp  
4 pledged to serve God in specialized ministries  
7 pledged themselves to sexual purity  
43 rededicated their lives to the Lord

This year’s camp was our 21<sup>st</sup> and was held July 14-18 at beautiful Mt. Hope Bible Conference Center southeast of Oroville, Ca. The training for counselors was held in Richmond, CA July 11-13. Mt. Hope staff made many good provisions at the campsite and they were earnestly praying for a good camp as well. Two weeks before camp it seemed we would have few counselors as well as campers. But God wonderfully provided and our registration staff efficiently handled all the late registrants.

This was Jai Saeliew’s first year as camp director. Michael Chao and Sou Wang served as assistants. Sou Wang also led the security team. Michael again led the Seattle worship team. His brother, Sen, not only led the Junior High worship activities but also served as MC. Toni led Dawn Patrol worship and Andrew Lai gave the devotional message in that session. Counselors and others helped at times in worship periods.



**Jumping at the opportunity to search and rescue lost souls for Jesus**



Most of the Campers

...The 30 counselors came from 8 cities and 3 states. There were 15 Mien, 7 Chinese-American, 2 Indonesian-Americans, 6 Caucasian. 16 were men and 14 women. By the beginning of camp they had bonded into a great team. Albert Ko and Ming Chuang again led the counselor team.

Pao Ho Saephan not only served as counselor coordinator but also main camp photographer. His many photos are already posted on [www.mcya.net](http://www.mcya.net). **Go there to get a clearer picture of this camp.**

#### **H.U.G.S. (Helping Unite God's Servants)**

This was the second year for this innovative interactive morning learning session. TJ commented "I felt the camaraderie among the campers and their counselors really developed the most during these times."

#### **YOUNG ADULTS ACTIVITIES**

Around 40 were involved in this special afternoon program. Sunny Chinn said that many young adults have been "left out" in their home churches and families and "still need direction in making decisions in their lives and with God." They again went out of Mt. Hope grounds to a nearby lake. Among many of their activities Dr. Chiem-Seng conducted a workshop on "career development," emphasizing that "prayer is key along with three main topics to consider in career development, skills, experience, and education."

Many of us breathed a big sigh of relief when God provided –at the last minute – a lifeguard. This enhanced the recreation time as well as making it possible for us to have the baptisms right on the campgrounds. Although Ricky Chao had just returned from a mission trip to Laos he still had energy left to lead the afternoon recreation program with the help of Vincent and Felicia. There were a number of bee stings this year as well as the usual injuries so it was good to have both Nying Chien and Mey Seng as nurses and Kelly Saephan as physician's assistant on duty.



Youth baptized at camp with Andy Lapins

... Great worship, skits by counselors on the camp theme, and other special events along with the message made for challenging evening sessions.

***God has been using MCYA camp for these past 21 years to challenge and recruit many Mien youth to join His rescue team!*** Many of the leaders of Mien youth today and future leaders for the Mien churches became new creatures in Christ at this camp. The camp fees have been kept as low as possible in order to attract and impact more youth and we have skimmed along on a very low budget.

But now MCYA finances have hit a new low. There were barely enough funds to pay off Mt. Hope for expenses of this year's camp. Thus we have only \$ ? currently in our bank account toward upcoming expenses. MCYA will be having fund-raisers such as car washes, etc. as in the past but that has not been sufficient to supply all the needs.

If you are able and the Lord lays it upon your heart to help this ministry financially we would be grateful for contributions of any amount. Such gifts are tax-deductible and can be made payable to "MCYA" and mailed to: MCYA, c/o Andrew Lai, Chairman, 3400 Andrade, Richmond, CA 94804. **But whether you send a monetary contribution or not we need even more your faithful prayers on behalf of this annual camp and the other activities of MIEN CHRISTIAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION!**

By C.W. Callaway  
on behalf of MCYA board and camp staff

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**MIEN YOUTH CAMP USA 2009 – SEARCH & RESCUE**



**Counselors worship before campers arrival**



**Seattle Worship Team**



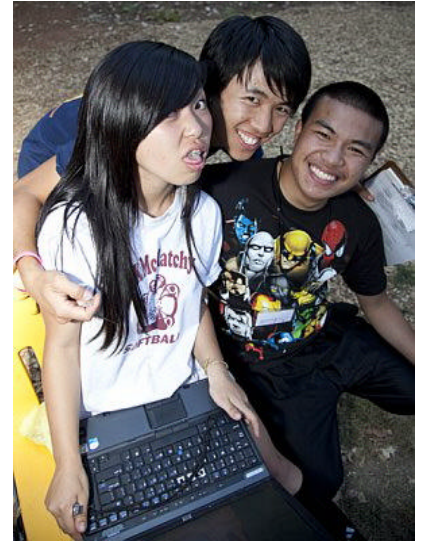
**Beware the dreaded desperadoes**



**Counselors waiting on the Lord**



**Andy Lapins challenged youth to join GOD'S RESCUE TEAM**



**Happy Smiles**



**Most of the Campers**



**Small Groups all over**



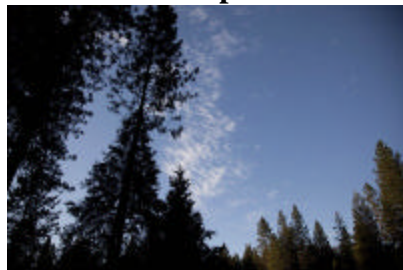
**Counselors behaving nicely**



**Nurse Team**



**Staff prepares for campers arrival**



**Looking Heavenward**



**Camp Directors – New & old**



**Jr. High Campers' concepts of Search and Rescue**



**Thank you, Nurse. It's better already**