
CELEBRATING
50 YEARS
OF IMPACT

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SUMMIT MINISTRIES: CHRONICLING IDEAS AND THEIR CONSEQUENCES

The average visitor to Manitou Springs, Colorado, which *The New York Times* has called a “Hippie Mayberry,” might be surprised that this quaint mountain hamlet is the place where 30,000 young leaders have been trained over the course of fifty years to resolutely champion a Christian worldview. How it happened is a remarkable story of God’s providence and the power of biblical ideas to shape culture.

A TIME OF CONFRONTATION

To better understand why Summit Ministries was founded in the first place, it’s helpful to look back in time to see when and why the influence of Christianity on American culture began to diminish. Many historians see 1925 as the beginning of Christianity’s gradual exit from the public square. That was the year the Scopes trial, funded by the American Civil Liberties Union, pitted the teaching of creationism against the teaching of evolution.

Although the verdict went against the teaching of evolution, the media and the court of public opinion viewed William Jennings Bryan’s attempted defense of the biblical account of creation with scorn, portraying Christians as anti-intellectual.

Eight years later in 1933, the American Humanist Association published its first *Humanist Manifesto*, which stated among other things that “Religious humanists regard the universe as self-existing and not created” and that “man is a part of nature and that he has emerged as a result of continuous



A postcard view of the Grand View Hotel around the turn of the century. This hotel became the Summit Hotel in 1962. Photo Courtesy of Manitou Springs Historical Society at Miramonte Castle Museum, Manitou Springs, CO.

process.”

The backlash from the Scopes trial cowed many Christians into keeping their mouths shut about issues of import, such as politics, science, and economics. Many came to believe that their non-involvement was actually noble: that to dirty their hands with such issues was unspiritual. Groups like the American Humanist Association were all too happy to reinforce that impression.

And all the while, the menace posed by the philosophies of Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels, and Vladimir Lenin steadily made inroads into American government, academia, and the entertainment industry.

THE BATTLE AGAINST COMMUNISM

The Summit story actually began with Australian Fred Schwarz, a medical doctor who traveled the U.S. explaining the communist worldview during the 1950s and ‘60s. His articulate presentations even

brought him before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Un-American Activities in 1957.

One of his speaking-tour stops was Hope College in Holland, Michigan, where David Noebel was a student. Noebel, known affectionately at Summit as Doc, was fascinated by Schwarz’s presentation and afterward approached him to ask questions. As a result of his keen interest, he was encouraged by the president of the college to form a study group for his fellow students. Doc did so and ultimately began working with The Christian Crusade, run by evangelist Billy James Hargis. Doc traveled around the U.S., hosting crusades and bringing attention to the ways that America’s culture was under attack from counterfeit worldviews.

Doc chose 1 Chronicles 12:32 as one of his theme verses: “And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment.” Doc’s — and now Summit’s — longstanding goal is to train young people to understand our times and to prepare and motivate them to know what they ought to do as Christians in a culture that no longer sees Christianity as relevant.

THE NOBELS: PIONEERS OF CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

Doc realized that communism was widespread because it was evangelistic — just as biblical Christianity was. He conducted

a thorough examination of the communist worldview and found that it had a well-articulated position in each of the ten subject areas critical to students’ success at college: theology, philosophy, ethics, biology, psychology, sociology, politics, economics, history, and law. Ultimately, this approach of “all worldviews are religious, and some are evangelistic” helped clarify the battle of ideas raging for the hearts and minds of the rising generation. Today, Doc’s worldview model represents a highly respected, in-depth, robust mental model of the world of ideas. Millions of people have been influenced by it.

In 1962, Noebel and a couple of his Christian Crusade colleagues discovered the mountain-flanked former resort known as the Grand View Hotel in Manitou Springs, Colorado. After a friend tipped him off about the property’s delinquency status with the IRS, Doc saw it as the perfect place to host youth education conferences, and the Christian Crusade bought it for \$20,000 in back taxes. It would soon become known as the Summit Hotel. The Christian Crusade eventually morphed into American Christian College, a four-year liberal arts college located in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where Doc and his wife, Alice, had moved. Through a series of difficult circumstances Doc became the college president and oversaw the closing of its Tulsa campus in 1977. To this day, though, Summit handles the business of American Christian College, which mainly involves securing its students’ transcripts. In fact, the name of Summit Ministries is legally “The American Christian College, Inc., dba



Class photos have always been part of Summit’s worldview conference tradition. Here, students from 1964’s Session 2 pose in front of the Summit Hotel.

Summit Ministries.”

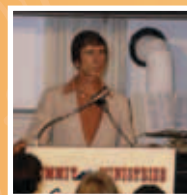
Doc steered Summit courses to present the trends and events of the day with a biblical critique and perspective. The original curriculum included several hours of training in the morning, several more hours in the afternoon, a lengthy evening session, and a film about global communism. Doc’s sessions included an hour of Bible lecture each day, pointing out major people, places, and doctrines from Genesis to Revelation. From Summit’s earliest days students were required to pass several examinations in

order to graduate.

Summit grew slowly in the ‘60s and ‘70s. The classes of students fit comfortably on the old hotel’s main dance floor (now the lecture classroom). Guests and parents were seated in the orchestra mezzanine. All of that changed in 1988 when a student named Ryan Dobson attended a session in Manitou. Summit’s remarkable influence on Ryan’s life led his father, Dr. James Dobson, to record two memorable radio broadcasts with Doc and some former students on his popular *Focus on the*

Christian Crusade purchases the former Grandview Hotel in Manitou Springs, Colorado, naming it The Summit. The first student conferences take place that summer.

1962



The American Christian College, which would act as a parent organization to Summit, is officially established in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Former astronaut Col. James Irwin begins speaking at Summit.

1972

David and Alice Noebel move from Oklahoma to Colorado to concentrate full-time on Summit Ministries.

1977

Summit and the American Christian College merge and headquarters are moved to Manitou Springs, Colorado.

1979

Summit buys 36 acres of property in a canyon near Manitou Springs. The property is now used for sports and activities for students.

SUMMIT MINISTRIES: CHRONICLING IDEAS AND THEIR CONSEQUENCES

Though students, staff members, and facilities may change, two people have been part of Summit for almost as long as David and Alice Noebel.

In the summer of 1969, Ken and Betty came to the Summit with their three boys for a family vacation after hearing Doc Noebel speak in their native New Orleans. After sitting through one session, they were hooked and brought their family back every summer until Ken retired in 1982. Then they moved to Manitou Springs.

They only thought they were retired. Ken wound up working as a maintenance man and later as Summit's accountant, while at times Betty held down the kitchen and worked as a secretary.



Ken & Betty Gasper

Now in their 80s, the much beloved couple is really retired and lives in a Summit cabin. So why such a wild ride? "Just to be close to the Summit," Betty says.

Family radio show. The interest was overwhelming — approximately 14,000 people requested information about Summit.

The overflow of students led to an expansion of Summit courses, first at the Ridge Haven Conference Center in North Carolina, and then at Bryan College in Dayton, Tennessee. Summit programs have also been held at Cedarville University in Cedarville, Ohio, Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, and Green Lake Conference Center in Green Lake, Wisconsin.

Doc was not alone in the work at Summit. In the early days, the entire Noebel family — David, Alice, Joy, and Brent — did much of the work themselves. Students would often see Doc, hammer or screwdriver in hand, ready to take care of any maintenance situation that arose. Alice served as cook and laundered the linens between sessions.

The Noebels' son, Brent, and daughter, Joy, were also greatly involved in the ministry. Joy used her interior design talents to great effect. Brent came on strong in the late '90s and early 2000s with a campaign to get Bibles, *The Jesus Film*, and Christian flags into the Sudan. Brent collected donations from Summit students and passed the money on to missionary Peter Hammond, who delivered the goods deep into the Sudan at great personal risk, reaching even into the area of the Nuba Mountains. Brent, although blind, left a great legacy at the Summit and in the Sudan. He was an inspiration to countless young adults as they saw him pressing toward the mark in spite of his painful and weakening physical condition due to diabetes. There were times that Brent was so weak

"MY GOAL WAS TO HAVE SOMETHING FOR THE WHOLE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY, FROM FIRST GRADE THROUGH GRADUATE SCHOOL."
— DOC NOEBEL

he had to be carried to the auditorium. But he never wanted to miss evangelism night. He passed away in 2002.

DOC'S VISION: 'SOMETHING FOR THE WHOLE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY'

Though the 12-day student conferences are seen as the heart of Summit, Doc's vision was always more expansive. "My goal was to have something for the whole Christian community, from first grade through graduate school," he said recently. Achieving this lifelong dream began its fulfillment in 1991 with the publication of *Understanding the Times*, a textbook based on Doc's worldview lecture series. In its first incarnation, its more than 900 pages covered the biblical Christian worldview, the secular humanist worldview, and the Marxist/Leninist worldview. An appendix explored the cosmic/humanist (new age) worldview. A second edition streamlined the chapters and added coverage of the Islamic worldview and the postmodern worldview.

Altogether Doc has authored nine books, which have circulated by the hundreds of thousands, with *Understanding the Times* alone having more than 500,000 copies in

print — making it one of the best selling textbooks of all time. The late Dr. D. James Kennedy declared it "one of the two most important books to be published in the second half of the 20th century."

Over the last twenty years, Summit staff have taken the principles of the successful 12-day experience and Doc's *Understanding the Times* curriculum and arranged them into curricula for Christian elementary school, middle school, and high school students. These programs offer the Summit course to more than 20,000 students per year. Put another way, the 12-day program took fifty years to reach the milestone of 30,000 students trained. These curricular offerings compose a complete K-12 biblical worldview training course of study and make it possible to achieve every eighteen months the initial impact that took Summit fifty years to generate.

Additionally, Summit Semester and Summit Oxford, two extended study programs aimed at students who have completed a 12-day summer conference, have provided more in-depth training for college-aged students and post-college-aged students respectively. "The goal was to encourage and mentor students to earn their master and doctoral degrees and then become an influence in the educational system," Doc said. "The truth is that has already come to pass to a great extent. We have an expanding track record of Summit students who have gone to Oxford and then earned their Ph.D.s. Everyone thinks you have to change culture by the millions. No, no, no. You have to do it by the select few. The math doesn't make it happen."

SUMMIT'S GROWTH IN FACILITIES

As Summit's work grew, more and more space was needed to house and office Summit employees, serve guests and faculty members, and conduct programming year round. Thanks to a generous bequest from the Cartwright family and others, Summit was able to purchase a three-acre cabin complex across the street from the Summit Hotel and several homes in the surrounding neighborhood. These facilities provide housing for guests and year-round staff as well as office space. These acquisitions bring the total number of buildings under management to forty, necessitating a year-round maintenance staff.

SUMMIT'S LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

On September 30, 2011, with both sadness and joy, the Summit Ministries Board of Directors accepted the resignation of David and Alice Noebel so that they could begin enjoying their well-earned retirement. The board unanimously elected Dr. Jeff Myers, a Summit alum who had served as a lecturer, curriculum developer, board member, and chairman, to be Summit's new president. Dr. Myers began his official duties on October 1, 2011.

Even as we prepare for a new, exciting season of ministry, we recognize that we do so while standing on the shoulders of giants. Doc, to us, is one of those giants. Each one of us recognizes that we have become what we are today in large measure because of his influence.



Julie Hays

Julie Hays holds a special place in Summit history. In 1988, David Noebel asked her to join Summit's board of directors, the first former student to sit on Summit's board. Twenty-four years later, she still serves.

Julie came to the Summit as a 16-year-old in 1963 with her twin brother. The summer was full of memories, but none was as important as her coming to Christ that session, she says. She returned the next two years. She went on to earn a degree in journalism and has held jobs working with several publications. Yet she almost always finds a way to come back each summer and attend classes at Summit. Just as she has for decades, she encourages students to attend Summit classes more than one time. "You re-learn what you forgot and other things begin to sink in," she said. "Summit does equip students for college and life beyond."

Summit purchases "The Prospect House" on Prospect Place, behind the Summit Hotel, to use as guest and staff housing.



Dr. James Dobson featured Dr. Noebel and Summit Ministries on his radio program after sending his own son, Ryan, to Summit. The exposure led to an overnight explosion in student applications and enrollment.

A generous gift from the Cartwright family allowed Summit to purchase the VanHorne cottages, a 3-acre cabin complex across the street from the Summit Hotel, serving as housing for staff and guests.

David Noebel's groundbreaking worldview text *Understanding the Times* is published and spans more than 900 pages.

Summit expands its student conferences to Ridge Haven, North Carolina.

1985

1989

1991

1992

DOC AND ALICE NOEBEL: A STORY OF UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES



Doc and Alice Noebel, pictured above, have always been the heartbeat of Summit. From its earliest days, Summit was always a family affair, with Doc and Alice working together to keep Summit running. Their children, Brent and Joy, began working at a young age to help their parents keep Summit humming along.

Summit's story is part and parcel with the family whose vision gave it birth. That family is the Noebel family — David, Alice, Brent, and Joy. But that is to jump ahead. Doc and Alice's story began when Doc took a job working on his future father-in-law's farm in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. They attended the same church, and Doc spent the next six years wooing Alice, according to Joy. They married in 1957 after completing undergraduate degrees at Milwaukee Bible College (now Hope College). Doc was just a few days shy of his 21st birthday. "She is the light of his life," Joy said of her parents.

For many years in Summit's early history, the Noebels called two locations home. As soon as school let out in the spring in Tulsa,



Oklahoma, the family drove to Manitou Springs, Colorado, staying just until school started up again in the fall. "We did that for years and years," Joy recently recalled. "That was life."

That all changed in 1977 when the doors closed on American Christian College in Tulsa and the family moved permanently to

Colorado. But from its beginnings, Summit has always been a family affair.

CHALLENGES AND PROMISES

Early on, Doc adopted three Scripture passages as his own, and in time they became Summit's scriptural foundation as well:

1 CHRONICLES 12:32 (see page 2).

COLOSSIANS 2:8 *See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.*

2 CORINTHIANS 10:4-5 *For the weapons*

of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ . . .

Doc and Alice saw on many occasions the "divine power" Paul speaks of. The days following the closing of American Christian College weren't easy. One Friday Doc came home from work worried. He had just received a phone call from the local bank, telling him he needed to make a payment of \$90,000 by Monday, or Summit too faced closure. "Well, we'll pray about it, and on Monday we'll see what happens," Alice assured him. When Doc opened his mail Monday morning, he discovered a check for \$93,000. A friend of Summit had passed away and had left Summit the donation, which arrived just in time to pay the bank. "That was really something that no one else could have pulled off," Doc said. "So we figured, 'Well, the Lord's got something for us to do.'"

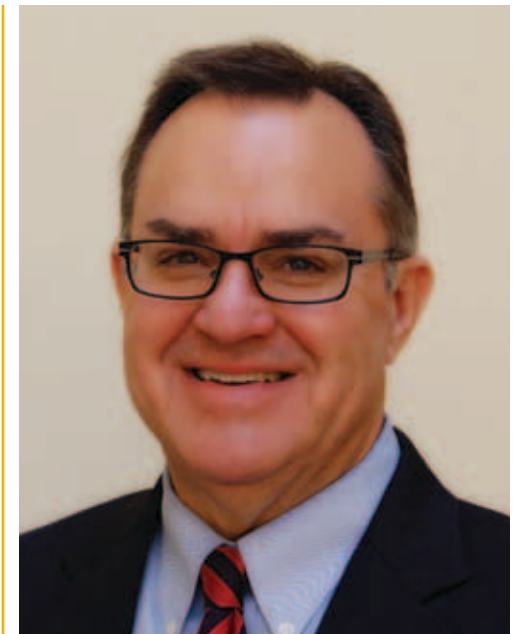
Joy recalled the greatest challenge her parents faced was the debilitating diabetes of her older brother, Brent. "Diabetes then was like cancer is now," Joy explained. Even though he was a talented basketball player and inherited his father's sharp mind, Brent's condition deteriorated through the years. He eventually lost his eyesight, was forced to undergo kidney dialysis, and endured frequent hospital stays. Brent's passing was deeply painful, but the Noebels found comfort in knowing his suffering was finally alleviated. "They cared for a very sick child their whole lives," Joy said. "I think that

when we lost Brent, their faithfulness wasn't just because they lost a son. It was forty years of faithfulness: the faithfulness to see God's hand."

WORK AND INTEGRITY

Aside from his brilliance, Doc was also known for the financial prudence with which he managed Summit. Being a jack of all trades, Doc was lecturer, handyman, and worship leader, and Alice, Brent, and Joy worked too, most days for at least ten or eleven hours. "Now the staff has shifts," Joy laughed. "There were no shifts for us. Well, there was one shift: it was us!" Joy especially admired how her mother worked side-by-side with Doc, which often put her in the kitchen feeding students, working with women staff, and playing piano for worship. "There is something about my mom," Joy admitted. "Everything that she does is behind the scenes. My dad was able to accomplish the things that he accomplished because of my mom."

Joy admits her childhood — spending her summers working, not vacationing — was not the norm for most American kids. But she cherishes the integrity with which her parents operated and how it altered the lives of thousands. Their commitment to Summit flowed from their commitment to Christ, and that's left an indelible impression on her, even into adulthood. "My folks have put their entire life into Summit," she said. "Mom and Dad gave everything. They didn't even know it was sacrifice because that's just how they lived."



Tony Jeffrey

Dr. Tony Jeffrey came to Summit more than 40 years ago in 1971 and has seen it from various angles. Since that summer as a student, "where the Lord met me and saved me," he's been back as a summer staffer, earned his bachelor's degree from American Christian College's Tulsa campus, and sat on Summit's board of directors.

For the last year, he has served as chairman of the board, after Dr. Jeff Myers took the helm following Doc Noebel's retirement.

Now the the headmaster of Providence Christian School of Texas in Dallas, Jeffrey still vividly recalls the summer he was a student.

"I have a Ph.D. and a seminary degree, and I forgot most of those lectures. But I remember my teachers and everything we talked about at the Summit."

Summit's publishing arm turns David Noebel's *Understanding the Times* into a curriculum for Christian high schools.

1993

Summit acquires a 41-acre ranch in northern Colorado Springs that is the home of Summit's book house facilities, where curriculum, books, CDs, and other items from the Summit bookstore are processed. Other facilities there provide housing for Summit employees and guests and as venues for Summit get-togethers.

SUMMIT'S FUTURE: SHAPING THE NEXT CULTURAL INFLUENCERS

Isaac Newton, when asked about his influence as a scientist, said, "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants." For Summit, those shoulders are of David and Alice Noebel who, over 50 years, developed Summit into a respected force for preparing young adults to understand the times and resolutely champion the Christian worldview.

Now we stand on the cusp of a new era. Secularism and a corrosive culture have captured the rising generation. The call to prepare godly, courageous leaders is more urgent than ever. Summit is rising to the occasion through a robust strategy to exert an increasingly meaningful cultural influence each year. But what can one small organization do?



Brian Beecken

THE FOUNDING FATHERS: HOW ONE TINY CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATION PREPARED LEADERS WHO CHANGED THE WORLD

In 1768, as culture in the American colonies decayed, a 45-year-old Scottish preacher took charge of a tiny school for teenage boys. He found the boys unprepared and unruly and the conditions of the school's only building deplorable. Because of the school's small size, the preacher usually did most of the teaching himself. Yet, in faithfully mentoring his few charges, this preacher began a journey that changed the world. The preacher's name was John Witherspoon. That small, dilapidated school is now

Dr. Brian Beecken chairs one of the highest regarded undergraduate physics programs in the U.S., has worked on several engineering projects for the Air Force, and has developed technology for NASA that is helping Mars rovers explore the red planet. But the Bethel University professor credits Summit for his love of learning. "Although I had caught glimpses of stimulating ideas, particularly in physics, I was not really interested in becoming a life-long learner," he recently said. "At the Summit, I saw the excitement of ideas and how those ideas impact the world we live in."

After Brian left Summit at the end of his 1980 session, he shook Doc's hand and said he hoped he would have a ministry as effective as Summit. Today, his ministry is with his students. "As part of that, I get to share with them very naturally much of the worldview taught by the Summit."

Princeton University. And what happened to the 450 students he trained during his twenty-six years as college president is one of the most astounding stories in American history:

- 114 became ministers
- 49 became U.S. representatives
- 28 became U.S. senators
- 26 became state judges
- 17 became members of their state constitutional conventions
- 14 became delegates to the state conventions that ratified the U.S. Constitution
- 12 became members of the Continental Congress
- 8 became U.S. district judges
- 5 became delegates to the Constitutional Convention
- 3 became U. S. Supreme Court justices
- 3 became attorneys general
- 2 became foreign ministers
- 1 became secretary of state
- 1 became vice president (Aaron Burr, Jr.)
- 1 became a U.S. president (James Madison)

What was it about Witherspoon that influenced those young men to become America's founding fathers? It was what he called "true religion" — the way in which one's faith is visibly lived out.

SUMMIT'S GOAL: CREATING MORE CULTURAL INFLUENCERS, ONE GENERATION AT A TIME

We want to bring significant change to society. Historians have developed a theory

of "tipping points" to explain how a small group can develop momentum and bring about cultural transformation. In a 2011 *Leadership Journal* article, "To Transform a City," Tim Keller wrote that the tipping point needed to transform a community is somewhere between 5 and 15 percent of the population. But in reality, far fewer people can tip cultures if those people can create a series of small tipping points that lead to a larger one.

SUMMIT'S STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE

Summit's strategy is to identify the key influencers and train them to stand for truth, fight against evil and injustice, and create godly change. If we can train, track, and transition the right 5,000 students into positions of significant influence every year, we will eclipse the number needed to spark the tipping point in America.

We propose to do this in three ways:

1. Attract more students and walk with them until they become culture-shaping leaders. By working with interested churches and Christian schools, Summit will select top students to attend its 12-day program and go back and "tip" their groups into a mindset that "Christian worldview is cool, and it's cool to read, think, and consider how our faith applies to the culture around us," says Summit President Dr. Jeff Myers. Summit's plan calls for offering an increasing number of its 12-day student

worldview conferences around the country until, by 2020, we are training 5,000 highly qualified students every year. To follow up with these students, we are working with Christian campus groups, developing an alumni association, and preparing advanced conferences and resources that enable us to inspire and encourage Summit graduates throughout their twenties.

2. Expand Summit's curriculum offerings, working with churches, Christian schools, and parents to increase the biblical worldview education. Already in 2012, the number of elementary students studying *Building on the Rock*, Summit's Christian school or homeschool curriculum, has more than tripled from 2011. An update of Doc's trademark text *Understanding the Times* is now starting up, thanks to an investment from a Christian foundation. The big breakthrough is that the new curriculum will be delivered on an e-reader platform and include updated content, videos, and engaging teaching resources developed in consultation with leading worldview experts.

3. Spark a movement of life-on-life mentoring as the preferred form of discipleship. Studies on the power of mentoring demonstrate that the main factor explaining a person's spiritual strength in his twenties is whether he had a mentor in high school. If we can marry biblical worldview training to life-on-life mentoring, we believe the hemorrhaging of young adults from the church can be stopped. The mentoring training program we're developing for Christian adults is called *The Cultivate Project*.



Sean McDowell

Sean McDowell is a teacher, author, speaker, husband, and father as well as an enthusiastic fan of Summit Ministries. At the urging of his father, Josh McDowell, he attended a student worldview conference in the summer of 1994 before his freshman year at Biola University.

After graduating from Talbot Theological Seminary with degrees in theology and philosophy, Sean began teaching and is now the head of the Bible Department at Capistrano Valley Christian Schools in California where he teaches philosophy, theology, and apologetics. He's also written several books and is a regular Summit speaker.

"Summit is one of the most important and timely ministries for equipping the next generation to be world-changers," Sean said. "I wish every young Christian would attend."

Summit partners with ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International) to publish more copies of *Understanding the Times*, greatly expanding Summit's influence.

1995



Summit gains a new home for summer programs at Bryan College, in Dayton, TN. Summit has held at least one student worldview conference at Bryan every year since.

1996

Summit publishes its *Lightbearers* curriculum for middle school students. Dr. Michael Bauman begins his tenure teaching at Summit. He now is scholar-in-residence for Summit Semester.

1997



Summit makes its last major purchase of property in Manitou Springs, raising the total number of buildings it owns for housing a rd office space to 40.

2001

SUMMIT'S FUTURE: SHAPING THE NEXT CULTURAL INFLUENCERS



Lila Rose

Lila Rose founded Live Action, the pro-life club turned organization, at the age of 15, just months before attending Summit. "I've always longed for a culture of life, and Summit inspired me to stand for truth even though I'm young," says Rose.

She set a goal: expose the lies of Planned Parenthood. As a freshman at UCLA, Lila founded the pro-life student magazine *The Advocate*, which is now the largest pro-life student publication in the country with a circulation of 200,000. Lila is a frequent guest on radio and television programs, including *The O'Reilly Factor*, *The Glenn Beck Show*, CNN, and *The Laura Ingraham Show*. Her work has been covered by media outlets like Reuters, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Times*, and *National Review*.

Lila challenges young people: "Don't let anyone look down on you because you're young. You're called to make a difference. Experience Summit and learn to be resolute."

Summit publishes its *Building on the Rock* curriculum for elementary school students.

2004

RENOVATING THE NERVE CENTER: UPDATING AND WINTERIZING THE SUMMIT HOTEL

True cultural influence isn't achieved just by casting a wider net; it's also achieved by diving deeper into particular cultural channels. God is giving us enormous opportunities — and an enormous calling — to bring our students into the presence of Christian influencers who bring a biblical agenda to bear in at least thirty different channels of cultural influence, such as economics, law, and the arts.

As we considered whether to invest in the Summit Hotel or rent facilities across the country, our team was struck by how often in history God catalyzed major movements through young leaders trained at a specific geographic location:

•**Wittenberg.** Martin Luther was a force to be reckoned with as a theologian, but it was the students he taught at Wittenberg who fanned the flames of the Reformation into a holy fire.

•**Nassau Hall.** Over the course of about thirty years, John Witherspoon used the humble Nassau Hall (now at Princeton University) to train 478 young men who became America's founding fathers.

•**Finkenwalde.** Dietrich Bonhoeffer's underground seminary rallied Christians to stand against the Nazis. Their sacrifice has had an incalculable influence on the spread of the gospel.

•**L'Abri.** In the 1960s when *Time* magazine asked "Is God Dead?" and it seemed that

secularism was winning, Francis Schaeffer's L'Abri prepared energetic young Christians to restore, understand, and apply a biblical worldview.

To this list, we'd like to add one more:

•**Manitou Springs.** Summit's headquarters offers a retreat atmosphere that enables people to think, reflect, and connect with other believers committed to culture-shaping influence. A world-class faculty of philosophers, Christian apologists, and cultural critics come together with young adults for intensive training and mentoring.

In order for the Summit Hotel to join the ranks of Witherspoon's Nassau Hall, Schaeffer's L'Abri, Bonhoeffer's Finkenwalde, and Luther's Wittenberg, significant renovations will need to be made.

THE NOEBEL FUND FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

Doc's vision has always been for Summit to offer year-round events for training both adults



and young people. Summit is now embarking on a capital campaign — dubbed the Nobel Fund for the Advancement of Christian Worldview — to update the Summit Hotel, making it suitable for year-round events and improving access for disabled guests. "Making the facilities year-round was always part of our vision," Doc said recently. "You can do so many different things."

God's hand is present even in a decision as seemingly simple as choosing an architect for the renovation. When Dr. Jeff Myers decided to move forward with the renovation, he was told of Jack Paulson, a Colorado Springs architect whose specialty was working with historic buildings. It turned out that Paulson is the great grandson of the original owner of the Summit Hotel. As you can imagine, renovating the hotel isn't just another job for Paulson. "This is one of the most important architectural projects of my life," he said. "It fulfills a dream our family had three generations ago and ensures this building continues to make an impact for generations to come."

The initial phase of the renovation plan was finished this summer when the back of the hotel — a gravel parking lot that served as an eating area, loading dock, and parking lot — was transformed into a beautiful plaza with a stamped-concrete patio, handicapped-accessible ramps and railings, an attractive and functional parking lot, and a handsome new deck overlooking the patio from the top floor of the hotel.

Now it's time to get to work on the inside of the hotel so that it can be a year-round nerve center where emerging

Summit holds a special conference for educators at Bryan College in Tennessee. Summit Oxford, a semester-long study program combining Summit's unique

2008



The back of the Summit Hotel got a facelift earlier this year with the addition of a much improved patio, deck, parking lot, and access ramps, marking the first of a series of renovations. This will be the first step in realizing one of Doc's dreams. "Making the facilities year-round has always been part of the vision," he said. "You can do so many different things."

leaders will connect with the best and brightest worldview thinkers. The cost of the renovations will be significant, but much cheaper than building new facilities elsewhere. We're eager to see how God will supply these needs, as He has for the last five decades.

We're proud of how hard our staff, faculty,

worldview approach and the academic strengths of the University of Oxford, England, hosts its first term.

2011

and board work to significantly influence the rising generation, but it is the wider Summit community — alumni, parents, prayer warriors, and financial supporters, who make this impact possible. It is a privilege to have the opportunity to walk together in identifying and nurturing godly, courageous leaders of the future.

Dr. David Noebel officially retires as president of Summit Ministries, and Dr. Jeff Myers takes over as president.

2011



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“...men of Issachar,
who understood the times
and knew what Israel should do...”
— 1 Chronicles 12:32
