

Team 2 Testimonies



Jonathan
Co-leader

Hello my name is Jonathan, I am a junior this year and this is my third year of SMI. This trip has been such an incredible experience. The 15 week training was so useful, using the book that they used to train us, tactics by Greg Koukle, helped us know how to evangelize to any worldview with confidence. One of my favorite days was when we went to the Grand Canyon to do worldview surveys to start the conversation and then to share the gospel. We had many rejections but we also had so many good conversations that led to us being able to put a stone in their shoe and let them hear and think about the gospel for the first time. Another favorite day was when we all went to Sedona to learn about the new age and new thought and to be able to street evangelize to the people. We didn't have as many conversations as we did in the Grand Canyon but I had one really good one where the majority of the conversation ended up being the other person asking me so many questions about Jesus, God, and how the world was created. This week was so impactful being able to work together with my team to be able to go out and share the gospel with so many people and to learn about so many new peoples and thoughts. SMI, and especially this year has made me so much more confident in sharing my faith and as Jesus told us in Matthew all of us need to go out and live on mission sharing the gospel and making disciples of all nations. None of this could have been done without everyone's prayers and support so for that I am so grateful. Thank you to everyone who supported me and everyone else in SMI because we did so much good and we couldn't have done it without you all.



Lily
Co-leader

Hi my name is Lily, I am a senior and this has been my 4th year of SMI. This trip has been such an impactful week. In our 15 weeks of training, we have been taught how to talk to strangers about our faith. We have had the opportunity to talk to so many different people around Northern Arizona. One of my favorite days was when we went to the Grand Canyon. My team and I were able to speak with so many different people about what they believed in and then share the gospel to them. It was such a cool experience because there were so many people from different places around not

	<p>only the country but the world. I want to thank you all because this trip would not have been possible without everyone's prayers and support.</p>
<div data-bbox="230 361 573 630" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="341 638 459 672" data-label="Caption"> <p>Anthony</p> </div>	<p>Hi my name is Anthony, I am a junior and this is my third year of SMI. This trip has been one of my favorites because I have felt really connected to the people and leaders throughout the whole trip. It has been so cool and impactful to see how God has used each and everyone of us on this trip. It has been especially cool to see how he has used the leaders in guiding us and leading us towards God and a better understanding of all the different worldviews that are out there. Manny and the other leaders have done such a great job in there teaching us values we can use not only on this trip but in the real world as well. On this trip I have had opportunities to talk to not only people with the same views and grow my own knowledge but also people with opposing views and beliefs. During this trip we got the privilege to learn under strong and firm believers while still getting to hear from the other side of opposing beliefs. We spoke to Atheists, Catholics, New Agers, evolutionists, Mormons, and even people who didn't really know who or what they believed in at all. It has been a challenge to find common ground or even same truths with people who were so rooted in a lie. But even still through it all God has remained faithful and has been present in times when it felt as if some people were to lost to reach. We have made such a lasting impact on all the communities we got the opportunity to serve in and had conversations with people who never would have heard about Jesus if you as a church hadn't supported us spiritually and financially. This church with God's help never fails to amaze me in the ample support and prayer we get year after year. So with all my heart thank you for all of your prayers and support, it has truly been the deciding factor in making it through most of this week.</p>



Grant

Hello! My name is Grant. I'm a Freshman in High School, so this is my first year in SMI. This trip has been amazing so far; it's everything I expected and a lot more. It's been amazing to see what the Lord is doing.

On Wednesday, two of my teammates and I went to the park and talked to a man there. He was super cool with us and loved talking to us. He told us all about his life, which was actually a really sad one. He, his siblings, and his mom had all been abused from a young age. But it was because of the hard times that he said he believed in God and Jesus (although he believed in other things too, such as aliens). To make a long story short, (we talked for about 2 hours) we got to share the gospel with him and hopefully made an impact. It was pretty encouraging to see that.

And a huge thank you to everyone who supported us; if it wasn't for y'all none of this would've been possible and we never would've been able to have any conversations with the people we talked to, so thank you all.



Logan

Hello, my name is Logan I'm 15, and I'm a freshman but first of all I wanted to thank all my prayer partners and all the funds I got from others to go on the trip and I've been thankful ever since I got them because this has been the best thing I've done this year yet so this is what happened, this is my first SMI and so far it has been a blast and it been much more fun than I thought it was going to be and it been cool witnessing to others and seeing how there thoughts and beliefs change and I always love sharing the gospel and starting the conversations with others. So far I've talked to a Roman Catholic, some Mormons, Christians, New Agers, and some people who didn't have a class and what they believe. And today (Friday) we went to the preserve and we learned more about what the people on the preserve believe. There was also this mountain that was next to the church. We learned that a kid before us had set a record on the fastest time to race up the mountain (7 minutes and 44 seconds). I wanted to try to beat that, so I raced up the hill in 7 minutes and 43 seconds. It felt great to beat something that seemed impossible so that was cool.



Bella

Hi, my name is Isabella I am 16 and I'm a Sophomore. This week has been so inspiring SMI always seems to be that way. I have had an amazing week talking to several different people and learning so many different religions. On the second day, we went to the Grand Canyon and a couple of people from my team talked to a family. We talked more to the mother than anyone else because she kept talking over her husband and her son. While we talked to them we realized that she was like the ringleader of the group and she and her husband were not on the same page when it came to beliefs. You could also tell when you talked to them that whenever we asked a question they would also ask their son but you could tell he was scared of his parents as if he didn't say what they believed he would be in some deep trouble


One of the days we talked to a woman named Melissa. She was so inspiring she was a new ager who became Christian her story is so inspiring. We talked about new age and new thought it is a little weird. They believe in God and Jesus but they also use crystals and they believe in Mother Earth it gets confusing really confusing. We went to a new age shop it was interesting and weird and a little freaky. I don't think I am going to go to another new-age shop again


I truly have enjoyed this experience so much it has made such an impact on my life and my brother's lives. I already can't wait for next year and the new experiences I will have. The new people I will meet and the new friendships I will make. SMI always seems to have a good impact on people's lives even the people who weren't on SMI. I hope people continue to do it because it's good for them mentally, and physically because of how much walking we have to do and spiritually. Thank you all for your prayers and support we couldn't have done it without you so thank you



Karen

Hello, my name is Karen. I am a Junior and this is my second year of SMI. This week has been so amazing! We've gotten to talk to and encounter so many different people. This week I learned so much. We had several speakers including Grey Wolf and Gentle Thunder, who spoke on Shamanism, an atheist, someone who formerly had New Age Thought, and multiple different pastors who taught us about life on the Navajo and Hopi reservations. In Sedona, we visited a

	<p>New Age store, which had many different crystals and spells, and psychics, while the same message of a loving God was ever present. We also did survey evangelism, getting to meet so many different people. There was one woman that we met who was quite interesting, she grew up Catholic, but strayed away and left a lot of the beliefs behind. She believed in reincarnation, that there was no purpose to life, and in the Big Bang. We did our best to get her answers to questions, leading her to certain points. We unfortunately weren't able to get to the gospel, as when I tried to press into where the Big Bang came from she shut the conversation down, already worked up from when she brought politics into it. We also got to talk with a couple who were from Poland and New York. They believed in Jesus, and everything positive and loving, but when we tried to propose the prospect of a God that is both loving and judging, they got quite uncomfortable and told us not to talk about it. Overall, they were very sweet, willing to answer our questions and we were able to present the gospel to them through prayer. This trip was amazing, we were exposed to so many different cultures and beliefs, while also being able to spread the news of Christ as our Savior. None of this would've been possible without, not only your financial support, but all of your prayer. Thank you all so much!</p>
 <p>Justice</p>	<p>Hello, my name is Justice and I am a senior and this is my 4th SMI. Evangelizing years have always been the trips that are so hard but end up meaning and impacting me the most. I didn't realize how much I didn't know about other religions. There are so many others out there and all I can keep thinking about is how if I wasn't here right now learning all this, then I wouldn't be as strong in defending my faith from them. Hearing many Christian testimonies over this past week really just made me realize how lucky I am to be born into a beautiful, loving, Christian family. So many people are so lost and sad just because they don't know the truth. So as I finish up this trip, I just hope that everyone I talked to I made an impact on because I know that they all impacted me. I did my part with sharing the gospel to at least 10 people this week and now I have to let God do the rest. I'm graduating with 4 years of amazing service and evangelism</p>

	<p>training that I will never forget. These trips have shown me just how much happiness that you get from actually living like Jesus. I'm so thankful for everyone who has gone through this past 4 years with me and supported me. None of this would have been possible without you all. Thank you!</p>
 <p>Anya</p>	<p>Hello, My name is Anya, I'm a junior in high school, and this was my first year of SMI. This trip has been hugely impactful to my spiritual life, and I have absolutely no regrets about it. We got to talk to a large variety of people, including Atheists, New Agers, Buddhists, and some Mormons. We also talked to some natives, and there was this woman named Gentle Thunder who I got to talk to who had a very intriguing story and would communicate with spirits. The beauty I discovered in Christianity is that we can indeed know truth, and the Truth is liberating. This SMI has also encouraged me to live out the Christian Faith much more diligently and it is something that I will not let fall away afterwards. Meeting and getting to know all these wonderful fellow SMI students and leaders has impacted me in more ways than I could fathom prior. I am infinitely grateful for all the prayers and support that have made this trip possible. Without either it simply wouldn't have worked. Prayer is a weapon. This trip has taught me that more than anything else. Thank you all and God bless!</p>