



Race to the Summit photo

The Race to the Summit climbers reach the peak of Mount Harvard.

Race to the Summit campaign goes over the top

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“Truly it may be said that the outside of a mountain is good for the inside of a man.”

—George Wherry, *“Alpine Notes and the Climbing Foot,”* 1896

Why is it that some of our most powerful days begin with walking in darkness? Thursday morning, 2 August, high base camp on the shoulder of Colorado’s 14,420-foot Mount Harvard, 3:30 a.m. The morning was cold, damp and itself not fully awake as three *Rocky Mountain High* guides and nine climbers—average age fifty-one years—crawled out of their sleeping bags, cinched their bootlaces up tight and faced—up.

Christians ascend. You can learn a lot about the powers of this dark and broken world from a few hours traversing scree, that steep mass of loose and menacing debris on the side of a mountain. We just know that whenever we stop moving

forward and upward, we become unstable and begin to backslide and to endanger ourselves and others. So we fix our eyes on the goal and we climb—stretching ourselves to live the full and joyful and courageous life that God intended, growing more and more into the image of God, doing the work of the church in restoring a world that is lost and without hope.

Afterward, the youngest member of this team by almost half described “the trek”—four days of climbing, cooking, eating, worshipping, reflecting, remembering the Lord’s Supper on the summit, just living life together—as “epic.” Returning to Camp Buxton the day following the ascent, these representatives of eleven fundraising teams who had set out to raise \$250,000 for construction at OCF’s Spring Canyon Conference Center were honored at a barbeque banquet attended by over 150 camp guests and townspeople from Buena Vista. Their testimonies were inspiring and their examples compelling.

There is a necessary distance that must be achieved in time, testimony and life

ABUNDANT BLESSINGS

Tuesday, 21 August: Race to the Summit—Extreme Challenge surpassed its \$250,000 goal

Thanks to the work of over forty fundraisers, prayer warriors and organizers and nearly 200 donors who chose to play a part in God’s plan for OCF and for Spring Canyon with retreats and programs in *building Christian leaders... families...fellowships for a lifetime.*

change before we can grasp the full impact of this Race. In the meantime, none of us involved are deceived into thinking that we alone did this. As the event coordinator, I look back over my shoulder and see the line of people and events and individual commitments and perseverance strung out in a train too perfect to be my doing: “Come and see what God has done, how awesome his works in man’s behalf!” (Psalm 66:5). 🙌