

Solid Rock Day Camp a ministry of Grace Fellowship Church

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September 10, 2010

RE: Bruno and Audrey Couto

To whom it may concern,

I've had the joy and privilege of working with Bruno and Audrey Couto for the past nine and thirteen years respectively at Solid Rock Day Camp.

Audrey started helping in camp when she was about 12 years old. She babysat for the staff (including my own children). At 14 years old she began assisting in groups as a helper to a Sr. Counselor. Over the years, Audrey worked her way up from a volunteer helper to Jr. Counselor, then Counselor in training, then Sr. counselor and finally to camp administrative assistant. As Sr. Counselor she was responsible to oversee a group of up to 20 children a week. It was her responsibility to teach devotions and plan daily activities. Audrey also ran the All Camp Activity once a week with Bruno. This entailed working with and organizing other staff members so that all campers and counselor staff were involved in a specialized program day that included one large (camp wide) activity.

Bruno started as a Counselor in Training and the next year he became a Sr. Counselor as well. They are both people of integrity and their lives are very much worth emulating. They are fun loving and great role models for the children.

Together they developed a love for the Christian camping ministry and its value and ability to be a vital part of evangelism and discipleship throughout the world in partnership with the local church. This has brought them to a desire to go into full time ministry and serve the Lord overseas through their passion to share the gospel with children, teens, men and women of all ages.

Over the past several years they have interned at SRDC at which time they have learned the ins' and outs' of Christian camping. During this internship they spent 40-50 hours a week developing curriculum, planning all camp activities, weekly themes, programming, shared in the training of new staff, helped schedule and monitor 250 campers and 50 staff members. Bruno used his extensive knowledge of computers and varying programs to help with administrative needs, promotions, and development. They have also interacted with parents and other adults through being in the office, answering phone questions dealing with finances, family issues, and scheduling items. Bruno's care for others has given him opportunities to minister to parents while he was completing other responsibilities. Additionally during that time they have been part of our camp's leadership team which meets through out the year to review and envision the camp for years to come.

As they have demonstrated their commitment, work ethic, love for the Lord and children, I have offered them to attend training seminars in camp ministries, first aid, life guarding, adventure course programming, and high ropes facilitation. This training has been as a staff member and also voluntary requiring them to spend numerous hours reading, studying and rehearsing what works well at other camps as well as SRDC. At this point in their development as camp directors I would consider that they have many years of hands on experience.

As counselors they always went above and beyond the requirements that camp had for them. They have been self motivated to learn and grow so that they might be the most effective through this ministry. The camp staff has also been blessed as they have desired to share what they were learning with other staff members with whom they always have gotten along very well.

I would distinguish between their wisdom and knowledge in this way. They haven't spent four years in college to come out with a camping degree but they've invested nine plus years of their life to hands on training and gained incredible wisdom and knowledge from it and the Lord, and now have a lot to offer.

They have been incredible stewards of all that the Lord has given them and are a blessing to those they come in contact with and work for. They are resourceful, personable and relate well with kids as well as parents and other adults. They are a special couple who love the Lord and so desire to serve the Lord through Christian camping. I highly recommend, as well as support them in this ministry. As the Lord calls Bruno and Audrey on, they will be surely missed by all of us at SRDC.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bonnie McQuade". The script is cursive and fluid.

Bonnie McQuade
Director