



Spring 2017

Dear friends,

I have gotten to see and do a great many things in my life. I've walked on the Great Wall of China, preached through translators in remote regions of Mongolia, and nibbled on a chicken head in Thailand. I helped build a church in Mexico and got to love on children growing up in a Nicaraguan garbage dump. I traveled through Europe while serving in the Army, walked one daughter down the isle in New Zealand and another in Dubai.



I can't say I dreamed of doing any of those things when I was a child, at least not specifically. But, I was raised in a home in which travelling to far-off places and doing great things was a possibility. Imagining the places I could go was more than a dream - it was a motivator to future success.

Dreams can be elusive things. My childhood dreams, and perhaps yours, are out of reach for children growing up in poverty. Kids who've never left their

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neighborhood or city have difficulty wrapping their heads around travelling abroad. Going to college never becomes a dream when simply finishing high school is a struggle.

But think about this for a moment. What if a child longing to be loved, struggling with unbelievable peer

pressure, or who lives without hope could experience genuine love, caring hearts, and positive community in the context of God's incredible creation at summer





camp? **Can you imagine?**

We can. We imagine...

- 🕒 a place where 170 children and youth are thrilled to go swimming, canoeing, tubing, horseback riding, crafting, and exploring.
- 🕒 a safe-haven where 170 children and youth get a break from impoverished settings and a ministry that's making a difference in the lives of their care-givers.
- 🕒 an environment where a caring team of adult mentors come alongside 170 children and youth to share love, hope, joy, laughter, fun, and adventure in the context of God's creation and a relationship with His son, Jesus Christ.
- 🕒 an atmosphere where 170 children and youth are absorbed in the beauty and simplicity of a campfire.
- 🕒 a wilderness where 170 boys and girls enjoy camp-wide games, develop archery skills, and discover creativity in arts and crafts building.

### Can you imagine?

I hope you can. 170 children and youth will begin their "imagination journey" at camp this summer only with your help. Joy of Living needs to raise \$56,000, or \$330 per child, during our 2017 Camper Scholarship Campaign. Your gift now, or pledge of a gift by June 30th, will help us know how many children will receive a "Yes, you can come," when we receive their registration form in the camp office.

A single scholarship, multiple scholarships, or a gift of any amount really will make a difference in a child's life. We're blessed to see it happen again and again, year after year. Each year people give and children are able to come to camp. Each year children dare to imagine the places they can go!

There is a card included with this letter outlining ways you can respond, even if your response is not financial. Or, you can visit the our website for even more information. Whether you pray, give, volunteer or participate in some other way - I am grateful for the time you invested in this letter.

Blessings,

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