



BULLETIN
June 2009

Family Vacations

What is more Christian than providing a way for inner-city families to take a vacation?

Most of us grew up expecting a pleasurable summer break from the daily routine and grind. But many urban families never enjoy a vacation—especially one-parent households and the working poor.

That is why we have an overwhelming response when our neighbors learn about our Family Vacations.

I can hardly wait to invite Lisa, a 36-year-old single mother of three. Lisa accepted Christ and was baptized at age 17 while living in Guatemala. Tragically, she was raped several times, resulting in the births of two sons. When Lisa left Guatemala, she left her sons with her sister.

Lisa met Henry in California. They have two daughters. Henry knows the Lord, but struggles with drugs and alcohol. Six years ago, Lisa got a restraining order for her safety and that of her daughters. One day, Henry was found in his car along the freeway, paralyzed and unable to speak. It took months for him to regain his health from this drug-induced stroke.



Then, in her loneliness, Lisa became pregnant by another man. One woman told Lisa to have an abortion so that no one would know what she had done.

Instead, Lisa met with our pastor and wife, confessed her sin to them and to our congregation. Her third daughter is now three years old. We have seen great changes in Lisa's life over the past three years.

Recently, Lisa shared her testimony in church, "God is everything to me; He is my husband. I do not need anything more." Lisa is fully restored in her relationship with God.

Lisa works to support her three daughters. She desires to minister to teen girls and has the gift of evangelism. God is helping her grow in wisdom and in her knowledge of Him as she relies on Him for her needs.

Lisa and her family have never been on a vacation together. Our Family Vacation will meet many of her needs. She will escape the intense pressures of inner-city life in an environment of love and respect. She and her family will enjoy comfortable lodging, nutritious meals, recreation and games—all in an effort to encourage refreshment and restoration.

Lisa will build friendships with other families as they pray and worship together. She will be fed spiritually and counseled in family dynamics—how to build and maintain relationships.

It will be a memorable time for this dear sister.

I know you understand why I want to host Family Vacations again this summer.

I also want to bring Steven and Kelly, and their five children. Our missionaries met Steven and Kelly while prayer walking in their neighborhood eight years ago. They became part of a house church. Steven is on a medical disability; Kelly is a Certified Nurse's Assistant. Finances are a constant struggle.

Steven says, "THE OAKS is the only vacation we have. The kids and I have a blast on the Zip Line and doing archery together. The food is good; I expected school-cafeteria food, but it was way better."





Kelly chimed in, “My favorite part about the food is that I don't have to make it. The Leap of Faith is a highlight. Climbing a telephone pole while harnessed into a safety line gave me a lot of perspective as I overcame my fear of heights. We enjoy being out of the city—not worrying where the children are. I feel closer to God in the beauty of His creation.

“I loved the night hikes and seeing all the stars. I always enjoy the crafts, and still have many I have made with the kids. The coffee bar, karaoke and games are favorites.”



Kelly's brother, Alex, and his wife, Louisa, have joined them at camp along with their two children. Tragically, Alex, only 32 years old, died of a heart attack last year.

Louisa laments how hard it is to raise two boys without their dad. Holding back the tears she said, “The hardest part is when the boys ask where their daddy is. I'm sorry he can't be here to watch them grow up. It is hard, but I have a lot of help from Steven and Kelly.”



Louisa and the boys live in a cottage behind Steven and Kelly's house. With a smile, Louisa told us how she is looking forward to Family Vacation Camp, “The kids love the games, the train ride and the petting zoo. It is so good to get away from the sirens and police helicopters. There are no worries at camp; I feel safe there.”

And—talk about building wonderful memories—Rose will never forget last year. Rose partied as a young adult, smoking cocaine and drinking heavily.

She was the victim of two assaults and, as a result, gave birth to a son. Out of despair, she attempted to kill herself many times, but, miraculously, never succeeded.

Last spring, Rose returned to her old neighborhood and found herself using dope again, “feeling sorry for myself. I was thinking about suicide until someone told me that I could get a cup of coffee at a church on the corner. I went for the coffee and got a lot more than I expected. For some reason I stayed and listened to the worship songs. I have never felt so touched; the songs were just for me. I have come back every Sunday since.”

Rose decided to follow Jesus, but she still struggles with the consequences of past choices. The journey is rough, but the Holy Spirit is completing His good work in her, and she has a church family! Rose was thrilled to be baptized.



Families build memories together—paddling canoes, climbing walls, playing games, hiking, swimming and fishing! Veronica and her son spend special family time together with new activities, like archery.

Malcolm, a leader among our teens, lives with his grandparents, so quality time with his mom is infrequent. He loved singing, playing and having fun with her.

The camp equips parents to become better spiritual leaders for their families. Some families have devotions together for the first time.



We have committed to take more than 1200 people on Family Vacations this summer. For many, it will be their first family vacation. For others, it is becoming a cherished tradition.

Mothers and fathers will accept Christ, and grow in their Christian faith right along with their children.

The cost for food, housing, transportation and programs is \$245,000. Please help us turn this dream into a reality for scores of urban families.

You can underwrite an entire family of four for \$415. Perhaps you can sponsor two, or more, families.

You can sponsor one family's vacation for a day (\$120) or half a day (\$60). Whatever you give will be deeply appreciated. The people whose lives are changed will never forget your generosity.

Thank you for your partnership! May God bless you richly.

Yours in Christ,

Keith Phillips

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Will you help provide Family Vacations for the urban poor?

Yes, Keith, I want to help sponsor FAMILY VACATIONS at a World Impact camp. Enclosed is my gift of:

- \$415 for a family of four; \$830 for two families.
- \$120 for a day; \$60 for half a day; Other \$_____.
- \$_____ Use where most needed.

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