



SUMMER CAMP

BULLETIN
MAY 2009

Dear Christian Friend,

The moment I heard about 11-year-old Che, I wanted to take him to summer camp.

One day Che sadly told his Bible-Club teacher, Manuel, “My brother sold my bike. It was my favorite.”

Che, the youngest of nine kids, is often berated and mocked by his older brothers. Bible Club is the only place he finds solace and feels safe. Che helps Manuel work on his car and passes out papers at Bible Club. When a bike was donated to the ministry, Manuel knew God was answering Che’s prayer. He worked with Manuel to earn money to buy the bike.

Taking Che to summer camp is one more way we can show God’s amazing love to Che. He will laugh, eat and play without looking over his shoulder or wondering what is waiting for him. Che will swim and do flips in the pool. He will experience God’s peace and become equipped to love his family and see them through Christ’s eyes.



Now you know why taking Che to camp is important to me. If anyone deserves a carefree vacation in a loving environment, Che does. Che’s missionary neighbors believe that a whole week of camp will be a turning point for him.

Che is looking forward to having fun with other Christians. He can hardly wait to catch fish, canoe, sing and learn Bible lessons. God will use these experiences to change his life.

Che’s faith will grow, and his relationship with his Bible-Club teacher will deepen. How I want Che to know that Jesus loves him—and that we love him, too!

But Che is only one of the young people I want to take to camp.



I also want to take 13-year-old Shasha to camp. Shasha's mother was killed by her boyfriend; he ran his car over her after their breakup. Since then, Shasha and her little brother have lived with their grandmother in a federal housing project. Shasha has to take care of the family—her brother, grandmother and uncle—due to their health problems.

Shasha mops the floor, cooks dinner and does the wash. She has a servant's heart and is committed to helping her family. At Bible Club, she adds her kind spirit. She is learning more about the Lord and His Word. She humbles us as we watch her live out her faith at home.

Shasha needs the healing and hope that only a week of camp can bring. She will meet other girls, like Tamisha and Nicole, two of seven children who have come to know Jesus in Bible Clubs and are keenly aware of God's love for them.



Tamisha and Nicole's parents are both alcohol- and drug-addicted. They could not pay the rent so they were forced out of their apartment. With no place to go, Tamisha, Nicole and another sister stayed with our missionaries. We helped them with their homework, made sure they got enough sleep and prayed with them when things got overwhelming. They felt good about living here, but missed their family.



Their father and mother separated after a fight in front of the girls where he physically beat up the mother. Now Tamisha and Nicole live in a small apartment with two second cousins. The four girls sleep two in a bed. They are separated from their sisters and often from their mother.

I also want to bring ten-year-old Lisa. Drive-by shootings are common in her neighborhood. She is afraid to leave her house. Lisa has come to Bible Club since she was four. All of her brothers and sisters have gone to camp. Lisa would love to experience God's creation, and run and play without fear.

Lisa's fear will be forgotten while fishing, riding paddle boats and playing outside. She will learn about Jesus in chapel, memorize Bible verses and sing her favorite songs.

I have seen thousands of lives changed at camp. And, I believe this summer will be no exception.

I am praying for Mike, who is 16 and lives alone. Mike cannot live with his mother because her boyfriend dislikes him. Mike cannot live with his father because his girlfriend has five children, and there is no room in their apartment. Mike could easily turn away from God, believing that He has forsaken him, but he has not. Mike is clinging to God and will not let go. Camp will reaffirm his commitments.

I love Che, Shasha and Mike. And because I love them, I want to do something special for them. And, I know you do, too!

I am committed to taking these young people, plus thousands of other inner-city children and teenagers, to camp this summer.

For youngsters, like Shasha, this will be their first time; for others, like Mike, camp is becoming a welcome tradition.

We teach these children in our Bible Clubs and Christian schools all year, but camp is a special time to nurture their love for God—and to assure them of His love for them.

We will continue to take homeless children, who live on the streets in shaming poverty. Last summer, many of these youngsters cried when leaving camp. They knew they were precious to God, but dreaded returning to the city.

We will also take children of prisoners and wards of the State. It is what Jesus would do; it is what we must do.



In order to take these deserving children and teenagers, I need your help.

It costs \$200 to sponsor one child for a thrilling week of camp, free from gangs, violence and fear.

We need to raise \$398,200 to provide camping experiences for all the youth we believe God wants us to take to camp this summer.

Think about Che, and the difference one week in God's great outdoors will make, spending time with Christian friends, his Bible-Club teacher and God. And then, multiply that impact by thousands.

Perhaps you can sponsor two or three inner-city children this summer. Maybe, you can underwrite one day of camp for one child (\$40). Whatever you send will be deeply appreciated. Thank you for standing with us in sharing God's love with these great youth.

Yours in Christ,

Keith Phillips

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We need an additional \$118,250 to hire summer staff—teenagers and young adults (many are former Bible-Club children) to help lead and minister to the younger campers.

