



FAMILY VACATIONS

Dear Christian Friend,

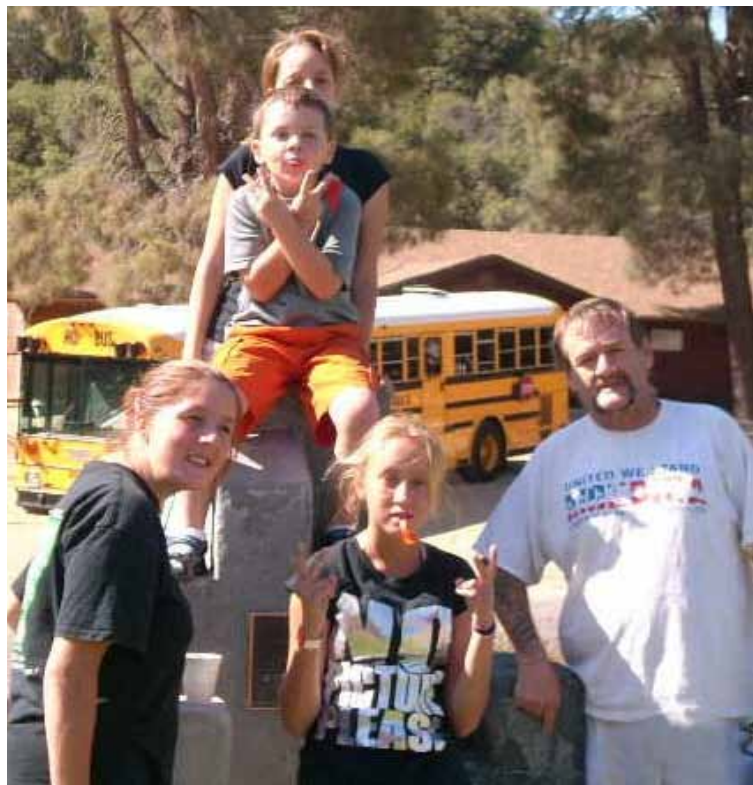
FAMILY VACATION—the highlight of the year for parents and children.

BUT, IF YOU ARE URBAN AND POOR, A SINGLE PARENT, OR UNDER-EMPLOYED, YOU NEVER ENJOY A FAMILY VACATION.

Danny and Kim have seven great kids. Danny's dad was married to two other women while married to his mom. In a painful meeting, his father denied that Danny was his son. Later, he was crushed to discover his wife's infidelity and drug abuse. He got custody of his daughter when she was three, and they started a new life together.

Danny married Kim in 1987. He drove trucks until he lost his leg to diabetes. Then, he had to go on disability. He could lose his other leg.

In 2000, Danny was told he had cancer and had only two to six months to live. God miraculously intervened, and he survived. Danny knew that God had a plan for his life. Through the 18 months of chemotherapy, his faith grew. As the cancer was in remission, he felt a call to ministry and began to study God's Word.





Four of Kim and Danny's children have moderate mental disabilities and are in Special Education. The hardest part is the social problems with other kids. Despite these severe trials, Danny ministers to the hungry and homeless in a drug- and prostitution-infested area of town.

Last year, Ray (pastor of a World Impact-planted church) invited Danny's family to Family Vacation Camp. They had the time of their lives.

Danny says, "It was so nice to relax and not be concerned about everyday problems. The kids had a blast, and had so much freedom, which they don't have in the city.



"Danny Jr. thought he hit the lottery when he learned how to catch lizards. None of us wanted to leave; it was peaceful, and we made many new friends."

Twelve-year-old Niki was enthusiastic: "It was awesome. I liked everything, especially the church services. It was really cool to be there with my family. My favorite food was ice cream."



Danny Jr. talked about the great food and how much he loved getting sprayed with water from the fire truck: "My favorite part was the carnival, the train ride and boxing with the giant boxing gloves."

This is the only vacation Danny's family has ever taken. They could not afford anything like it.

After family camp, Danny's family joined Ray's house church. Ray and Danny started a second house church at Danny's duplex. Almost everyone in the duplex attends the fellowship.

WHAT BETTER WAY TO STRENGTHEN A FAMILY THAN TO PROVIDE A VENUE FOR A VACATION?

Listen to a few other raves from last year's camps:

- * Johnny said, "I liked everything about it. Fellowship, playing basketball in the pool and the services. I never had a family vacation before. The family environment was so nice."
- * Peaches reported, "After Family Camp I came to church for the first time and joined the Ladies Bible Study."

- * Gwen and Bud shared: “It was the housing, the food, the setting, the hospitality, the presence of the Lord loving those who had nothing. Our children did not want to leave the camp. They cried when they boarded the bus to return to their life in the city.”
- * Juan, who has been a Christian for five years and is part of ***Sembrando Una Esperanza*** (one of our church plants), said, “Family Vacation is where I get away from the city and enjoy time with God, my wife and the children. I wake up not worrying about anything; the food is great—the whole environment is positive.”
- * Kanesha and Ronald, parents of eight, were excited because “the kids ran and played without our worrying if they were safe. Our family enjoyed archery, boating, crafts, hiking in the woods, fishing, flying down the water slide and three tasty meals a day.”

Kanesha, Ronald and their son hit bulls-eyes in archery! Kanesha faced her fear of water and paddled a boat with her husband and daughter. Each family member made model rockets and launched them soaring into the sky. They enjoyed their time at camp, and would love to come again this year!



I KNOW YOU UNDERSTAND WHY I WANT TO HOST FAMILY VACATIONS THIS SUMMER.

Diana, a woman who took crack daily for seven months while pregnant, received Christ and was instantly delivered from this bondage. We prayed over her. When her child was delivered, he was miraculously born drug free! Diana is active in church. I want her to enjoy a vacation!



Imagine how pleased God will be watching inner-cities families delight in His great outdoors, and listen to their worship as they receive biblical teaching and enjoy fellowship with other Christians.

We have committed to take more than 1200 people on Family Vacations this summer. For some, it will be their first vacation; for others, it is becoming a greatly-anticipated tradition. Many mothers and fathers will accept Christ and grow in their faith right along with their children.

Imagine the joy of peeling back the gray city-scape and exposing God’s beautifully-created blue sky, green trees and fresh air!

Consider the thrill of young people building memories with their parents: paddling canoes, climbing rocks, taking the “leap of faith,” surviving the zipline, playing games and eating three delicious meals together (where mothers neither cook, nor do the dishes).



Food, housing, programs and transportation will cost \$285,000. Please help us turn this dream into a reality for hundreds of urban families.

You can underwrite a family of four for \$415; maybe you can sponsor two families, or more.

You can support one family’s vacation for a day for \$120; or half a day for \$60. Whatever you give, will be deeply appreciated. The people whose lives will be changed forever will never forget your generosity.

I do not want to turn away any family from this opportunity to strengthen their relationships with each other, and with God at our Family Vacations. Thank you for your partnership.

God bless you!

Keith Phillips

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