



SUMMER CAMP

NO GANGS | NO VIOLENCE | NO FEAR



Dear Christian Friend,

The moment I heard about nine-year-old Rosa, a timid and withdrawn little girl, I wanted to take her to camp. She responds in a quiet, shy voice with her head down.

Rosa's father, Luis, a naturalized citizen from El Salvador, is a licensed contractor. Luis was assaulted 18 years ago by two men with machetes, who tried to decapitate him, one of the most horrifying crimes ever perpetrated in the State.

The attack left Luis with a paralyzed left arm, eye problems and more than 600 stitches covering his body. His ability to work and care for his family were severely limited.

Rosa's mother suffered from diabetes. When Rosa was four, her mother died from a massive heart attack. Her father was on a business trip in El Salvador. For three days, Rosa thought her mother was sleeping, and fended for herself until neighbors found Rosa alone with her mother.

Luis works hard to care for Rosa, but can barely make ends meet. He has missed house payments; Rosa read the posted eviction notices and knows they have nowhere to go.

Now, you know why taking Rosa to camp is so important to me. If anyone deserves a carefree vacation in a loving environment, Rosa does.



For one week, Rosa will run and play without worrying about food or shelter. She will swim, brave the water slide, and do flips in the lake. Her missionary-school teachers believe that a whole week of camp will be a turning point for Rosa.

Rosa is looking forward to having fun with other Christians. She will eat three full meals a day and have her own bed. She can hardly wait to catch fish, ride paddle boats, sing and learn Bible lessons. God will use these experiences to change her life.



Rosa's faith will grow, and her relationship with her Bible-club teacher and school teacher will deepen. How I want Rosa to know that Jesus loves her—and that we love her, too!

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

I also want to take 13-year-old Italia. She lives with her parents and seven siblings in a gang- and drug-infested park by day, and sleeps in their van at night. They usually eat only one meal a day. She watches the younger children and runs errands while her parents work. She constantly returns to the dangerous public restroom to fill water containers for the family.



Italia needs the healing and relaxation that only a week of camp can bring. She will be challenged by the "Leap of Faith," the high-ropes course, the climbing wall and our zipline. She will experience satisfaction and achievement. And, she will meet other girls, like Jessica who at age 16 came out of gang life and kicked a drug habit. Last summer, the look on Jessica's face when she rushed to the altar is why the message of the Cross is called "Good News."

Italia's fear will be forgotten while fishing, riding tubes on the lake, being pulled by the boat and canoeing. I expect Jessica will tell Italia about last year when she and her friend jumped in the lake, but when they tried to get back in the canoe, it sank. Jessica recalls, "I never laughed so much in my life. I never had friends, like this, before."



Italia will learn more about Jesus in chapel, memorize Bible verses and sing her favorite songs. Italia and her family attend a church we are planting.

I have seen thousands of lives changed at camp. Mookie grew up without his father and a few years ago watched his mother die at the hands of his older sister. Mookie has since lived with his other sister, who works at Wal-Mart and does all she can to keep him sheltered and fed.

Mookie got in trouble for stealing from the corner store. However, Mookie accepted the Lord at our camp, and was baptized! I cannot describe the smile on his face as he emerged out of the baptismal waters and victoriously raised his hands above his head!

Our missionaries meet with Mookie every Sunday after church. Mookie excels in school, and aspires to be the valedictorian. He is a joy-filled young man who walks with Christ and knows the meaning of hard work and polite manners. Our Lord is the only explanation for transforming this young man whom many counted out.

I love Rosa, Italia and Mookie. 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 Rosa, this will be their first time; for others, like Mookie, camp is 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 bring homeless children, who live on the streets or in abominable shanties. Last summer, many of these youngsters cried when leaving camp. They knew they were precious in God's eyes, but dreaded their return to the city.

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



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

It costs \$200 to sponsor one child for a thrilling week in God's nature, uncrowded by people or cement. No gangs, no violence, no fear. We need to raise \$402,600 to provide camping experiences for all the youth we believe God wants us to take to camp this summer.

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

Perhaps, you can sponsor two or three inner-city children. 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,

DR. KEITH PHILLIPS
President



P.S. – We need an additional \$121,850 to hire summer staff—teenagers and young adults (many former Bible-club children)—to help lead, and to minister to the younger campers.



2001 S. Vermont Avenue • Los Angeles, CA 90007
323.735.1137 • 323.735.2576 fax • wiinfo@worldimpact.org
In Canada: Box 12085 • Murrayville RPO • Langley, BC v3A 9J5

www.worldimpact.org



Dr. Keith Phillips

