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## Touching Young Lives For Him

When “Debbie” (one of the first girls that came to our after-school program in Los Angeles between 1986 and 2001) called this past week I was reminded why we work with Churches to start After School Programs and why we work with parents helping them raise responsible kids.

Our conversation started fairly normally *Hi, how are you and John doing?* The next words out of her mouth made the tears begin to flow. She said, *Where would I be today if it wasn't for you?*

*I remember when the Center opened. My sister and I ran over to see what was going on. You had the biggest bowl of M&M's I had ever seen. I couldn't believe my eyes.*

*I look back and realize the difference you and John made in my life. I should be selling drugs or dead or something – not having a home with 6 kids and all their friends. God has been so good to me. I don't deserve His love or even yours for that matter. You changed more than just my life – you changed the lives of hundreds of kids.*

*I was talking on the phone with my sister and we realized that both of you were the parents we needed who loved us unconditionally. We hated when John would say, 'Life is full of choices.' But looking back we now realize you loved us with tough love. We needed it. WOW - God is amazing to have sent you to us to meet our deepest need.*

*I know what you are going to say, “We were just obedient to the Lord.” But I think you wanted to be there too. You wanted to love on all of us kids in the neighborhood. I want you to know that God used you to change my life, the lives of my children and my grandchildren.*

*The other day a couple of my oldest son's friends came back from the army and the first place they came to was my house. I asked them why? They responded, “You are our 'mom' more than our real 'mom'. We had to come by and see you first because we love you so much.” That is when I realized; I had become Sheryl to the kids in my neighborhood.*

*Thank you, thank you, and thank you!!! Saying thank you doesn't seem to be enough. I want you to hear how much I appreciate all that you and John did for all of us!*

Throughout the hour and a half phone call I cried, laughed and cried again. Debbie took me back to the beginning of this journey God is giving to us. She helped me remember why we moved to Dallas, and why, this summer, we are traveling around Oregon and Washington.

All of your prayers, and all of your support over the last 36 years had as much to do with helping the thousands of boys and girls feel the love of Christ as anything we did!

We are excited about the future. There are hundreds of thousands of children all over the world waiting for someone to love them into the Kingdom of God. Let's help equip those who have a heart for children. Together we can make it possible for adults to touch young lives for Him!

Bless you,

Sheryl  
for John and Sheryl Emra

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This letter is about our passion!

We are passionate about touching young lives for Him. That doesn't mean we are not passionate about touching older peoples lives in a real and meaningful way - but our passion is and has always been youth!

The Barnum Foundation says that eighty percent of the decisions that are made for Christ are made before people reach 18 years old. That tells me where to focus my energy.

If you have a passion for reaching youth, if you want to help us change the world - your prayers and your support are wanted - even needed.

We send out prayer requests every month. Usually one or two that we have identifies as being key to the coming month. Pray for us as you see fit and God will bless your prayers in our lives!

For being involved in our support, you can use the colored link to print a [response card](#). Mail it and your check to the address on the card.

Or you can double click on the donate button to go to PayPal.

Either way your support is appreciated. You will receive a receipt for your gift at the beginning of the next month, about the time you get our next letter.

Thank you for being willing to listen to God and follow His direction in your life (that is our second passion).

### Answered Prayers

*Our schedule is filling up. There are a few openings - a couple Sundays in September and many mid week opportunities throughout the summer.*

*Your prayers have been answered about our safety as we travel. Thank you for your prayers! check out the prayer request for more information.*

### Prayer Requests

*The most urgent prayer request is for the people who will be sitting in the Seminars, Classes and Services this summer to hear Gods voice. Without that, we have failed.*

*As for our travel.*

*We are sitting in Selina, Utah right now waiting for Jason (the mechanic) to install a new transmission. This is the 2nd one from Ford he will have installed.*

*The first one produced an engine light that said the torque converter was slipping. He has replaced the converter and the solenoids with no change.*

*Finally, today he asked Ford for another. It is now 7pm and we are waiting for it to be delivered. He says it should be any time now.*

*We are safe and have enjoyed the opportunity of getting to know Jason.*

*God knows the reason for this delay! Our job is to find joy in this circumstance!*

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