

Dear Friends,

February 17, 2018

**Wow! This has been a brutal winter!**

I have to say that it is only the warmth of the relationships and God's presence working in and around our lives that keeps us moving here in the "Arctic." What a winter we've had so far! If you can believe it, it was -26 degrees with the wind chill the first weekend of January!

Although we keep working and moving, the cold has stopped other things. We have had several water and septic lines freeze already. We have had to unexpectedly spend around \$12,000 (the bills are still coming in!) to keep camp moving. We are addressing the issues and have a plan to keep things operational, but we could use some immediate help to balance the budget.

**Know that YAHWEH is still working in hearts and lives during this "DEEP FREEZE"! Just read this story from a Deep Freeze Leader:**

*We brought 9 students and 3 of them made decisions to accept Christ! Not only that, but 1 other student DEFINITELY has something going on and is very interested. He sat with me for an hour in the Dining Hall while I talked with another student who had given his life to Christ. Now it's our turn to seek God and try to crack him open and get him to talk through what is going on. No matter all the hurdles it took to get there, it always ends up being worth it. God did show up and in a big way.*

**If the cost of life transformation is thawing and repairing frozen pipes, it is worth it! This is why we partner on this adventurous journey.** Together we are taking part in a much larger narrative that the God of the Universe is writing directly in front of our eyes.

I wish each and every one of you could come up for a Friday evening (you are invited!) to see this year's Deep Freeze session opener--what a magnificent way to engage the groups of students and leaders! It is a huge "Lite Brite" display covering the walls of the Gym surrounding the stage. With over 4000 disposable water bottles filled with colored dye, lit and timed to music, it really speaks to the "color and light" that we as believers bring to this dark and dreary world.

In addition to the unexpected costs this winter, we have been experiencing some major issues with our computer server and components. Considering the amount of data we hold, create, and transfer to

make Berea Ministries happen, it is mind boggling. **With 500 churches and over 10,000 people actively involved with Berea each year, there is a stewardship beyond words.** We are in serious need of a complete system upgrade. We need about \$25,000-\$30,000 to set us up for the future.

**We are seeking to raise \$50,000 by April 15 and can't do this alone—will you please help us so we can continue to operate effectively?**

This thoughtful quote really highlights the impact of the organizational details that go into creating life transforming opportunities:

*I always thank God for Berea. I appreciate the level of logistics involved in planning and executing a weekend like this. From top to bottom, it is clear that your staff operates with excellence and love. Thank you. In our small group of six this weekend, we've seen growth, rededication, dots connected, and salvation. Thank you for being faithful with us as we seek to bring Christ to the next generation. – Deep Freeze Leader (and Parent)*

**We stand together to steward all that has been given to us,** maximizing all of it to reach the Northeast. **You are a vital part of this partnership.** Thank you in advance for your gift to help fund these and other needs that come our way. God is using you to transform lives.

Only by Grace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nate".

Nate Parks  
President/CEO

P.S. I would love to pray for you, your family, and your ministry over the course of this year. Please email me with a specific request that I can bring before the Lord. My email is [nate@beroa.org](mailto:nate@beroa.org).