

April 9, 2018

Dear Friends,

It is hard to describe how I feel in this tired moment with the looming pressures of running a sustainable ministry. Deep Freeze is over and we are all beat down from a fruitful yet punishing winter. It is at these junctures when insidious questions of purpose creep up in my mind. As I opened my email, I received this story from a parent, pastor, and friend:

Hi Nate,

As you know, I have known and loved Berea for many years. I know you like to hear and share first-hand accounts of the impact Berea has so here you are. I was blessed to be able to baptize my 16-year-old daughter today and I wanted to share the testimony that she read to our church. Thank you and Berea for your awesome and life-changing work.

My name is "Amber". I have been involved in a church for my entire life. My dad was the youth pastor at my old church for most of my life, and so I grew up as a pastor's kid, along with all that comes with it. I attended a Christian school for four years, was involved in Sunday School, youth group, missions trips, and retreats. I did not have a dramatic moment of realization, because for me God has always been present. I accepted Christ into my heart multiple times while growing up, but none ever felt real. I felt unchanged, normal, like I was waiting for something that never came.

It was July 2014, when I was twelve years old at Camp Berea, where I really understood what I was doing. That was really the first time I fully understood what accepting Christ meant, and what it would mean for my life. It was then that I accepted Christ, and since then it has given me so much hope in the future. I am so excited to fulfill this next step in my relationship with Him. Although I have never been without knowing Jesus, I know that He has changed my life in ways I don't even know about, and I know that He is not done with me yet.

You helped Amber encounter Christ and her life was changed forever! **We give out over \$100,000 dollars in campership funds each year so that children and teens like Amber can encounter Christ.**

We need your help to raise these funds.

There are all kinds of people that are looking for hope and joy in a hopeless and joyless world and we have Good News to share with them. They come from all walks of life but they all are looking for one thing – a Savior!

As I finish this letter, my mind is clear and set on the objective. We have a mission and high purpose to share this great love with all. **Will you help us?**

Your gifts make this ministry possible. Together we are helping people encounter Christ.

Only By Grace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nate". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the top of the 'e'.

Nate Parks
President/CEO

P.S. If you would like to hear more stories of life change, email sarah@bera.org and we'll fill you in!