**STOP!**

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Hello Friends!

I am excited to tell you about my summer ministry opportunity! I signed on to be a part of a traveling summer camp staff. It is with an organization called Ironwood Family of Camps. First, let me tell you about the “Family of Camps.” Ironwood, founded in 1973, is in southern California and serves churches across the southwestern United States. Ironwood has been blessed with ministry opportunities, resources, and friends around the country. In 2009 they began thinking about their responsibility to share what they had been given in a way that helped churches around the country to have a camp like Ironwood to use in their ministries. The picture was of a family—a mature couple (still learning and growing themselves) having a baby and taking the next 20 years to train and equip that child to become independent. In 2011 the Family of Camps was born! Currently they have one camp that has reached independence and three more that are in various stages of growth towards independence.

This summer, the team I have joined will begin the summer at Camp Grace near Wheatland, WY for a week of training and then serve there for three of camp. Then we will pack up our people and program and travel to Camp Assurance near Georgetown, IL where we will spend a week learning the new facility followed by four weeks of camp. Each camp has a website and a facebook page: [www.campgrace.org](http://www.campgrace.org) and [www.campassurance.org](http://www.campassurance.org). If you are interested in our “parent camp” you may enjoy going to Ironwood’s website or YouTube channel. ([www.ironwoodcamp.org](http://www.ironwoodcamp.org) or [www.youtube.com/user/IronwoodOnline](http://www.youtube.com/user/IronwoodOnline)), The team will be led by one of Ironwood’s long time staff members, Carol Bond. Joining her is the Dickman family (also having been in camp work for several years) and a team of 14 college and career age folks and 6 high schoolers. Each week of camp this summer, our team anticipates serving 50-70 young people. We believe that camp is a place of decision, and we are praying that we will see salvation decisions each week. But it won’t stop there. Important steps of growth in Christlikeness and other life-changing decisions are presented to each of our campers during each week of camp. Each element of the week will be crafted to create an atmosphere free of distractions so that the Lord can work in the hearts and minds of the campers. I will be a part of the (type your position here, for example counselor or operations team, if you are on a non-counseling team include the fact that you will be partnered up each week with a cabin to spend time with.)

I know that in addition to serving the Lord for the summer, this experience will continue the process of preparing me for a lifetime of ministry. There is an intensive weeklong staff training period where I will be taught philosophy and practical skills. Emphasis will be placed on knowing and applying God’s Word in all areas of my life and on the components of biblical counseling. During the next eight weeks, I look forward to seeing God work miracles in the lives of campers, being a part of building new program activities and improving the facilities at each camp, and to seeing Him use me in this process. We will travel over one thousand miles and visit a couple of other ministries along the way.

I’ve been encouraged to tell as many people as possible about my summer ministry opportunity. You have been an important part of my life and I thought of you when they asked me to gather prayer support for the adventure that lies ahead! It will be a challenging summer both physically and spiritually. Ironwood Family of Camps would like to help you both remember to pray and give you details each week to pray for. If you would like to receive a photo of the staff as a prayer card and a weekly email of prayer requests and praises simply go online to <https://www.campassurance.org/summer-staff-support>

Some have asked if they could help with finances. I will be serving as a summer missionary, but I will receive some money from the Family of Camps to help with my expenses, especially for travel costs. They have asked me to let you know that any gifts to help with my personal expenses should come directly to me. (optional to leave this next section out if you don’t have a way to use an educational scholarship within the next 12 months) but if you want to give to my educational scholarship, which would be a tax deductible gift, they will pass all the gifts designated to me on to (type in here your college or what institution you will use the educational scholarship funds for-student loans are an option). The undesignated gifts to that fund will be divided up among those with needs. If you would like to donate to the scholarship fund you can do so online at <https://www.campassurance.org/summer-staff-support>

If you have any questions just let me know. I would love to hear from you and I hope that you will sign up for the prayer card and weekly emails!