



CAMP PENUEL EAST

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Greeting From Camp Penuel East

So apparently spring is here, but I guess somebody forgot to tell winter, again. We are so excited about summer getting here not for the warm weather, but for kids whose lives will be impacted. This has been a very difficult winter. We had a storm blow through that caused a power outage for several days. It also knocked over so many trees from the weight of the snow and ice. We had over 25 trees that fell and covered our driveway. We removed the middle of the trees to open up the driveway, but there is still so much clean up that needs to be done to recover from the storm. We will be having a work day and we will be needing help cutting and moving all of the trees. We will post the work date on our Camp Penuel East Facebook page for everyone that might be interested in helping, and lives here locally. So please be looking for that.

We will be having our 25th Anniversary Fundraising Banquet on Saturday May 19, 2018 at 5:00 pm. We hope that everyone that lives near us will be able to attend. Our banquet is free to attend and we do take an offering. The offering helps us to fund our free camping program for all of our campers that will be coming this year. We have include a response card for our banquet. Please fill it out and include how many people will be attending with you if you plan to attend. We need to have an accurate total for planning our seating and our meal. We are looking forward to great fellowship with many of you and enjoying some amazing food. We only need a response if you are planning to attend and the number of people coming with you. You can call us if that is easier for you (phone number above) we keep a database of responses.

We are stepping out in faith with a big purchase this year for a stand on zero turn commercial lawn mower. We were blessed many years ago with a donated Cub Cadet Lawn Tractor that was brand new. It was a very nice tractor, but it wasn't rated for the type of property that we have. We have spent thousands of dollars over the years repairing it just to keep it going. We have 25 acres of commercial property that is very hilly and quite rough. We need something that was made for the property that we have, and we believe that we have found it. This commercial mower is \$9000 but you get what you pay for. We need to purchase this before mowing season starts. Our tractor is broken again and I can't keep sinking money into something that won't last. We got a bid from a professional to see how much our property would cost to mow per week and he said \$200. If somebody else were to come and mow our property it would still cost us thousands of dollars, and we would have nothing to show for our money. We are praying for God to provide the resources that we need so that this can be purchased soon.

We have included our 2018 needs list with this letter. We keep our cost down by using the donated items on this list. These are the things that we will be purchasing for camp. We are so thankful to all of the churches and groups that fulfill items from our list. It helps us more than you could ever know. We have also included a reminder card for our 25th Anniversary Fundraising Banquet for you to save the date.

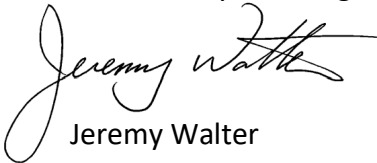
I want to share some personal thoughts with you. I had several opportunities lately to teach God's word and the same theme keeps coming up over and over again. The topic of the Father's reckless love for us. Jesus was our perfect example of what the Father was like. God showed us what love really looked like by sending Jesus to take our place. I know that more than anything I want my life to echo Heaven. I want to prove that I love God not just with words, but with my actions. I want to share something with you that God has so beautifully revealed to me through studying His word. In John 14:15 Jesus said: "if you love me, keep my commandments." The word used for keep in the Greek is the word *téreo* and it means to protect or to guard.

Then in Genesis 2:15 it says: “Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.” The Hebrew word for keep is shamar and it means to protect or to guard. Let me explain what God’s word shows us. God asked Adam to keep or “shamar” to guard, protect and maintain the order of the garden by not letting anything harmful or deceptive enter into it. Love protects their intimacy by doing what God commands. By failing to “**keep**” deception out of the garden, Adam lost intimacy with God. This is in essence what Jesus said to all believers, if you love me you will protect the garden of your heart and not let anything harmful or deceptive enter into it. If you love me you’ll guard and protect our intimacy by keeping my commands. Proverbs 4:23 says: “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”

I don’t want people to see some cheap counterfeit, knock off version of Jesus when they see me. I want them to see the authentic. I want my life to resemble His in every way. I don’t want to just be known as a Christian because I go to church on Sundays. I don’t want to be known as a prominent leader in the community. I don’t want to be known as a Christian because I’m generous, kind and loving. Those are things that would earn me the title of being a good man. I want so much more than that.

I want to see people healed in my shadow as I walk by them on the street. I want laying hands on the blind and see their eyes open as God restores the color to their pupils. I want to pray for the deaf and have them hear me whisper the name of Jesus in their ears. I want to see addicts to be instantly sober and set free from the bondage of addiction. I want to see the lame walk and the dead raised. I want to see entire cities saved and set free in a day. Galatians 2:20 says this: “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” My freedom was expensive and yet it cost me nothing because of God’s generosity. I have decided that I will give God as much of my life as He deserves, and that is all of it.

Passionately Pursuing God

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeremy Walter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J".

Jeremy Walter
Director