



Zachariah and his grandfather, Reverend Ed Seanor, experiencing the Creator through creation together

Missions camping holds a special place in my heart. Growing up as a Royal Ambassador, some of my earliest memories are connected to Camp Cordova and the Tristate Camporee in Memphis, Tennessee. Nature walks, map and compass, cooking on campfires, and nighttime devotions all have had a lasting impact on my life.

Camp was a place of fun and adventure, but it was also a place of great spiritual renewal. Away from all the distractions of modern life, I was able to focus on that still, small voice of God, ever present and continuously drawing me closer into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Camp is also where I first understood the significance of the missionary call.

One night at a fireside devotion, I heard the testimony of a missionary kid (MK) that changed my life forever. He and his father, Wade Watts, were seriously injured in a car accident while serving on the missions field in Peru. As this MK stood there on the stage, having just learned how to walk again after his traumatic accident, he told all of us campers about the importance of listening for and faithfully answering God’s call in our lives, no matter the cost. I was so young then, but I can still remember that moment like it happened yesterday.

Many of you may be able to share similar stories. Moments in time, surrounded by God’s creation at a beloved camp, where something changed. Maybe camp

was where you first met Jesus and accepted Him as your Lord and Savior. Maybe it was the first time you ever felt a sense of belonging and peace. Maybe it was where you first heard God’s call in your life. Or maybe it was all three! Whatever special moment the memory of camp brings you back to, know that these moments still happen in the lives of young people today at missions camps all across the United States.

The Missions Camping Endowment was created to offer scholarships for children and youth to attend overnight missions camps, provide missions training and leadership development to camp leaders, and help with expenses related to having volunteer staff at such camps, with priority given to overnight camps in areas of the country where Southern Baptist churches are less numerous.

To learn more about the Missions Camping Endowment and how you can make an eternal impact in the life of a future camper today, visit wmufoundation.com.

ZACHARIAH SEANOR is a father, husband, lifelong camper, and committed Christ follower who serves as the director of mission advancement for the WMU Foundation.