

Testimony for The Edge 1999

I am blessed with a wonderful Christian family. I was raised going to church every Sunday and encouraged to have a personal relationship with Christ at a young age. I was in sixth grade when I realized what a relationship with Christ was, and when I made a real commitment to Christ. It has been a long and tough road, but it has truly been worth every bit of it. Attending a Christian middle school provided an atmosphere where I could grow spiritually as well as academically. A few special teachers and friends had a huge impact on my spiritual life during those years. Their passion and faithfulness to Christ in their every day lives amazed me. Since then I have worked on making my relationship with Christ my life and not just something I do at church. As I realize more and more the perfection of Christ, my own sin and imperfection become exceedingly evident. My faith has grown through seeing God fulfill his promises. I have seen him work in people's lives through the faithful prayers of their friends. It is an incredible thing to witness. God has taught me that He is faithful even when I am not. And I consistently, am not.

In the last year God has taught me that obedience is everything. In order for God to use me, I must obey Him. I transferred to a new high school this year as a result of many prayers and the evident need for Christ. I knew very few people at this school and fewer Christians. Needless to say I have had a challenging year so far. God has been teaching me that there *is* joy in loneliness. It has been a hard lesson to learn. He is also in the process of teaching me that I cannot do everything on my own strength but only by His strength. Unfortunately, my pride and I are still struggling with this one. Even

though I have been through few ups and many downs this year, it has been worth the struggle.

The week I spent serving on Work Crew last summer was one of the most incredible and memorable weeks of my life. I have never had so much fun being exhausted. My friendships with the people I served on Work Crew with grew stronger, I made new friends that I continue to talk with and visit, and my relationship with Christ was made stronger. God's spirit was working and continues to work at The Edge regardless of my presence. I have seen and experienced his spirit at work, and I would count it a blessing to be a part of that again.

If there were one section I could leave out of the essay, it would definitely be the one about describing myself. It is not exactly my favorite thing to do, but for the sake of those involved in this process I will try. I like to have fun. I am laid back. I care way too much about what people think about me. I try way too hard to perfect all my imperfections. I can be crazy (fun crazy, not psycho crazy), but I do know when to be serious. I love all kinds of music. I love to act. I enjoy sports, mostly soccer. I have been blessed with a wonderful, loving, supportive, fun family whom I am very close to. I hope to one day attend college and eventually receive a doctorate in either child psychiatry or pediatric medicine. I also feel a calling to the mission field, but the when and where have not been specified.

The biggest contribution I can make to The Edge Conference is experience. I have attended the conference every year since it began (two years as a camper and one year on Work Crew). Out of all my experiences, I would have to say my favorite was being on Work Crew. I know how incredibly exhausting it is and how intensely fun it is.

The only other thing I can contribute is myself. "Myself" includes my intense love for fun, my empathy and love for middle schoolers, my thoughts, my feelings, my time, my energy, and my passion for Christ.

My parents are very supportive of me serving on Work Crew. They think it is a great opportunity for me to grow spiritually through serving. If you need proof of their support, I can give you a great example. They drove five hours from Greenville to Covenant just so I could serve on Work Crew last year. They have faith in how God is working through The Edge. I am blessed to have such amazing parents who have passed on their passion for Christ to me.