

### “I JUST ABSOLUTELY LOVE WHAT I DO:” A STORY ABOUT BILL

Meet Bill<sup>1</sup>, one of eight students whom you helped send to 2017 Project Serve summer camp at Eagle Rock (7/18-7/23).

Bill is an energetic Deaf middle school student whom I met a few months ago during one of our summer outreach events in partnership with The Table Church and was attending a summer camp for the first time. Neither one of us knew each other that well, and we experienced a series of interpersonal challenges during the summer camp week.



When I was on the verge of a break-down from stress and exhaustion half-way through the camp, one of the DTQ leaders from another area came alongside me and said, “Hang in there, Bruce. Don’t lose hope because God is at work right now.” During our conversation, he shared a story about Judd Rexroth, the man who started DTQ with Central MD YFC Chapter in 2003 and who was my leader while I was in high school. He had just experienced a difficult situation during a summer camp with his students but said to the same man who was talking to me, “**I just absolutely love what I do!**”

This was a redemptive moment of me at the camp. God reminded me of the reason why I got in youth ministry: our youth need Jesus! I had to redirect my frustration and discouragement with Bill toward the One who enables me to love those who might be hard to love and supplies me strength when I am weak. This was a moment of redemption, renewal, and recommitment for me.

Night became day for me. I began to enjoy the camp and was able to love Bill better through my words and actions. We still had our challenges, but I kept saying, “**I just absolutely love what I do!**” Yet nothing seemed to happen. Bill remained closed to the Gospel. But what changed was this: I was able to love and pray for him better, believing that God is up to something.

On the last day of camp, we left Eagle Rock and started traveling home. Another leader from our area sat next to Bill and started to talk with him. Despite sporadic moments of rebellion, she decided to outrageously love upon the student just like Christ would. He even said at one point, “Stop being nice to me!” But because of her kindness and gentleness, Bill finally opened up and listened to her as she shared the Gospel in a personal manner.

Although he has not made a decision to follow Christ yet, I believe God continues to work in his life. **Could you please continue to pray for Bill in the coming months, that he will make a decision to follow Jesus?**

You are also the reason why I can say, “I just absolutely love what I do!” **THANK YOU** for your partnership in what God is doing among our youth in Frederick through your faithful financial support and gifts. We were able to **give \$2,690 in camp scholarship to our students** and even covered the **transportation costs of renting and fueling a 12-passenger van** for the entire week!

Loving our teenagers together for Christ’s sake,  
*Bruce L. Persons*

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<sup>1</sup> The student’s name has been changed to protect his privacy.

# 2017 DTQ PROJECT SERVE @ EAGLE ROCK



*Please visit "DTQ Club – MD" and "YFC Deaf Teen Quest Project Serve camp at Eagle Rock Camp 2017" Facebook Pages for more pictures!*