



IMPACT

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Dear YOU:

Right now you're probably looking at this and saying, "Has Pastor Barry gone crazy?" And the answer is, "Well, not recently, but a long, long time ago..." But back to the point, I do think that something *new* is happening in our midst. God is doing something in your heart and in your life and, if you will let Him, He is about to open up doors in your life that you never even imagined possible. This trip is just one possibility in what God wants to do in your life!

About this trip: Impact has opened up an amazing opportunity this summer to *GO into all the world* just as Jesus commanded in Matthew 28:19-20. This isn't simply a fun trip to a big city you might have only seen on TV, but this is a challenge to go deeper in your relationship with Christ, grow in confidence in what you believe and serve people who have might have never experienced God's love ever before in their lives. Can you imagine being used to touch the life of someone who has never known the God that you serve? Well, that is what this trip is all about!

We have been working with Don Chavis - who some of you might remember from his time as the Youth Director for the North Central Region Church of God from 2004-2008—on a mission trip to Chicago from July 22-31 that we are calling IMPACT CHICAGO. Don is now the Youth Director for the Great Lakes Region, which includes Chicago, Michigan and Wisconsin. He has many contacts around the city from his 3 years in this role and has offered to host us and connect us with ministries and opportunities around the city of Chicago.

With a population of almost 3 million, the city of Chicago offers a unique blend of cultural and religious life. You'll have the opportunity to experience a truly historic city, while putting your faith into practice in ways that you never have before. I have had the opportunity to go on 3 missions trips, 2 as a leader and 1 as a student, as well as many other ministry trips, and I can tell you that these occasions will challenge you to grow in ways that no other experience could—there is something about setting ourselves aside and focusing on others that opens our hearts to God in new and amazing ways!

I hope you'll look at the material included with this letter and prayerfully consider your involvement. This is not a trip where you simply ask mom & dad to write a check; this is trip where you pour yourself in from the very beginning: raising funds, preparing yourself Spiritually, and finally getting your hands dirty. This trip will be more rewarding than possibly anything you have ever experienced before, but that reward will require a lot of hard work on your part.

It's time to *GO!* Leave your couch behind, step up to the challenge and join a team that is truly going to make and impact—**IMPACT CHICAGO!**

In Anticipation,

Pastor Barry

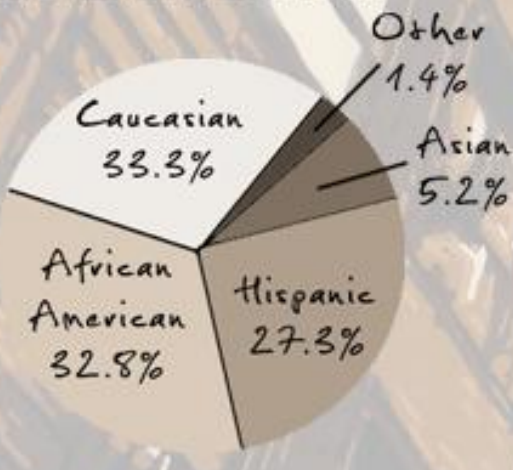
IMPACT

CHICAGO

The Chicagoans

Millions in need of God & love

ETHNICITY



RELIGIONS

(Cook County)



And you might be the one God is calling to bring it to them!

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CHICAGO

Our Purpose:

Reflect Him

Proverbs 27:19 says: "As the water reflects the face, so the heart reflects the person."



Just as the city's beautiful skyline reflects off of Lake Michigan, our goal will be to reflect the love of Christ to a city in need.

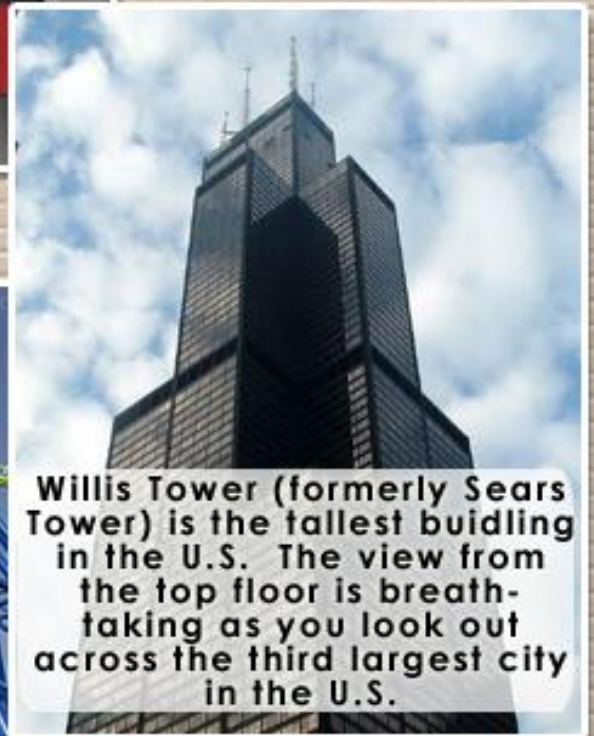
We will accomplish this with outreaches to the homeless, helping in our multi-cultural churches (including Bulgarian, Haitian, Romanian, Gypsy and Spanish congregations), distributing back-packs to local kids in need of school supplies and many other opportunities!

Trip Activities

The Chicago area is full of attractions, and our trip will include some time to see a few sites and have some fun beyond our ministry time.



Wrigley Field is one of Major League Baseball's most historic stadiums. Home to the "Lovable Loser" Chicago Cubs and famous for the old world atmosphere and ivy covered walls.



Willis Tower (formerly Sears Tower) is the tallest building in the U.S. The view from the top floor is breathtaking as you look out across the third largest city in the U.S.



Six Flags Great America features over a dozen giant roller coasters along with tons of other great rides! A "fun day" at Six Flags is included in our trip.

Beyond these activities, we will experience Chicago's famous foods, other sites & culture throughout our time in the city!

A large, illuminated marquee sign for the word "CHICAGO". The letters are white with a drop shadow, set against a dark background. The letter "I" is the largest and is enclosed in a circular frame with a pattern of small lights. Below the sign are decorative, colorful scrollwork elements in shades of gold, red, and brown.

CHICAGO

HOW DO WE PAY FOR THE TRIP?

FUNDRAISE, FUNDRAISE, FUNDRAISE!

We accomplish this from 3 angles:

1. LETTERS TO FAMILY & FRIENDS
People you know want to contribute to your involvement in an experience like this!

2. GROUP FUNDRAISERS
We're already lining up several group fundraisers to help offset the cost of the trip.

3. CHURCH SPONSORSHIPS
We'll work to match you up with a family @ Gateway to help sponsor a portion of your trip.



WHAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE?

In other words, what is all this going to cost!

We have worked up an all-inclusive budget that would cover all expenses, including meals, transportation and activities. The only thing excluded would be any spending money that students would want to bring beyond this.



TRIP BUDGET

Transportation: \$150

Meals: \$200

(Based on approx \$20/day)

Activities: \$100

T-shirts & other supplies: \$50

TOTAL: \$500



Where Do I Start?

Take the Challenge

Don't fall into the trap of believing that you can't do this - with God you can do anything! Don't believe me? Check out Philippians 4:13.

Pray for God's heart

You might already be thinking about what we might do on this trip, but we want to see this trip & the people through God's eyes.

Fundraising

Start thinking of who might want to help sponsor your trip. Have any other creative fundraising ideas, talk to Pastor Barry!

Check out Chicago

What better way to begin than to check where you're going. Look online & maybe God will open your eyes to something to pray about!

One thing you need to understand about a trip like this: we are going to minister. We want you to go with us. We want to do God's work side by side, but that takes a deep commitment. Start now, with daily prayer & Bible reading - let God mold you into the person He is planning on for this opportunity!

