



March 13, 2012

“Going from the city to the wilderness was like being in a whole different world, not to mention it was the first time I had ever seen the ocean before, so it was a pretty special moment.”

We first met Joseph while he was a Sophomore in high school, as we were preparing for our first ever coastal backpack trip. Though he had started becoming involved at Youth For Christ, he still lived a lifestyle revolving around drugs and alcohol. “I would sneak up on the roof of a neighborhood church and smoke all the time,” says Joe. Having to overcome many challenging obstacles in life, such as homelessness and parents battling meth addiction, Joseph didn’t have any opportunities to get outdoors, with the exception of the neighborhood he roamed about most his life. “The closest thing to the outdoors I ever experience was the huge dirt lot that was just outside the West Central Community.” “It was sensory overload,” said Joe as he reflected on his time in the Olympic National Rain Forest.

The backpacking trip was a real turning point in his spiritual walk with Jesus Christ. “Getting out of my bubble really allowed for an inescapable time of self-reflection on who I am and my relationship with the Lord.” It was through this outdoor adventure that his character was tested and huge revelations about his potential were brought to light. This powerful experience followed him home and he started to cut out all the negative influences in his life and he hasn’t smoked since. It’s ironic that the church he used to sneak up on top of to smoke was the first church he started attending. He’s now a leader at Youth For Christ and is currently interning there, helping out youth that are currently in the shoes that he once filled. Joe has been a part of our Junior Guide Program and gained valuable experience and education in outdoor leadership and safety. **“Every kid has to have the opportunity I had, it only takes an experience like this to impact youth at the heart level.”**

We rejoice in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for opening the hearts of the participants we serve and are grateful for your prayer and generosity in providing such opportunities for youth throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Blessings,

Ryan Kerrigan
Executive Director



URD7



DEVELOPMENT MANAGER'S MESSAGE

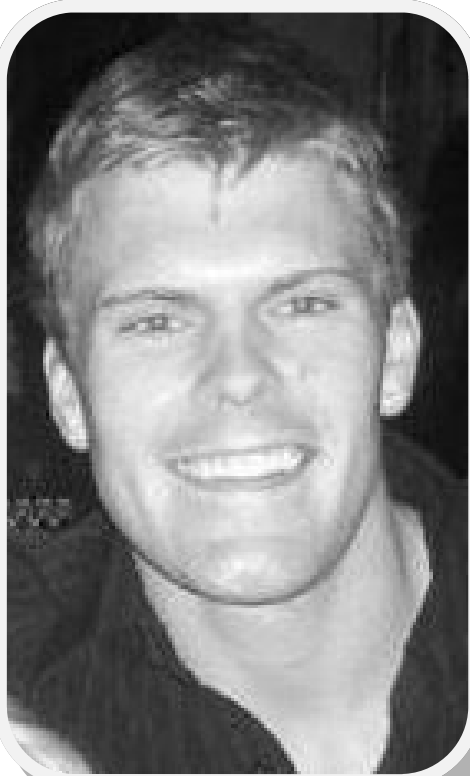
For me, the outdoors have never failed in providing a grandiose experience to reconnect with Jesus Christ, the Creator of all things, eventually realigning my focus to the path I was made for. One can't deny that creation proclaims the Lord's power, majesty and eternal glory (Romans 1:19-20), which has ultimately been a tool

that He has used to speak into my heart and energize my spirit. It's ironic that to escape my mountain of problems at home, I adventure out to face another.

This world is full of distractions that are all vying for our time, forcing our minds to run a million miles a second. That's what makes the wilderness such a beautiful place

to experience. Out there, freedom from those distractions and the ability to slow everything down around you provides an inescapable time of self-reflection and personal growth. Conquering a mountain top, a sheer rock wall, or a raging river instills a sense of hope and promise that's easily transparent back in one's daily life routine.

This is why I'm so blessed and honored to be a part of Peak 7 Adventures as the Development Manager. Our true passion for the outdoors, secondary to our faith in the Lord, is why we are so heart driven to make this a standardized experience for every young person. As stewards, we acknowledge and treasure this gift and the true power and pleasure such adventures the Lord uses to speak into one's life. It's our mission to be able to reach out to every young person, transforming their dreams of hope and meaning into a fuller reality. I'm ecstatic to help rejuvenate the young hearts of those unaware of the healing wholeness that Christ Jesus is eager to bestow on those who reach out to Him by faith. If there's one thing the Lord has taught me in my walk with Him, it's that awareness leads to comprehension, conviction, and action and I'm eager to help continue this great vision that all began six years ago. Sending prayers and blessings to all those who've supported us along the journey. The Lord has a very bright future ahead for Peak 7.



PARTICIPANT PERSPECTIVE

Andres was recently interviewed about his experiences with Peak 7 and this is what he had to say:



A student and senior at Rogers High School and a refugee from the Marshall Islands, Andres has lived in the United States for eight years with his aunt. Since he's lived here, he

hasn't seen his parents once, who still reside in the Marshall Islands. School has always been a struggle for John and has never been something he's enjoyed. Even though he is a senior and will be graduating in a couple months, one of his teachers still worries about his chances of finishing the year out and earning his diploma.

To date, he has been on five different *Peak 7* trips. "They are so fun I have lost count", Andres says. He started with the backpacking trip and has since participated in snowshoeing, rafting, and cross-country skiing with *Peak 7*. "The mountains were very cool, and being above the clouds was a really cool feeling."

Andres likes getting out of the house, which can be chaotic at times, and it provides him a good opportunity for self reflection. "The mountains are beautiful, it makes me think". Not only does it help him reflect about things but it also helps him stay out of trouble. He knows a couple of students who've dropped out. It reminds him of how he needs to finish high school so he can help his family.

His favorite trip was the snow camping excursion. Participants snow shoed to a location and once there built snow caves and learned about avalanche safety and other winter survival skills. "I liked standing in the middle of the frozen lake and when you looked around you could see some of the avalanches coming down the mountains in the distance". Going into the trip he was expecting it to be easy and flat. Shortly after starting he realized it was going to be more challenging than he expected with a gradual climb in elevation. "At least I

made it".

At the beginning of the trip he didn't think he could make it to the top of the mountain, but he did. Now when he has homework that's challenging and difficult, he reverts to the mountain he climbed and thinks, "if I could accomplish that, I can accomplish this". Upcoming trips are something that he looks forward to, especially getting through his day to day struggles. He uses the *Peak 7* trips as an award for doing well.

"Peak 7 provides experiences and opportunities that we otherwise wouldn't have". Before Peak 7, Andres had never been on an outdoors adventure such as this. He was taken back, and still is, about the glorious mountains and how big they are. After graduation Andres plans on attending community college for two years and then transfer to Eastern Washington University. This dream is one that might not have been achievable without the support and encouragement of *Peak 7*. It provides youth like Andres a positive and encouraging experience as well as influential role models, showing them that their potential in life isn't determined by their living circumstances, but rather their faith in themselves and the Lord to achieve their dreams. You must be the change you wish to see.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

- PHILIP LABRIE -

Phil joined the Peak 7 team in 2008 as our Finance Manager. Throughout his work for this ministry, he raised 100% of his support. He was instrumental in building a solid financial infrastructure that has become a vital component for our day to day operations. We thank Phil for his years of service. His work, dedication and passion to serve youth and the Lord are greatly appreciated by all of us at Peak 7.





Challenging the body | Engaging the Spirit

Peak 7 Adventures
6710 N Pittsburg St
Spokane, WA 99217



**T
H
E
T
E
A
M**

- Dannen, Austin - Program Manager
- Galage, Becky - Seattle Program Coordinator
- Houtz, Justin - Spokane Program Coordinator
- Johnson, Nick - Development Manager
- Kerrigan, Loran - Sponsorship Coordinator
- Kerrigan, Ryan - Executive Director
- Jordan, Jamie - Finance Manager
- Myers, AJ - Portland Program Coordinator
- Myers, Liz - Portland Associate Program Coordinator
- Smith, Lynn - Executive Administrator
- Winters, Nicole - Spokane Program Coordinator



UPCOMING PEAK 7 EVENTS



Ski To Sea Race:
May 27, 2012 - Bellingham, WA



The Dirty Dash:
June 16, 2012 - Spokane, WA
July 28, 2012 - Eugene, OR
August 11, 2012 - Seattle, WA



Bocce Ball Tournament:
September 9, 2012 - Spokane, WA

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

p: 509.467.5550
f: 509-483-0448

www.peak7.org



CORPORATE OFFICE - 6710 N PITTSBURG ST · SPOKANE, WA 99217 · (P) 509.467.5550 (F) 509.483.0448
PORTLAND OFFICE - 3048 SW HIGH DESERT DR, SUITE Q · PRINEVILLE, OR 97754 · (P) 503.928.7757
SEATTLE OFFICE - 16901 E SIMONDS RD NE · KENMORE, WA 98028 · (P) 425.296.7773
SPOKANE OFFICE - 6710 N PITTSBURG ST · SPOKANE, WA 99217 · (P) 509.467.5550