



Hello,

You may recall from my last newsletter that my role with Timber Bay is changing.

I've invested some time in listening to alumni talk about how they felt when they turned 18 and had to move on from Timber Bay programs.

Al (*not his real name*) is 34 and shared his thoughts in an email:

I moved from Missouri to Buffalo, MN in the summer of 1996. Soon after school started I met Paul as he was introducing himself to the kids and telling us about Timber Bay. I suppose it was easy to see I was new, not only to the school, but also to Minnesota by my heavy southern accent. Kids teased me at school. I tried to shake it off but it still hurt inside.

Timber Bay and Paul provided a friendly and caring environment. In fact most of the friends I made came about by attending the weekly Timber Bay meetings.

I continued to attend weekly meetings until I was 18. I remember a few weeks before I turned 18 Paul called me up and asked if I had time to meet with him. I said sure and Paul came to pick me up. We went out for lunch and Paul began to explain to me that when I turn 18 I would no longer be able to attend meetings.

I felt heart broken and hurt. I may have felt a little angry but most of all I felt abandoned and alone. I appreciate Paul for continuing to be my friend even after my Timber Bay years. I know he tried his best to not let me feel alone and that he was still there for me even if it was in a different way.

The majority of our kids begin their journey with Timber Bay around 6th grade. During their years with Timber Bay they experience relationships with caring adults, camps, events, support groups, and an introduction to Jesus. Weekly involvement in Timber Bay becomes a vital part of a Timber Bay youth's support system.

An abrupt end to the availability of weekly programming can be traumatic and difficult for many of our kids.

We'll continue to focus on spiritual growth and also address challenges distinct to emerging adults acting as a bridge for our students to a healthy adulthood.

This program focus has huge bottom line potential for our emerging adults, their families, the community, and our many generous supporters.

I would like to share some specifics with you.

INTRODUCING: Timber Bay Emerge

Mentoring, Groups, and Networking: Focusing on Four Key Areas of Impact

Spiritual Growth

- Bible Studies
- Spiritual Mentoring
- Connection to Local Churches

Life Skills

- Time Management and Organizational Skills
- Critical Thinking and Decision Making
- Effective Communication and Healthy Relationships
- Self-discipline

Healthy Living

- Addiction Recovery Groups
- Healthy Lifestyle Habits
- Referrals to Professional Counseling Services
- Fitness Plan with Regular Follow-up

Career/Purpose

- Meaningful Work and Careers
- Career Planning
- Biblical Life View

We are **"Mentors For Life"** and my heart is to continue the work that began when they were in their early teens.

When we launch Emerge, my time will be spent directing the program, teaching, and mentoring. We will connect members to resources that help them to become responsible, accountable, and grateful as they apply new, life style choices.

Crisis intervention, emotional support, and advisory support, will continue to be a part of the focus. Many times the young people we work with just need to be saved from destruction.

While formal programming will be focused on 18 to 29 year-olds, we will be available to our alumni well beyond the age of 29. We have a responsibility before God to the people that He has brought into our lives.

Until we launch I will be:

Seed planting- meeting with the many Timber Bay alumni, referrals, and graduating seniors in our area who will benefit from Timber Bay Emerge.

Networking- finding professionals, business men and women, potential volunteers, team building, and organizations who are equipped to provide resources and support for emerging adults.

Fund Raising- raising support for my transition, start-up funding, and sustaining the ministry.

Program Planning- finalizing what the Emerge program will look like day to day and putting the finishing touches on our plan.

Please pray for me!

Pray for wisdom, vision, direction, provision, and joy for this journey!

Thank you for partnering with me in reaching young people for the kingdom!

In Jesus,

