

RANSOMED HEART

LOVE GOD. LIVE FREE.

November 2016

Dear Friends,

Some of my absolutely best childhood memories come from the summers I spent on my grandfather's ranch—especially the mornings he would announce over breakfast that we were going to move cattle. What a thrill for a boy to be invited to saddle up and join in on a cattle “drive,” moving the herd from one set of pastures to another. The work was exciting; it made me feel big and important.

I think the next time I felt the level of that thrill was when I became a Christian, around the age of 19. I remember in my early Christian days how I *longed* to be a part of what Jesus was doing, to rescue others as he had rescued me. It was actually Craig McConnell—our college pastor at that time—who invited me to do my very first speaking at the mid-week Bible study. I felt so honored; I felt a part of things. It felt like the invitation to “saddle up.”

We all want that—to feel needed; to be invited to take part in something meaningful.

About ten years ago I was thrown from a horse and broke both wrists. I was in double casts for nine weeks, and couldn't do a single thing for myself—couldn't tie my shoes, cut my food, open a bottle of milk. That was humbling for a pretty independent guy. But I remember how Stasi lit up like a Christmas tree to find herself so needed. She *loved* helping me, and it softened something in me.

This summer I had a chance to be on the other side of giving and receiving, as Stasi recovered from hip replacement surgery. I got to help her dress, help her with meals, help her pick up things she dropped (she couldn't bend over). I even got to wash her hair for her. It was a holy and sacred time. Honestly—it was the highlight of my year, to love and offer like that, to be so needed.

We need to feel needed, to be a part of something bigger than ourselves. This is deep in every heart. And I have an invitation for you. Not to a cattle drive, but to take part in something really big that Jesus is doing.

Years ago we made a decision to stay small, and let our friends and allies help us carry the mission forward. Instead of hiring staff, we look to friends and allies; you are a **HUGE** part of the mission of Ransomed Heart to rescue lives, heal men, women and families, to bring the real Jesus to a war-torn world. This ministry is having deep and profound impact, as you yourselves know, and we do it with a very small team. Because of you, our allies. Because you are more than observers; you are *comrades*.

We need you. We really do.

This has been a hard year for us. Our spring was intense, with the Restoration of the Heart Conference, making the motorcycle film *A Story Worth Living*, together with a Boot Camp,

Captivating and two Intensives (one in the US and the other in Australia). A lot of blood, sweat and tears go into those missions, and the warfare can be very, very intense. Then in May we premiered our motorcycle film and the backlash hit—that terrible online hatred and cursing. Weeks and weeks of it, with our team responding graciously but brokenhearted.

Right after that we got the news about Craig's new cancer. It had been a long seven-year fight with him and for him. A rough summer followed—the hardest summer ever for Ransomed Heart—as we prayed but knew we were going to lose that battle. We cancelled our August Boot Camp and October Captivating because we knew we needed the space to mourn and heal, and not jump straight back onto Omaha Beach. It proved to be a really good decision. This team needed the mercy.

Ransomed Heart has a massive influence in many people's lives; we are often the place they find the healing they've been looking for, the freedom from darkness, the intimacy with Jesus they've always wanted but didn't know how to find. *Because* of our impact, I think many people forget we get bruised and bloody in this fight. We “feel want, taste grief, need friends” as Shakespeare said. So I am writing to remind you that we need you. We want you to be a closer part of this mission in the ways that fit your heart and life.

We need your prayers, as often as you can offer them. Prayer *works*; we live by it. I send out a weekly prayer email; you can sign up for it at ransomedheart.com/pray.

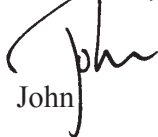
We need you to help us carry the message forward. Ransomed Heart has no marketing team; we have no television or radio show. People hear about us because you tell them! Tell folks about what you've found at a retreat; spread the word about our podcast, our books. Lead a small group through our message; lead a retreat! Use our films. *It will be an absolute thrill*. We aren't going to hire more staff to do this. *You* are our missionaries!

We need your financial support. Especially right now.

We took a big hit losing the income from the two events we cancelled. I knew we would; canceling those events was a big act of faith for us. I'm hoping you can help us this month in a generous way. You can make an online gift at ransomedheart.com/give, or you can use the return envelope we've provided. Would you ask Jesus what he would have you do? We've got a need and we believe our friends can meet it!

Thank you so much friends! You really are an essential part of this beautiful, powerful kingdom mission. You are our allies, and you share in the glory of this great and redemptive work. Saddle up!

Much love,



John

PS In a spirit of generosity this season everything in our store is 50% off from November 18-December 9. Share the message by giving our resources to others!