

March 2018

Dear Rockpointe Church,

Many of you may not be aware of the first trip in this ministry's 50-year history. It is the date that we use as our starting point. On August 9-26, 1968, my parents led a mission team called the "Y Teen Caravan" to Texas, Mexico, and the southeastern U.S. The cost for the trip was \$275, and there were rules that each team member had to follow for good behavior and to represent our country and the Lord well.

Why was the trip called by this unusual name? Let's break down the three words for the answer. "Y" is short for YMCA, which is where my father was employed at the time to reach out to local students regardless of race. "Teen" was used to describe the 29 high school and college students that were to go on the trip with the oversight of seven chaperones. "Caravan" was an appropriate description because they drove to their destinations, not flew.



This merry band of travelers sang wherever they went, and thus, The New Directions singing group was born. After their return, more discipling of youth and many singing performances continued. My father eventually branched off from the local YMCA and formalized this activity into an organization in November 1970. Singing was an integral part of the first twenty years of the ministry's outreach - as was mission work. The latter eventually became the sole

focus by the early 90s. The rest, as they say, is history.

As is also mentioned in this month's Circle of Friends quarterly update, this August 8th through 11th we will be holding a 50th Anniversary Celebration to honor God's faithfulness to this ministry. Festivities include a massive Packathon and an Open House to debut the Legacy Room. This is a newly constructed room that will tell God's story of this ministry through the years.

Please mark your calendars to come for one or more days and celebrate with us! We would love to see you, to thank you in person for partnering with us, and to have you participate in the Packathon.

Serving with you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph".

Joseph Williams, CEO