



Newton F. Crenshaw
President

February 2017

Dear Friend:

The chartered bus was bursting with high school students, but John sat by himself, clutching a little green book and wondering what secrets might be tucked inside it. His baseball coach had handed him the book when he boarded the bus, but John was pretty sure it wasn't a book about baseball. His coach was also his Young Life leader, so the book might be about the Young Life camp where John was headed with his friends.

John had 12 hours to kill, so he decided to open the book and investigate. "In the beginning," he read. It seemed like a logical place to start. Two hours later, John had questions, and his leader was sitting beside him, helping him to understand what he was reading. Two hours more and John bowed his head in his bus seat and surrendered his life to Jesus. The best week of John's life was actually four hours on a bus with a Bible and his leader, Troy.

In the days and weeks that followed, Troy welcomed John into his family like a brother. Troy was a college student who lived at home, the oldest of six children. What was one more mouth at the dinner table on Sunday after church? Troy's mom gladly served up her famous "winter casserole" or a platter full of cheesesteaks, and Troy's dad playfully nicknamed John, "J.B."

"Mr. and Mrs. Mackin are still the only people who call me J.B.," John said recently, his eyes soft with fond affection. "Even after their sons had left home, I still came for dinner or to play dominoes every week. Today my wedding photo hangs on the wall in their home along with the wedding photos of their children."

Thank you for supporting this mission. John Byard is serving his 23rd year on Young Life staff today, giving away to others what the Mackins gave to him. "They told me about Christ," he said, "and they showed me Christ." Thank you for helping leaders share their lives as well as their words with countless kids.

I am deeply grateful for your support.

In Christ,

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

Newton F. Crenshaw

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