This past summer I had the opportunity to serve in a ministry called “Opportunity Camp”. This ministry is made to reach out to younger kids, who may come from broken homes, and raise them up to be leaders in their homes, schools and communities.

This was my second year to be a part of Opportunity Camp. The first year I was helping with kids in elementary, but this year I was a counselor for the junior high camp. This experience is one I will never forget. It was on a Sunday morning when I met the kids I would be a counselor over, for the following week. From day one I knew it was going to be an interesting week, but a great one nonetheless. My kids each brought their own set of characteristics and personalities to the table. From the introverted to the crazy and energetic it made for a week full of memories.

Through the course of the week two other counselors and myself would build relationships with each of these kids. In the process of doing so we learned many things about these kids and their personal lives. Many of which were heart-wrenching stories. It was a rough week at times, as we talked with our campers about their lives. So many of them came from such broken homes and families. I am so thankful that I have had the opportunity to reach out to some of these kids, not only in camp but also outside of camp. It is a hard place to be, because there is so much I want to do to help them. But at times it seems as if there is so little I can do.
The last night of Opportunity Camp was a very serious night. It started off like most other nights. We had our evening snack and then proceeded to the campfire, where we had a short time of worship. Then from there we went back to a building where we had all gathered throughout the week. This night they had a skit set up and prepared. The skit was performed to the song, “What Love Really Means” by JJ Heller. The scenes followed portrayed many heart wrenching stories, which where then followed something even more impactful. Many of the counselors then went up with a poster board, which said what they had gone through in life. Both staff and campers shed many tears that night. After the skit and stories we went back to our cabins, where we were then able to open up with the camper who then opened up about their lives. It was an experience that has opened my eyes up to the reality of all the hurting and broken kids in our community alone. And all of them just need someone to love them and give them some hope in a world where there is not much hope left at times.

In conclusion this experience is one that changed me and I hope and pray that there is more I can do to reach out to a lost and broken world.