Echoes Across Time and Beyond

As I listen to the sounds of singing on tape, I remember the people and the experiences we all shared. Now they are just echoes of the past. I close my eyes and remember the experiences of church camp and the joy and the peace they brought me. I pick up my photos and see the moments in time captured by glass and film. I read the words of my friends and long to recapture the fun we had.

While I remember my past through echoes from the past, I realize that my life does not have to exist in echoes from the past. I have something different inside me. I do not have to spend my life longing for the past thinking that the best of life has past by. I realize that these echoes are anticipation for the future. These experiences can never be recaptured but new experiences lie ahead in a place beyond time and space.

I will see all these people again. Our lives may take us to the four corners of the Earth. We could spend the rest of our lives never knowing what happened to each other. We have a hope, a love, and a guarantee that no matter what happens in this world we will all meet again.

What is this hope? Why can I smile at these echoes and look to the future? All of these people have touched my life. They have been my true friends. They love me for who I am. We all share something that nothing, not time, not people, nor any force can take away. We are not just friends. We are brothers and sisters. We share one Father and because of His Son we will all spend eternity together. All of us have at some time or another realized that Jesus came to live, die, and rise again for us. We have accepted that we are not perfect and we and on our own never will be. We accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

These echoes I hear and see are a hope for the future. I smile and think of how much fun we had together. I close my eyes and smile towards Heaven and know that the best is yet to come. The joy and fun will never end for us. We have been made brothers and sisters and been given the gift of eternal life in Heaven. These echoes across time

and beyond will always give me comfort and joy. It all comes from one prayer to God and a life time spent relying on Him and listening and obeying Him. It is so simple and so wonderful. Who would want to refuse? I wish everyone would accept. Then we could all be reunited in Heaven. Listen to the echoes and consider these words, because they are not my own. God gave me these words of encouragement and assurance. I just wanted everyone to know what makes my friends and my live different. Thank-you Lord for echoes across time and beyond.

Geoffrey Hughes Gentry May 15, 1996