

News Story Summary

On November 7, Alex Sheen, founder of the charitable nonprofit, Because I Said I Would, shared why he created the organization. When he lost his father to cancer in 2012, he thought about the fact that the thing he admired the most about his dad was that if he said he would do something, he did it. Inspired by these memories, Alex decided to send out 10 “promise cards” on which people could write a promise to anyone in the world. At the bottom, the cards said, “Because I said I would.” He would then make sure the cards were delivered to the person to whom the promise was made. At first, he received about 5 promises per day, but that soon grew into thousands. Since 2012, his nonprofit has delivered more than 3.5 million cards to 153 countries. In addition, people have posted their promises online. Some are very serious, such as a man with stage 4 cancer promising to write 826 notes of encouragement to be placed in his daughter’s lunchbox until she graduates high school; some are lighthearted such as a man promising to take down his Christmas lights before Easter. In addition, Alex received a letter from a young girl who was depressed and was planning to commit suicide, but the promise cards made her realize how many people she had in her life that cared about her. Alex describes the organization as being dedicated to the betterment of humanity through promises made and kept.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the term “Alex Sheen, Because I Said I Would”.)

Focus Attention

Summarize the news story. Invite the group to share promises which they or others they know have made and kept. Ask: *How and why was the keeping of this promise important to you?* Point out that we, as Christians certainly understand the value of promise keeping, since we serve a God who is the ultimate promise keeper. Ask: *What promise did God make repeatedly throughout the Old Testament? Can you share one scripture passage in which God makes this promise?* Point out that one such passage is Isaiah 9:6. Read that passage aloud.

Challenge

Remind the group of the value of kept promises as seen in the father of Alex Sheen. Point out that God kept His promise of a Messiah and that we can trust God to always keep His promises. Read aloud James 1:5. Ask: *Can you name another promise that you must trust God to keep?* Invite the group, as you pray aloud, to commit to believe God and to trust in His promises.