



Dear Cross the Divide Community,

As you recently read in Julie's personal letter last month, *Divide Camp* is transitioning to *Cross the Divide*. Julie has been a superwoman through these past nine years to build, care for and grow Divide Camp. Through her efforts the camp has grown, a beautiful building was purchased in Joseph for our veterans to use, and over 300 veterans have taken advantage of Divide Camp's events. I'm thankful for all Julie and the Divide Camp team has done, as I too am a beneficiary. And so now, we begin a transition as the new year begins.

Transitions can be tough. We've all been through them at some time or another. Some of us have been through extreme transitions - a huge move, a tough illness, a major career change, the death of a fellow warfighter or a loved one, or surviving a devastating disaster. This life provides us opportunities to grow as we face the stresses of one transition after another.

Jesus invited people to make transitions. One of my favorite stories tells of Simon Peter and his brother, Andrew, doing what any right-minded person would do on the water – fishing. They're casting their net into a lake, not having any success. And Jesus calls to them, "Throw your nets on the right side of the boat."

They begin to haul in such a load of fish that these professional fishermen are *amazed* as their nets begin to break!

"Follow me," Jesus says, "and I will make you into fishers of men." Peter and Andrew are so awed by Him, they immediately leave their nets in the water and follow Him.

Immediately.

They don't think on it or weigh the pros and cons first. They literally drop everything - even the very nets they had cast into the water! Today, the world has been revolutionized because of 12 disciples whom Jesus called out to follow Him into possibly the most radical transition ever.

Jesus invited people to make transitions. . . *and He still does.*

I'll never forget the moment many of our lives changed forever. My wife, Rhonda, and I were driving from where I was stationed as a Navy chaplain just a couple hours east of New York, heading out on an anniversary vacation. I said something to her I never said before and have never said since – "*I just have the weirdest feeling that we're going to get all the way up to our cabin, and something really bad is going to happen back here.*" Call it intuition, call it the Holy Spirit, or call it bad pizza – but I remember that moment clearly from Sept 10, 2001.

That next morning forced *all* our lives in various transitions. But minutes after the first planes hit the twin towers, I had an overwhelming sense that God was inviting me to follow Him into the wake of the tragedy. Immediately after returning home and for the next two years, the Navy enabled me to lead 5-day retreats in the woods for caregivers and first responders.

“Follow Me” into the chaos. “Follow Me” into the unknown. “Follow Me” into other people’s transitions that are filled with joy, pain, struggle, and opportunity.

I want to take this opportunity to invite you to do the same. As you have been a staunch advocate of Divide Camp, please enter joyfully into this transition and this new season of growth. As Cross the Divide starts up, those of you who have a passion for being part of a new work can really lean in and have an impact on our future together. As we look to finish paying off the building in Joseph, those of you who enjoy seeing something to completion can help us cross the finish line with that project. Whether you are more of a “starter”, “finisher”, or something in between, I humbly request your continue care and support for this mission.

But *most of all*, follow us forward into this new season of growth and opportunity with your prayers and by sharing the Divide Camp/Cross the Divide story with others. As a 28-year Navy and Marine Corps chaplain, I am excited to tell you that Cross the Divide is committed to helping veterans and their families navigate the challenging terrain of life to promote healing, hope, strength, and growth through retreats and outdoor recreational activities. As a faith-based organization, we will strive to honor God by following biblical principles in all we do.

Our new website, www.crossthedivide.us, should be up and running in the new year. Until then, please feel free to contact me directly at emile.moured@gmail.com.

Last, please note that our mailing address has changed. For future correspondence or donations, please use the following: **Cross the Divide, PO Box 98, Wallowa, OR 97885**

Pressing forward with joy into 2022!



Emile “Mo” Moured