

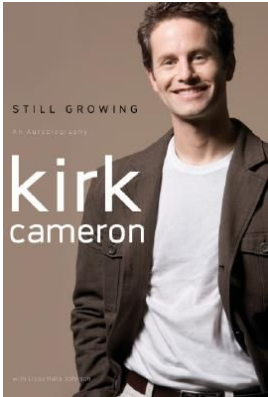
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Kirk Cameron Opens Up in Autobiography**

Teen idol writes openly about growing up in Hollywood -- the whole world watching his every move -- and his transition to life as a husband and father of six.

**Hollywood, CA** – In the 1980's and 90's, "Mike Seaver" made Kirk Cameron famous in *Growing Pains*, the wildly-popular American sitcom that ran for seven seasons. *Still Growing*, Cameron's first-ever autobiography, reveals a different side of the former teen heartthrob.



By age 17, Cameron was an internationally-recognized celebrity living on top of the world, receiving 10,000 fan letters a week. *Still Growing* takes readers behind the scenes of the early years of *Growing Pains*, including his first mother-accompanied showbiz auditions for Cameron and younger sisters, living as a privileged teen idol with private access at California's Disneyland and plush hotel rooms on the French Riviera.

However, behind the scenes, Cameron wasn't the comedic "Mike Seaver" everyone expected. Instead, he was a reserved teen worried about his acne problem— he even hid in bathrooms at middle school dances and found himself drawing a "self-esteem chart" to boost his confidence. His parents' six-month separation took a toll, as did his business manager stealing a third of his earnings. He even helped the FBI in a sting operation on the set of *Growing Pains*, capturing a pedophile that targeted Kirk. At 17, Cameron wielded more power than most adults and stirred the set of *Growing Pains* with it. At one point, he even fired his mother as his manager.

However, unlike many celebrities, Cameron didn't turn to sex, drugs or alcohol. Instead, he embraced faith in God. Living differently from the Hollywood norm, Cameron caused friction on the set of *Growing Pains* – all of which he chronicles, in his own words, in this revealing autobiography.

By 20, he married his on-screen girlfriend, Chelsea Noble, and five years later, they started adopting children. Today, at age 37, Cameron is a self-described "husband, father of six, actor, family man and friend." He and Chelsea are the proud parents of six children. "We've been married for 17 years now. Our house is a real home, with real people and real life challenges," Cameron says.

The couple also started and run Camp Firefly ([www.campfirefly.com](http://www.campfirefly.com)), a retreat for terminally ill children and their families.

### **About *Still Growing*:**

*Still Growing: An Autobiography* by Kirk Cameron with Lissa Halls Johnson. Published by Regal Books. April 30, 2008. Hardcover, 256 pages. \$22.99. ISBN: 978-0830744510.

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# Quotes from *Still Growing*

By Kirk Cameron

## **On Growing Pains**

“People imagine that being on a show is so glamorous, when mostly it’s a lot of repetitive, tedious work. Fortunately, we had a great cast and crew who really got along and cared about each other. For me, it was never boring.” (49)

## **On Life as a Celebrity**

“Celebrities are the most insecure people I’ve ever met—and for good reason. Actors don’t know if they’ll have a job from one week to the next. They don’t know if their eager, loyal fans will suddenly turn on them.” (58)

“I eventually created a disguise I wore in public. I sported a mustache, boots, round sunglasses, slick hair and ratty jeans supported by a belt with a large buckle. I walked with a swagger, speaking to my friends (who called me ‘Dale Olsen’) in a bad Southern twang.” (94)

## **How His Faith Conversion Affected *Growing Pains* and His Career**

“Back on the set, tension was as thick as military-grade nerve gas. My request for changes had left many people angry. Some did their best not to speak with me. It didn’t help that I had ostracized myself from them as well. While not all the cast members were openly at odds with me, others were—and it was very uncomfortable.” (133)

“It’s interesting how Hollywood has taken my decision. I had lunch with a famous scriptwriter and we got into a zesty conversation about how you get to heaven. I told him I was a Christian and he said, ‘Well, Kirk . . . for an actor in Hollywood, you sure picked the one unacceptable religion, didn’t you?’” (169)

## **On Family Life**

“Chelsea and I have six—yes, six—kids. Saying that to folks always causes a physical reaction—a bodily response to the news. Many cover their mouths in shock, as if they’re keeping their lunch down. SIX?” (143)

## **About Camp Firefly**

“Camp Firefly is designed to bring laughter back into the lives of stressed-out families. For husbands to see their wives as the sweetheart they married. For wives to fall in love with their husbands again. For kids from all the families, sick and well, to connect with each other quickly, because these are people who understand exactly what their lives are like.” (155)

“We loved [the name of Camp Firefly] for two reasons—fireflies are light, and hope is light. We want to bring the light of hope to these families—that they can always be a family, no matter what happens. We also loved it because Camp Firefly is filled with fireflies. They are everywhere at nighttime. The kids catch them in jars and watch them light up like fairies.” (155, Chelsea)

**For an interview or to discuss an excerpt, contact Ben Laurro at Pure Publicity at 818.753.4056 or [Ben@purepublicity.com](mailto:Ben@purepublicity.com)**

# About Kirk Cameron

Author of *Still Growing*

**Kirk Cameron** is a television and film actor best known for his Golden Globe® nominated work as the lovable teen heartthrob Mike Seaver on the TV series *Growing Pains* (1985-92) and for his role in several television programs and feature films.

His acting career started at the age of nine in commercials and guest appearances on television programs. His first starring role happened at the age of ten in the TV series *Two Marriages*, preparing him for the role of a lifetime in *Growing Pains*, for which he received two Golden Globe nominations.

Kirk's notoriety grew as well as his fan club, with his face on every Teen magazine in America. Kirk had a number of starring roles, including *Listen to Me*, Disney's *You Lucky Dog*, and the ABC TV movie *Growing Pains: Return of the Seavers*.

It was on the set of *Growing Pains* that Kirk met and married his co-star, Chelsea Noble, and together they continued their on-screen romance in the Warner Brothers sitcom *Kirk* (1995-97). Kirk and Chelsea have six children, and they live in Southern California. Together they run Camp Firefly ([www.campfirefly.com](http://www.campfirefly.com)), a retreat for seriously ill children and their families.

Kirk was not raised in a church-going home and describes himself as a devout atheist from a very young age. By the age of 14, he was so convinced there was no God that he laughed at believers. But one afternoon, sitting in a sports car pondering the first Gospel message he ever heard, that all changed.

Kirk continues to act in and produce quality, entertaining and inspirational family programming. He also travels throughout the country, speaking in schools, churches and community events.

For more information on Kirk, visit [www.KirkCameron.com](http://www.KirkCameron.com).

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# Suggested Interview Questions

For Kirk Cameron, author of *Still Growing*

1. Why did you decide to pen your autobiography now?
2. What was life like in the Cameron family compared to that of the Seaver family?
3. What was it like growing up as a teen idol with your alter-ego “Mike Seaver” in *Growing Pains*?
4. How similar and different are you and the character of “Mike Seaver”?
5. You write about a time when you had a scare of a stalker who had molested another young boy. How did this impact your view on “celebrity” and how did the situation resolve itself?
6. You write that your faith changed your personal convictions about your personal behavior and some of the scenes in *Growing Pains*. Were there times your requests were misunderstood by other cast and crew? How difficult was this?
7. How did you meet your wife Chelsea? How would you describe your dating and marriage?
8. You decided to keep your wedding ceremony private which was misunderstood by others. How difficult was that decision and not feel the pressure to make everyone happy?
9. You and Chelsea have adopted four children. Why was adoption so important for building your family?
10. Some believe your career decisions that have been guided by your faith cost you money and fame. You write that in fact you see yourself very fortunate and successful. How so?
11. Share with us some of your current projects – your new film project Fire Proof?
12. What is Camp Firefly ([www.campfirefly.com](http://www.campfirefly.com)) and what purpose does it serve?

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