

From the Middle School Mission Trip...

The mission trip this year was amazing! We were so blessed to be able to work and form a friendship with the leaders and the other church groups that were there. It felt good to be able to help the boys home with things that they needed done. It was a good experience. I am so thankful that it all worked out and I couldn't have asked for a better week. We were so close to the beach and we all loved it. Chapel was so much fun, the songs that we sang and the people that we got to listen to, that told us their experience with Team Effort. All around it was such an amazing trip and I can not thank the people in our congregation enough for helping to support us. You guys are great! **Mackenzie Kanney**

This experience has really opened my eyes. I was excited to go on this mission trip because it was my first one. But, I never knew how much hard work was needed to do the project we were there to do. I don't think I have ever worked that hard in my whole life. To tell you the truth, I don't think anyone realized why they were there until the last night of worship, when we threw away our scaffolding and got a red ribbon. First I thought we were JUST there to help people. But I learned that there were two reasons. The first one was about helping people. But, the second reason was to find ourselves, to live up to what God has in mind for us, to figure out what HE wants us to be and that is the most important reason. **Megan Phelps**

On the mission trip we met a lot of new friends from other states and counselors. One counselor I really grew attached to was Noah he was just one of those people just like most of us really fun but you would never think he would be as religious as he is. One night we had an amazing chapel and for me it was a life changer. They drew a heart on a canvas with so much inspiration behind it. Jonathan P. Morris, Zachary J. Allen, and I Logan R. Phelps all as manly as we are cried from the painting on that canvas, at that moment we knew for sure god loves us and he has cleansed us. Later while still teary eyed I saw Noah sitting on the beach all alone so I went over to him. We sat there on that warm sand starrng up at the moon and then he said, " It is amazing how the waves never stop." Just because of that little speech we started a whole conversation about GOD. **Logan Phelps**

Though the eight hour drives were tough cramped in the two vans, it was obvious that everyone had a fantastic time at Myrtle Beach. The counselors of Team Effort Mission Camp were young and full of energy, and every night they put on a worship service that had singing, dancing, and fun games for a select number of volunteers to participate in. The first three full days we were there (Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday) we helped remodel a boys' home. We replaced old boards on the wheelchair ramp and on the outside staircases and porches. On Thursday, we worked for the first half of the day priming the porches. For the rest of the day, starting at lunch, we were allowed time to relax at the beach and the hotel pool. Friday was our day off, and we enjoyed our free time, though we also had to start to pack up that night for the return trip to Harrisonburg the next morning. To end our trip, we woke up early Saturday morning to watch the sun rise with a group from Salem, North Carolina, who had helped us work at the boys' home. We said our goodbyes and left by 7:30. It was an excellent trip and those who went on it owe all of their thanks to the Massanutten church service for sponsoring it. **Zachary Allen**

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Our mission trip was awesome. I enjoyed meeting new people. I became closer to old friends. Through work and worship I became a child of God. I never thought that a prayer could be a conversation with God. During this mission trip that's what I found out. I feel so blessed to have had this opportunity and it was one of the best weeks of my life. I know I'll never forget this trip to Myrtle Beach. **Caitlyn Miller**

I really enjoyed the mission trip to Myrtle Beach. The work was hard and it was really hot but we all got a lot out of it. We became friends with the group from North Carolina that worked on the site with us. Even though we live hours apart, I know they will stay our friends. We wouldn't have been able to go and experience everything without the support of our church and I am thankful for their support. **Megan Miller**

As I headed into my first mission trip, I really didn't know what to expect. We would be working along the coast of South Carolina with temperatures in the upper 90s and we had 13 youth with us. This could be a long week. It turned out to be one of the best weeks I've had in quite some time. The work at the boys home, chapel and fellowship with other youth teams as well as the TeamEffort staff gave me renewed energy. But it was the final chapel service that really touched me. The service itself was amazing, from the music, the painting, the march to the cross on the beach; it was a truly moving experience. As touching as it was to me, I could clearly see how it affected our youth spiritually. It was awe inspiring to see these youth, our MPC youth, so moved by this experience with God. We felt Him there with us on the beach that night. This mission trip gave us the experience to bond with each other, form new friendships with other Christians, but most of all to strengthen our faith in God. We are so thankful for His love and His presence with us. We are also thankful to the MPC congregation for all of your support. **Alana Miller (Youth Leader)**

