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missionjamaica

A Vacation With a Purpose

"Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.."

1 John 20:21

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MJ Youth Trip 2013

Life Changing - Love Affirming



St. Luke Lutheran, Cordova TN



Trinity Lutheran, Long Lake MN

Want to help ?

The Newsletter team needs volunteers to help with email, database entry, Facebook and website set-up and content management.

Call us at (651) 762-9112



" I learned that even a smile can make someone's day infinitely better and that even the smallest actions can change a life."

In a time where consumerism and me-ism runs rampant often leading to a nagging emptiness of meaning in our life, MJ trips offer an amazing antidote. The Trinity Lutheran blog offers some great insights from the kids on the impact of their mission experience. Here are a few excerpts:

Best trip moment:

Watching Bean Dog "beanie" dance with us at West Haven. It was amazing to see how much joy a kid had who had absolutely nothing. His smiles and laughs truly filled my heart.

Seeing the look on the woman who owned a house we painted. She was so happy and I realized how important this was for her.

What I learned about myself:

That I am not perfect but because of Jesus I don't have to be.

I learned a lot about how life isn't all about me. You need a team to accomplish things in life. And to reflect more on life.

What I learned about my faith and church:

I learned that church and faith will always be there no matter where you are in the world or what conditions you're living in.

I learned that there are some pretty amazing people in my church. I met so many great people. I think I grew in my faith because I learned to thank God more and I can relate to people around me.

Our church has turned from friends to family over the span of this week.

Read more at: <http://www.trinitylonglake.org/content.cfm?id=376>



Directors Report: MJ Youth Trip 2013

2 great youth teams chose to spend a portion of their summer break on a Vacation with a Purpose. Both teams stayed at the beautiful Youth With A Mission (YWAM) campus. Million dollar views and great space for youth to spend the much needed time to eat together, reflect on their daily experiences, and have a little down time while still building as a team.

St Luke's spent their service days at West Haven Children's Home. The team started the renovation of Cottage 1 by painting the ceiling and repairing broken floor tile. Child interaction was a highlight with nail painting, table games and many wheelchair walks.

The Trinity Lutheran team broke into 4 groups that rotated between West Haven Children's Home, Clifton Boy's Home, multiple J'Bode painting sites, and YWAM. Each day brought a different experience that allowed the team to share their new talents of mixing concrete by hand, painting in tight spaces, cutting and trimming a whole bunch of grass in extreme heat, and carrying water from the spring far from home. Children were bathed and fed. Songs were sung and children were played with at all sites. Each team grew in their faith and their understanding how they can make a difference one day at a time.

God's Blessings, Jeff Peterson

MJ Youth Trip 2013 In Review



Mission Highlights:

The two groups had their moments of testing. Group 1 had the full sauna experience of painting the ceiling of Cottage 1. Group 2 had to deal with hauling water at J'Bode sites because the water supply was not working. They were rewarded with fresh bananas cut right off the tree for their break. The Clifton groups had some "negotiations" with the goats. One almost knocked the ladder from under Nazi (right). With enough PB&J (left) and energetic youth, anything is possible.

Despite a world of differences, the youth gain appreciation for the important similarities in life through faith, family, and friendships. Games were a key form of play but no one understands cricket yet!

New friendships form and old ones get stronger. We were struck by the comment that "our church went from friends to family in a week".

Most MJ volunteers can identify with this transition!

Prayer Requests: Despite much to celebrate we also have some prayer requests to send your way. We learned that Ms. Williams and new J'Bode homeowner Elroy have had serious surgical issues. Homeowner Barbeth lost her job due to a school closing. Callaloo Mews school has a critical funding crisis. Saddest of all we report the death of Jodine Blake from Cottage 2 at West Haven. Please keep these Jamaicans and the Callaloo Mews school kids in your thoughts and prayers!



Come Join Our "Family" Next Year!

Mission Jamaica ...is God calling you to serve

Come to Mission Jamaica do you think you have the nerve?

Do you think you have the spirit?

God is calling you ... can you hear it! Mission Jamaica song lyrics by John Welborn*

Youth teams will be available for June 2014. Call us to learn more about joining our team. The schedule at the right shows the line-up thus far for the winter season. Registration has already started. A non refundable deposit of \$150 for each individual is due in the Mission Jamaica office by October 1. Please contact your group's team leaders to clarify your specific time deadlines.

* Hear the song at: <http://www.stlukememphis.org/391705.ihtml>

Please help us cut our mailing costs by sending us your email so we can send you updates electronically. Please email your electronic copy to all your friends that might have an interest in our program. If you have questions, comments or ideas for future newsletter features (pictures) please email us at jeffp@saintandrews.org or call us at (651) 762-9112. **Thanks!**

2014 Tentative Schedule

Jan 4-11	West Haven (WH)
Jan 11-18	WH, J'Abode (JB), CB
Jan 18-25	Kingston (K), Medical
Jan 25-Feb 1	WH, JB, Medical (M)
Jan 29-Feb 5	Garland Hall (GH)
Feb 1-8	WH, JB,
Feb 8-15	No teams
Feb 15-22	Clifton Boys (CB), WH
Feb 22-Mar 1	JB, M
Mar 1-8	WH
Mar 8-15	JB
Mar 8-15	K
Mar 15-22	WH, JB
Mar 22-29	WH, CB, M, Dental
Mar 29-Apr 5	WH, CB

Updated schedules can be found at: www.saintandrews.org/