

TEAMeffort MISSION WEEK 2009 CHEROKEE, NORTH CAROLINA July 26—August 1

Many thanks to our congregation for supporting our TEAMeffort Youth Mission Week to Cherokee, North Carolina. Our team of 56 traveled the Indian community and stayed at Western Carolina University. Once again, Myers Memorial far exceeded the expectations of the staff with the work we were able to accomplish. I was very proud of our team, and you should be also! Your prayers, financial support and words of encouragement mean so much. I can never offer enough thanks to the adults that traveled with our mission team and for their willingness to take vacation, plus live, work and sweat with our youth for a week. Thank you, again, to Mike and Jennifer Rhodes, Marcella and Jeff Calvert, Dan and Louisa Suggs, Nikki Stacy, Clyde Penry, Jackie Radford, Chris McCullen, Donna Fletcher, Bill Spurrier, Cindy Stewart, Sheila Lloyd, Cindy Gillespie, Geoff Purvis, Buddy Flake, and our college students, Casey Shaw, Thomas Rhodes, Drew Carnes, Caleb Suggs, and Kelly Gillespie. Thank you to everyone for your support and for a successful mission experience in Cherokee. Please read the next two pages for the reflections from the team members. *Connie Elzey*

Reflections: TEAMeffort

MISSION WEEK 2009 Cherokee, North Carolina

“Wow” is the only word that can really describe this trip, and I just want to thank all of you who contributed to this trip. It is impossible to explain the feeling when you know your relationship with God is growing stronger beyond belief. Thank you again so much for praying for all of us. I’d like to share my God Moment: It is not how much we do, but how much LOVE we put into the doing. It is not how much we give but how much LOVE we put in the giving. I Corinthians 10:31.
Alexandria Spurrier

Thank you all so much for your prayers and encouragement for this trip, and nothing we have done this past week could have been possible without the support and love from our entire church family. This trip has had an unexplainable affect on me, and I couldn’t be more thankful. This was my first mission trip,

but I know it will not be my last. The memories I’ve made, people I’ve met and friendships I’ve strengthened will carry with me forever.

Thank you all so much. **Bailey White**

This was my first mission trip. I feel that I have gotten so much closer to Christ and the people in youth. I also feel that I have grown as a person. At the beginning of this trip I wasn’t as close to Christ as I feel I am now. Also, at the beginning of this trip I would tell my parents that I wanted this and I need to have that. Now seeing how much that other people don’t have I see how much I do have. I feel I will go back home and be thankful for what I do have. **Meredith Cox**

I am so blessed to be a part of the Myers Family and very proud of our

Youth who have shown such maturity and dedication to help others who are less fortunate. They are a true example of what a mission team really is.

Cindy Gillespie

Over the past 10 years with this youth group I have been a part of many sincere and Christ-filled mission teams. As I look around the room right now I see many young people who I have seen grow and mature into excellent Christian teenagers. It is wonderful to see how well they have turned out with much help and support from their fellow Christian youth. This has honestly been the best group of young people that I have ever encountered, and I feel greatly honored to be able to spend time with them and help them along in their



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Dear Church, This week we did lots of great things in the name of Jesus Christ. I'd like to share with you some of the things that were made possible by your prayers and gifts. We had a total of five sites on which our group served. The one I served at was the home of a man and woman with three young children. I can't begin to explain the condition of the house. There were maggots in the carpets and mattresses. Years of cat feces built up in corners. The children often

wore the same clothes 2 or 3 days. I worked with a group that managed the master bedroom. I don't want to write a novel, so I'm just going to tell you. The house looks clean and amazing. The week is also so much more than going to build a house for the less fortunate. It is a spiritually and emotionally cleansing and awakening experience. There is a joy found here that can't be found in any other place. Serving Christ with fellow Christians. Its unexplainable! We grow in our relationship with God and our relationships with each other. All this is possible for us, because of your gifts and prayers. Thank you to all who supported us. And to anyone who is considering mission work or would like to see Christ through the service of yourself and others, I strongly recommend joining us next year. **Alexa McCullen**

This mission trip to Cherokee, North Carolina was awesome. The trip helped me realize how much I take for granted in my daily life. The family that we helped had 3 adorable children that lived in impoverished conditions. I love every mission trip

that I go on and I will continue to go every single year. I love the feeling of knowing that our youth group touches peoples lives every year. **Anna Elzey**

One word... AMAZING! **Stephen McMillan**

This mission trip week has blown my mind. Our youth group at Myers Memorial has come together through the help of our Lord and Savior to do some amazing things here in Cherokee, NC. To see all of the effort put into their work and attitudes to help out and work this hard, in some of the worst living conditions possible, makes me as a Christian, overjoyed with the passion for the Lord. I hope everyone that comes through the Myers youth group has an experience like this one I have shared this week. The group is amazing and I hope to continue to share the word and be a role model as a leader next year.

Thad Calvert

The fellowship I experienced with the youth on this trip was amazing. I am in awe of the amount of "good" this group was able to do in a week's time. I am so grateful to have been a part of the mission trip, and I look forward to future mission trips with my church family. **Geoff Purvis**

I had a good time on this trip. I enjoyed working with everybody and getting to make new friends. I worked on the emergency home site which I really enjoyed. When we first started working on the house, I didn't really understand how important the house was, but when we finished and looked back at everything we had done and thought about everyone we would help, it just made me feel really good. This was my first mission trip, and I really enjoyed it, and I can't wait to come back next year. **Dustin Farris**

I'm very glad I came on this mission trip. I enjoyed being able to reach out and help improve other people's lives. Seeing how just a new coat of paint and clean floors made someone happy was really touching. Also, seeing how simple things like bubbles and chalk made the kids happy, was humbling. It made me realize how lucky I am to have all that I do.
Madison Alman

I made a friend. **Reece Radford**

Helping those who are broken and have not found God has made me realize how much one person can make a difference. This trip has given me what I have been missing in my life and has given me an actual purpose. **Jamie Paysour**

As I get older it seems that more things stand in my way, and my time that I should spend praising God is decreasing. This week was more of a spiritual awakening for me. I realize now that nothing is more important than your love for Jesus Christ. He has offered me so much, and now I need to open up my hands and take what has been given to me. **Kelly Gillespie**

I absolutely loved my first mission trip. I met a lot of people and I grew through God so much, and I can't wait for next year. I've decided to drop some of my worldly pleasures to better myself through Christ. I really feel like I've had an epiphany this summer. This summer has caused me to actually consider becoming a pastor, with Clyde Penry, Tom Latimer, and Ed Biggers as my inspirations. I will never forget this trip. **Tucker Bridges**

Being on this mission trip has changed my life. I have really gotten close to everyone here. Being here with everybody just puts me at ease. I can be myself, and everywhere I turn there is someone who I love and trust. Helping everyone we have this week gives me a feeling that I don't have words for. I know I came here to touch people's lives, but the people we've helped and the ones in my youth group have touched me. I love everyone here. I hope to grow more through Christ. So, thanks to everyone at Myers, they're like my 2nd family, sometimes my 1st. **Ashley Arney**

If you have ever doubted your church family, if you ever have felt lost or without support or if you have ever lost the connection you seek with Jesus Christ, come on a mission trip. You will see just how much love and support is present from God and the people around you. You will witness miracles. **Matthew McCullen**

This was my first mission trip, and it was one of the best experiences of my life. I didn't expect to feel so emotional, but to know that I can be closer to God, and to know that I finally have a church home really moved me. The families that we helped will forever be in my heart, and I hope to help many more families in the future. **Katie Trantham**

I feel truly blessed to be a part of the Myers Memorial youth group. The adults, the leaders, and the youth in this group work together and bond in amazing ways. Every year's mission trip is different and special, and I am so happy to be able to come and grow closer to God and my church family through helping others. **Emily Rho-**

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This week my eyes were opened much more than they ever were. After every mission trip I grow closer to Christ, but during this mission trip I realized that Christ is there for me no matter what. I realized that I need to revolve my life around Him and turn to Him for answers. Another thing I realized during this mission trip is that this youth group and adults that help are absolutely amazing, and are there for me all the time. On this mission trip I had the privilege to work on a house that was in terrible shape. There were five people living in the house that we got to know. The mother of the household had just accepted Christ the week before. We listened to her testimony which made me realize how grateful I am to have the love and support from my immediate family as well as my church family. This mission trip was awesome, and although I am graduating this year, I hope to go to so many more. **Brinkley Dickson**

This week has been a major life changing experience for me. I was one of three people that was able to work on two sites rather than just one. Tiling, sanding, painting and scraping were a few of the different workings that I did this week. During this week I have learned a few life lessons that I do not wish to list. **Jonathan McMillan**

This trip was the most life-changing experience in my life I've ever had. It opened my eyes to not only how lucky I am, but to how unfortunate others are. Getting to give them a new home and affect their lives in some positive way especially the three kids, really touched me. Also, getting closer to everyone that went was a blessing. It was just so amazing that everything went so smoothly between everybody. It has definitely been the time of my life, and I'm so ready for next year. **Blake Smarr**

As a “first time mission trip goer” I was apprehensive about what to expect. I knew we would be helping people, but I had no idea I would help myself.

This week I was able to bond with people of many different ages. I realized what an awesome group of people Myers Memorial has and how close we are. I feel like I can trust and express my feelings with any one. I really enjoyed all the activities, especially the white water rafting adventure where Pastor Clyde was my guide!

Overall this trip was a spiritual awakening that brought me closer to my dad, my brothers and sisters in youth, and Christ. **Rachael Purvis**

Being with the children from all of those families makes me realize how fortunate and blessed I have been. When you realize the amount of things it takes to make you happy compared to how little it took to make them happy, it makes you feel like you should be content with so much less. All they wanted was someone to play with or talk to them. **Rudy Flint**

This week has been fun, and I’m glad I had the chance to spend it with my church family. I have grown closer and closer to God as the week has gone by. I will always remember this mission trip! I am already looking forward to next year. **Taylor Shellman**

I really liked this trip even though it is my first, and I didn’t know what to expect. When I first got here I thought we were just coming to work, but after going through this whole week it has changed everything. When I went to Mrs. Freddy’s house I was expecting something like house #3, but it was the complete opposite. I don’t know

how they stayed there. It changed everything. I’m so glad I came. It was amazing. **Caron Fletcher**

My first mission trip! I was very nervous about coming, but now that I have I am so grateful! It has been a wonderful experience. I enjoyed having my mom here with me. I feel like this will be a memory of my life forever. I have gotten so much closer to Christ and to the older youth. I loved helping people that need help. Now I know how fortunate I am, and I will be less selfish. I can’t wait to come back next year. Thank you for helping us have such a great mission trip.

Madison Stacy

This has been a really great week. I have met a lot of new people and learned a lot of things. I saw things like how some people live in this world with nothing at all but a few clothes and a really small house. The kids had hardly any toys, and I realized how much I appreciate what I have in my life.

Chris Lloyd

This week has been an awesome week. Helping these people gave you such a good feeling. It was amazing how much these people changed. This was the best mission trip. **Jack Radford**

This whole week has been life-changing. It made me realize even more how good I really have it. It breaks my heart to see those people having to live like that and it makes you want to do as much as you can for them. No one deserves to have to sleep in a tent every night or just live in a bad condition. This week has made me realize how important Christ is and how much I need Him in my life. **Nicole Shaw**

This was the first mission trip that I have been on. I think that it has changed me in many ways. I also felt very welcomed. The older high schoolers and college students always included me, even though I was the “little kid”. I had a very fun time, both working and in free time. I was also glad that I could share it with my uncle and all my friends. At the beginning of the week, I thought that we were not getting very much done, but toward the end we all really pulled together to finish our house. Also, I really enjoyed rafting. It was cold but also a lot of fun. I hope I can come back next year and for many years to come. **Adam Knight**

This week was amazing! After all that I have experienced, I wish I would have come earlier, instead of waiting. This week has really opened my eyes to how blessed I am. I was brought so much closer to Christ after our last worship time because of the message. We were told just to listen and hear God’s plans for us. All in all, I had a great time and can’t wait for next year! **Kelsey Marr**

This week was amazing. I always love going on mission trips. I always grow closer to this great group. Mission trips always open my eyes and show me things I’ve never seen. God is amazing, and I want everyone to know that and have the chances I have to see the things He has done and will do. I don’t know what I would do without Christ, and I don’t want to find out. I want everyone to know Him. I’ve realized how blessed I am, and I’m so thankful for everything. **Catherine Lloyd**



pairing an emergency home and knew that it would help many people in the future. Our team all worked hard and worked together to accomplish a goal. That was also a blessing. **Jennifer Rhodes**

What a wonderful week! I enjoyed so much working with the two families my group was assigned to. The second house we worked on, the family there really made a strong impact on me. on a fire. Oh, it was so pitiful. We came in and made their home bright again. With a clean living room, kitchen, and new tub. And I loved how they stepped in to help. I felt so close to them and so good that their house would be livable. When we were leaving and I told John, the owner, bye he looked at me and gave me a huge hug. That moment was awesome! Knowing that he appreciated us for all that we had done for him was the best feeling I had the entire week. **Sheila Lloyd**

My first mission trip. I was very excited about sharing this with my daughter, but I was also nervous. I wasn't sure what to expect. I found that this has been one of the most important weeks in my life. I feel so blessed to be a part of such a wonderful group (family). This week has touched my heart in so many ways. Working together, sharing, crying and laughing— what a wonderful feeling. Seeing these children's faces, they were so beautiful! Making a difference in this family's life. I am so proud to have been a part of this. **Nikki Stacy**

My purpose in going on this trip and for putting my energy into ministering to this youth group is for two reasons. First, and most importantly, it is because I desire God with everything in me. I want the name of Jesus Christ to be glorified by my life. My prayer for this youth group is that God would ignite a fire into each of their hearts so that they will burn with passion for Him and Him alone. My second reason is because I genuinely love every member of this group. It is not a cheap sentimental love but a real and deep love. I care not about the outside of them but their souls and the purity of their hearts. Mark 8:36 says, "What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?" Jesus cared and still cares about the inside not the out. Psalm 73:25-26—"Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever." John Piper, a very influential pastor/theologian in my life says, "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him." Satisfying yourself in the Lord will make Him most glorified and will give you joy that far exceeds any joy that this world has to offer. Thank you for allowing me the privilege to minister to this group. It is my JOY! Stay close to the Word, **Casey Shaw**

Each trip is different but the same. Myers reaches out their loving hands to share their blessings with the less

fortunate. This trip was special in that we were able to reach more than usual simply due to the size of our group. All the kids worked extremely hard and made a difference in this community. We are an extremely blessed church family. It is a special gift to be able to share this blessing with others. **Buddy Flake**

This has been a very eventful week. We worked on an emergency home and saw it come to completion on the final day. TEAMeffort put their heart and soul into this week, working with all the groups. The testimony of Mrs. Freddy obviously touched each member of the group in some way, even those that did not work on their home. This was also a great time to get to know our new preacher, and how down to earth he is— little crazy, but a great person! This was the best group of youth I have been with since going on mission trips. **Bill Spurrier**

I want to thank God and my church family for a blessed trip to Cherokee. I was blessed by the lessons I learned from the people that we served. I was blessed by the example of our great youth. I was blessed by the experiences that I had in "being the hands and feet of Christ". We worked on re-

Cherokee, NC

July 26-31, 2009

112 hands, 112 feet, 56 hearts...

Myers Memorial Youth and adult counselors were truly the hands and feet of Christ this week. As I sit and reflect on the past week's work, I realize that not only are we making a difference in the lives of a few families who are so much less fortunate than ourselves a little better by the painting, cleaning and repairing of their homes, we are building a foundation for the youth of Myers Memorial to continue growing in their faith journey as they become young men and women. Reflecting on past mission trips, I pray that we have helped nurture and hopefully planted seeds of faith in each of the youth that have journeyed through the youth group at Myers. To the parents of these wonderful young people, job well done! Your son and/or daughter worked very hard this week making someone else's life a better, happier place to be for at least a few days. They painted, scurbed floors, and cabinets, played with little children, built bathrooms and ramps. They washed their neighbor's feet during worship, sang hymns of praise and prayed together. They shared their Christian faith with those less fortunate than themselves, without complaint, with humble regard for their fellow human. I am truly blessed to be a small part of such an amazing group. **Marcella Calvert**

After going through this amazing week with all of the families of Cherokee and our members of the youth group, I cannot help but think of all the people in our home church that helped make this possible. Yes we went out and made a huge difference in the lives of the three families that we directly made contact with. The impact on our own youth will change their lives forever. This part of their faith journey will never be

forgotten by many of them. However, none of this would be possible it were not for the generosity of such a wonderful church family. I would like to thank each one of you who unloaded or bought a pumpkin, ate a plate of spaghetti after a church service or just out of the kindness of your hearts made a generous contribution to our cause of missions. To see 56 pairs of God's hands, 56 pairs of God's feet venture out and work hard in conditions that some of us could not even comprehend living in. To work through rain and the lack of many things that we would like at our disposal, and no one gave up faith that we could make a difference! Our church family praying, supporting us and their generosity made a great difference in many lives. Just remember to **Pray As You Go**, and God will make a difference in your life as He did in many of us over this past week.

Again, thank all of you!!! **Jeff Calvert**

Being my first mission trip, I had a lot of anxiety about what to expect. I worked on the site that was a vacant house that had been gutted and rebuilt inside in order to make it into an emergency shelter for people in need on the reservation. I learned to grout floor tiles and become the "spackling queen"! By Wednesday (our last full day on the site), there was a lot of concern that we were not going to complete the projects we had set out to do at the beginning of the week. After regrouping with the leaders on Thursday morning, our entire team (Team 3 ROCKS!), we pulled together and in one half-day, finished sanding all of the plastered walls, painted the remaining 4 rooms with primer, completed the structural problems in the bathroom, painted some doors and

outside trim and cleaned up the entire inside of the house. It was a satisfying feeling knowing we had come this far in such a short period of time. I cannot complete my reminiscing without talking about the youth group at Myers. This is Caron's second year in Youth (his first mission trip), but I have not been that involved in youth activities as I'm still very involved with Slayton's at the elementary level at church. I've always admired our youth from afar and couldn't wait until Carson reached this age to participate. This week I witnessed older youth and college students including the youth in games and activities and that meant a lot to the younger ones (and the parents)! I also had great conversations with many of the youth through the week and was constantly impressed with the levels of maturity and respect with which they spoke. You, as a congregation, should be very proud of the Youth at Myers and the way they represented our church this week. God is allowing some amazing things to happen by working through Connie in her leadership of these teens. **Donna Fletcher**