

Finding a Mission Field

July 2019

What does God want me to do with my life? He has given me specific gifts and abilities. How can I use them to see His kingdom grow? These are questions all Jesus followers ask.

I remember a young man named Kevin who I brought with me on the first mission trip I ever took with Spectrum back in 2005. At the time he was a senior in high school, and he asked me a great question. He asked me, how in the midst of the grind of everyday life; going to school, walking the halls, going to practice, sitting in class, etc... how can he show God's love to people in a real way. I loved the question because it told me he was aware. It told me he wanted in on what God wanted to do in the lives of his friends and classmates. It told me he was available for God to use!

This summer Spectrum is hosting groups from all over the US, filled with people asking these very questions. Some are young and some not so young. From all different backgrounds and denominations, each with personal skills and talents, gifted to them by God. While here they will pound nails to build a house for a family in need, give piggy back rides to kids at an orphanage, and hand out a burrito to a hungry worker at the Tijuana dump. They may wash feet at an outreach, hand a bag of vegetables to a mom, play games with a kid at a VBS, or provide a hug to someone who just really needs one!



"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat..." - Matthew 25:35



Chatting with some girls who just got out of school

Over the years God has spoken to so many during their time here. I think of Joy from Michigan who God called to go. Two years later, her and her husband auctioned their house, gave their cars away, and got on a plane to run a school and an orphanage in South Sudan. John from California comes to mind. Before his trip, his pastor asked him to pray about starting a college ministry at his church. He was planning to say no, but while here God touched his heart and today they have a thriving young adult ministry there. And what happened to Kevin? He graduated from college, and six years ago replaced me as youth pastor at the



Praying for the family after they're done building their new home.



Building a home for a family in need can also build relationships on the team

church I came from. In fact he's bringing a team of students down at the end of this month to come and serve!

What did these people gain from their time at Spectrum? They saw a bit of God's heart for the poor and oppressed. They learned that simple acts of kindness, a smile, an apt word or a hug can go a long way. They felt the satisfaction of seeing their sacrifice have an impact on another human being. They discovered that by listening to God's voice and obeying what He says, He will use their unique gifts and talents in a way that lasts and makes a kingdom difference. They became people that say, "Here I am Lord, send me!"

During the months of June, July and August fifteen different groups will come to serve with us. Some for a day, some for a week. Think of the experiences they'll have, the things they'll see, and the lives they will touch. Can you pray with us that God will open up their eyes to see people the way He does? Will you ask Him for strength for our staff to be a Christ like example in loving the poor? Would you ask God to make His calling clear to them and give them the faith to respond? Thank you for all your love and support for what God is doing here. Through your prayers and giving lives will be changed, plans will be altered and eternal destinations determined! To God be the glory!

From all of us at Spectrum,

Matt Kooi
Spectrum Ministries Director



Students praying together for their week with us and for the future.

*"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."
Ephesians 2:10*