



Barfield Baptist Church Youth Ministry



Isaiah 60:1

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

To our mission partners at Concord Baptist Association,

On behalf of Barfield Baptist Church and the Rise Youth Group, thank you, thank you, thank you! It's because of your generous donation that we were able to take a trip back to Memphis and once again work with Street Reach to share the gospel with families in the inner city. This year, our trip ran from July 19<sup>th</sup> through July 24<sup>th</sup>. We took a total of 18 team members (13 youth and 5 adults). What a blessing it was to grow from our group of 13 last year. While numbers aren't our primary focus, I can't help but get excited about the fact that we had more people to love on the kids this year.

Last year we formed a strong connection with children in the Kendrick neighborhood... so naturally, we requested to be placed there again. One of the coolest experiences we had was when we first arrived on site. The kids not only remembered us, but they ran to us in excitement to greet us with hugs. It reminded us of just how much we love these kids and it got us excited to see exactly how God was going to move in and through us this year.

Each morning we ran a backyard Bible club with music, Bible story, rec, snack, and craft rotations. In the evenings, we did street cleanup, housing maintenance, and two evenings playing games and sharing our faith with children at local community centers.

This year we came to understand a little more about the problems that some of these families face and as we continue to learn more about their lives, we have come to understand how important it is to remember that not all families that live here are lost. Not all families are involved in crime, drugs, gang violence, abuse, or prostitution. In fact, I believe some of the strongest Christian people in America live here. However, it is also important to note that while some families are not involved in these things, ALL families are affected by it.

Our mission this year was to encourage those who were living faithfully to press on by pointing them back to Christ while at the same time introducing Christ to those who may not know (or care to know) Him yet.

I'm excited to report that during our time there, we had one child rededicate his life and two girls accept Christ. Your partnership in this ministry is changing lives. Once again, thank you for your support. We couldn't have done it without you. As always, we can't wait until next year!

In His service,

Matthew Anderson

Matthew Anderson and the RISE Youth Group

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