



**Isaiah 60:1**

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

To our mission partners at the Concord Baptist Association,

Barfield Baptist Church and the Rise youth group would like to thank you for being such a large part of our recent mission trip to Memphis, TN. Our trip ran from July 20<sup>th</sup> through July 25<sup>th</sup> where we took a team of 13 (10 youth and 3 adults) to reach out to children, young adults, and seniors who live in the most impoverished and crime ridden areas of the city. While there, we partnered with a local ministry called Street Reach which has been reaching these areas with the gospel for over 20 years.

We stayed at the Brinkley Heights Urban Academy which is a ministry that was launched out of the Street Reach program. BHUA strives to provide a first class, no cost, gospel centered education to high risk children who come from families that involve extreme poverty, child neglect, drug addictions, and/or gang violence.

Though we stayed on the BHUA campus, we actually served on the Street Reach side of their ministry. While the overarching goal of BHUA is to educate children in a Christ centered way, the primary goal of Street Reach is to build Godly relationships with the families right where they are; right in the midst of the communities and neighborhoods where they live. This is where the visiting mission teams come in. They use teams like ours to support and work alongside the staff that are building on these relationships year around.

While there, we participated in various forms of outreach. Each morning we ran a backyard Bible club in a nearby neighborhood. It was during this process that we were able to meet and minister to about 50 children from the ages of 2-12 years old. In the afternoons we would rotate through other service opportunities such as visiting an assisted living home, playing basketball with kids from the street, maintaining and cleaning BHUA, and hosting an activity club in a nearby neighborhood for children up to age 16.

We had one child accept Christ into his life and many others who expressed interest in learning more. Because Street Reach carries this ministry out year around, we are confident that God will use them to bring these other children to Him as well. People in these communities can't help but see the love of God in the lives of the Street Reach staff and the mission teams that come in. We were blessed to be a part of what God is doing there.

Our mission team came back from this trip with a renewed focus and excitement for reaching the lost and we can't wait to implement some of these ministries into our community in Murfreesboro as well.

Thanks again for your support! God willing, we will soon be headed back to Memphis to see our kids again!

In His Service,  
Matthew Anderson and the RISE Youth Group,

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