

Q & A

1. What did you do on your mission trip down in Chicago?

Okay, so one of the main things we did in Chicago was helping out with a day camp called “Jackson Park Day Camp”. Every kid in the camp was African American and it was kind of awkward at first having a bunch of Chinese kids come in...but they accepted us very quickly and I got to know many of them. The children were separated by age group and gender. The range was from kindergarten to grade six. Almost all of them were very curious to find out if we came from Japan or China. Some even started bowing...you know, like Ancient Chinese people did? (Which I thought was very awkward)! A few of the camp kids knew that we came from a church because the previous group of helpers did too. However, we were not aloud to talk about God, or any other religion. But we still showed God’s love toward the kids through our actions.

Another main thing we experienced during the trip was how we see homeless people. Many of us today would carelessly walk past a homeless person thinking they are an “object” just sitting there—that’s how I saw it before I “opened” my eyes. During our trip we had to step out of our comfort zone and interact with the homeless. Even if we didn’t talk to them, we still have them a simple “hello” or smile. Many homeless people that I got a chance to talk to had a story, and I figured that they are just like you and me—God’s children.

2. Did you experience God working during your trip? If yes, how?

YES! God was with us the whole time, guiding us through everything we do. One of the major things that hit me was when we were helping out at the first soup kitchen, called “Marquard”. This kitchen served dinner to over 100 guests!! I thought that the meal would be like a gooey gunk that had been twenty years old BUT I WAS WRONG. The food there looked delicious and was beyond what I thought it was going to look like. God had provided good and nutritious food for the people who cannot afford their own meals. Almost all of the guests that had finished their meals came up to us to thank us for what we were doing—this HAD to be God working in them and with the soup kitchen! Not only the soup kitchen, but God was working through out the camp kids too. The first day there was a lot of violence between the kids and arguments. On the last day everyone was together and new friendships had formed.

3. What did you learn from your mission trip?

Going into this mission’s trip I was prepared to soak everything up and to cherish each moment. I have learnt many things and am willing to share with anyone that would like to listen. One of the major things that I have learnt is to be more patient. One of the activities we did was called “meet a need” where we have a bag of toiletries and were handing them out to people who need them. Some of the people saw that we had “stuff to hand out” but that wasn’t the point of the activity. It was to communicate with the homeless or anyone—to know *their* story and the background they came from. I had to be patient to the people who kept asking for “free” stuff. After talking to them for a while, getting to know them and why they were on the streets... we asked:

“What do you really need from this bag?”

I was surprised by the answer. All of them replied some what similar to this answer “to be honest, nothing”. The people on the streets just needed someone to talk to! Not people that give them dirty looks and to be ignored! The thing they really need is God. Oh, we ended up giving them soap anyways because they said they could also make use of it.

4. What was your best experience from the trip? What was your most challenging experience?

Ummm, my best experience would have to be helping out with the soup kitchens. I say this because I got to talk to some of the people there, and it turns out that they are actually very friendly people that have great senses of humor! Oh, and also trying different kinds of food was a great experience! We tried: Puerto-Rican, Greek, Indian and Lebanese. The most challenging experience would have to be stepping out of my comfort zone at first when we had to go up to strangers and start conversations. After a few conversations I began to get use to randomly talking to people I didn’t know on the street, so it was all good. Working with the children the first day was a bit rough too, but we soon got use to it and they got use to us too.

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Here's pictures of some of the camp kids if you need it.



and our team!

Anna K

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