

ENGAGING DISCIPLESHIP

Open My Eyes, My Heart, My Hands MARK 10:46-52

America for Christ Offering 2012

Youth Engaged: Hands of Compassion and Service

The youth of Prairie Baptist Church, Prairie Village, Kan., not only opened their hearts but also became the hands of Christ on a mission trip during the American Baptist Churches USA 2011 Biennial in Puerto Rico in June. While displaying compassion, openness, friendship and hospitality, they participated in building and painting projects at Las Cruces Retreat Center in Cayey and First Baptist Church of Santurce in San Juan.

“In the way they cared for each other and performed simple acts of kindness for the ‘least of these,’ they displayed the face of God,” says Craig Zahnd, the youth group’s adult leader.

Eleventh-grader Katy Kesler says the work was gratifying. “How often can you build a worship center? I’m so grateful that we’ve had these opportunities that are so rare to find,” she says. “I grew spiritually and closer to my group on this trip.”



Mission trips are indisputably important and especially significant to opening the eyes of young people. “Our faith journey is about becoming people who go out, helping people,”

says Kyle Gardner, associate pastor. “A mission trip gives our youth a chance to join the bigger picture of what God is doing in the world, and then share that experience with others.”

Your gifts to America for Christ make mission trips possible. Volunteer Ministries of American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) facilitates individual volunteer missionary appointments, summer service opportunities, group mission experiences, specialized service projects and disaster response. Grants are available to groups and appointed volunteers. To learn more, contact Victoria Goff, national coordinator, at 1-800-222-3872, x2449, or victoria.goff@abhms.org or visit ABHMS’ home page at www.abhms.org and click “Volunteer Opportunities.”

AFC'12

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