

The Primacy of Missions

There's something about experiencing God work through you as you serve others even in small, everyday, practical ways. There's something magical about seeing a 13-year-old understand that a great big world is out there and it doesn't revolve around him. It's powerful to witness God call a high school girl to a life of service. These life-changing interactions with God are the primary fruits of youth mission trips.

God so often uses the times when we're serving away from home to reveal who he is, especially to teenagers. There's something about navigating a foreign situation (domestic or international), experiencing a different culture, and having

time to think, worship, and listen that can change the course of a life or the direction of a ministry. Do these experiences always "stick" or result in immediate life-altering changes? No. But what single experience in youth ministry does?

The experience of serving others (when combined with weekly meetings, retreats, camps, big events, and Sunday worship services) are often the foundation we lay for nurturing followers of Jesus long after they've "left" our youth ministries. So please go to concerts, lock-ins, national gatherings, and retreats—but don't forget the inherit power of service.

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