

## The power of serving together

*This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.*

(Titus 3:8)

*When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.* (Romans 12:13)

Many of us have been privileged to take part in missions trips.

I was part of a group that travelled to Russia soon after the Iron Curtain fell. We spent a week in the Siberian city of Angarsk, where we did school assemblies during the day and evangelistic events in the evenings. We saw thousands come to Christ.

In 1998, I went to Haiti with a group of pastors to help Mission of Mercy there. We visited villages that were terrorized by powerful voodoo priests. We visited orphanages that were heartbreaking. We watched as Christian brothers and sisters who had nothing danced before the Lord as if they were rich.

While I am grateful for the Kingdom impact of any missions trip I've ever been a part of, the memories I return to (and the subject of most of the photos, to be honest) are of the people I travelled with. I made many new friends. The friendships I had before the trips were strengthened and enriched. I learned that powerful relationships are forged when we serve together.

As we endeavor to Serve Our City our primary motivation will always be to communicate the love of Jesus to a lost world. We are also aware, though, that our fellowship will benefit, and individual relationships will blossom as we join together, to sacrificially serve people we do not know.

Tomorrow is the Lord's Day. I trust you are preparing your hearts and minds to receive what the Lord has for you. Too, I pray that you are thinking about what you might bring to invest in the lives of others. This is the "magic" of church.

### Pray

Lord, You laid your life down for us and You called us—Your children—to follow Your example (Matthew 16:24-25). Thank you for a group of people whom You have called to travel this journey together. May I encourage them as they encourage me.

**DAY 20**  
Saturday, January 27th

### RECURRING NEEDS

Revival  
Repentance  
Wisdom  
Marriages  
Families  
Sick/Grieving  
Depression/Mental illness  
City Church  
Church leaders  
Children  
Youth  
Singles  
Senior citizens  
Volunteers  
Teachers and support staff  
Emergency personnel  
Business community  
Elected officials  
Missionaries  
Worldwide church  
The lost

### REFLECTIONS

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