

MEET JOSH FARRELL

AS THE CHILD OF MISSIONARY PARENTS, JOSH FARRELL GREW UP IN SOME PRETTY INTERESTING PLACES. AS A BOY HE LIVED IN CAMEROON, AFRICA, AS WELL AS SCOTLAND, TO NAME JUST A FEW.



Josh and his family moved back to Northwest Arkansas as Josh was finishing up elementary school, when his father took a position on the staff at Central United Methodist Church in Fayetteville. Now a college student, Josh continues to embrace a lifestyle serving others and glorifying God. Most recently, he spent time on the Amazon River with a group of American and Colombian citizens this past July, offering medical and dental care for over 600 people a day from remote villages along the Amazon in Columbia.

Josh was introduced to U of A Wesley by a friend who served alongside him on a prior mission trip to the Amazon. "I felt that I was growing stagnant in my faith beginning in my freshman year. I had attended a few Christian events on campus but didn't feel a real sense of connection. Jordan Myatt told me I should check out Wesley." Even though he felt a little nervous about trying out yet another Christian organization on campus, Josh showed up at the Wesley House one Tuesday night for dinner and worship. "I still felt kind of nervous and didn't get too involved my freshman year, but over the course of just showing up, I began to realize how welcomed and at home I felt."

Today, Josh is a huge fan of Wesley. "Tuesday night worship is awesome and it just keeps growing!" He looks forward to staying involved on Tuesday nights as well as being a leader with the Freshmen Ministry this fall. Josh feels Wesley can be a critical support for freshmen as they grapple with new challenges, such as being away from home for the first time. He was part of the student team which wrote invitation letters and cards to incoming freshmen and looks forward to connecting with them in

person. "It's really important to get involved in a group or activity in college that keeps you grounded," says Josh. He believes it's important to pay forward the blessings he has received, by introducing Wesley to others.

Regarding mission trips, Josh readily admits "they're no vacation" but believes everyone should participate in an overseas mission trip at least once. "It makes you so thankful for everything you have. You realize that people who have far fewer possessions and conveniences than we do in the U.S. are often more at peace and hungry for the Word of God than we seem to be here." He is always amazed at the patience and peacefulness of the villagers who stand in line in the heat for hours to get medical attention, then express how grateful they are. In addition to serving the medical and dental needs of over 2,400 people, the team Josh served with on his most recent trip conducted worship services each evening, gave Christian coloring books to over 600 children, prayed for each and every individual who came to the clinic, and witnessed over 750 people commit their lives to Jesus. He recalls being particularly touched by 21 soldiers and 7 police officers who asked about the gospel and wanted Bibles, as a result of seeing the compassion and help given to the villagers. "All of the Columbians I met were surprised and pleased that people would come from the U.S. to help people in their country."

When Josh returns to the U of A for his Junior year in Food Science this fall, one thing is certain. He carries the memories and experience of serving others around the world in his heart, and brings that same passion and Christlike love to those he encounters at U of A Wesley.