

March Newsletter Mission - helping every church take bold next steps.

As I am in mission trip planning, I am thinking about what is best for my group and those we are going to serve. I want to make sure the mission trip is a point of growth for my students, but also impactful and helpful for those we are serving. As I was going through this process, I came across the account of Paul and Barnabas after their first missionary journey. Acts 14:27 tells us that upon arriving in Antioch, they “gathered the church together.” The account of what has happened on our mission trips is always an afterthought for me. This made me pause and evaluate the impact the testimonies of a mission trip can have on our congregations.

How often are youth mission trips something churches just “do”? But what if we were to be intentional with how we share about our mission trips, so our churches are challenged to be on mission themselves? The church in Antioch was motivated to send Paul and Barnabas out. The account of their missionary journey engaged the church and launched the conversation of who can be saved which led to a fervent mission to reach the Gentiles.

How can we as Youth Pastors and leaders help our students see the importance of their testimonies as they tell our congregation how the Lord worked in and through them? Can this be done in a way that stirs them up and calls them to action? Isn't the next bold step for our churches to be on a mission rather than simply sending students out for the sake of sending students out? I would appreciate any feedback on how you communicate with your church what God has done on your mission trips, and effective pointers.