

Reflections on the Pittsburgh Mission - by Eden Kim

In 2012, I was blessed with the opportunity to go on a mission trip to Wilkesburg, Pennsylvania through RP Missions. Wilkesburg is a burrow in Allegheny County adjacent to Pittsburgh and has a significant amount of poverty and a rapidly declining population. Because this was my first mission trip, I originally chose this trip to stay close to home and work with people whom I was familiar with. However, this trip caused me to grow and face challenges more than almost any experience in my life.

Our team worked under the leadership of Covenant Fellowship Reformed Presbyterian Church located in Wilkesburg. Between street evangelism, weekly Kid's Zone, weeding and boarding abandoned houses, planning and running a week long VBS for over 50 children, we never found ourselves bored. There were so many different ministries that is difficult to describe them all in detail. It was incredible to see how the Covenant Fellowship congregation committed their lives to service work in Wilkesburg. Many families have lived in the city for years and are daily involved with the community.

One special event that the mission team planned was a girl's night. We spent a lot of time decorating part of the church, and we invited middle school girls from the community to night full of fellowship, food, and a time of testimony. We had many girls who were excited to participate and listen to the testimonies given.



Another way that we spent our time was being with the neighborhood children. On one of these particular instances, I was playing outside with three of the neighborhood girls and we collected flowers from the church and made a small bouquet. As we did so, the girls were just so happy to talk about anything. They all came from hard homes and were glad for the love and time that we gave to them. Near the end of making our bouquet, one girl asked me about the bracelet I was wearing. It was a gospel bracelet that was given to me by a dear friend. I proceeded to share the gospel with these three girls. It was small instances like this which showed the need for those to serve in this city, and I will always be thankful for the time I had to serve in Wilkesburg.

The work that God is doing in Wilkesburg is incredible. I am eternally grateful for the opportunity that He gave me to be a part of that Kingdom work. This is an ongoing part of Christ's church with many faithful servants laboring daily with the people of Wilkesburg. I highly recommend this trip as it will challenge you to grow in your faith both by the ministries you carry out and the example of those who dedicate their lives to this work. Please pray and consider if God is calling you to serve Him in this specific mission field for a summer. To apply to this trip please go to www.rpmissions.org/apply.

In Christ,

Eden