

January 30, 2024

Dear Grace Family,

I sincerely thank you for your prayers and financial support of our high school students on past mission trips. I have heard of your support throughout the years and I am taken aback by your generosity. Your efforts have not only gone to support our students on mission, but they have worked to the advancement of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and for that alone I praise God! Your support of our students in past years has not only produced fruit that continues to multiply in Holguin, Savannah, Chattanooga, and Cuba, but your investments also continue to bear fruit in the lives of our students as they are again responding to the opportunity to serve and make known the name of Jesus. Because of your investment, whether prayerful or financial, our students' lives are being eternally changed in ways we will not know the full impact of until we are with our Savior in heaven.

In considering the opportunity before us and in response to our Lord's command in Matthew 28:18-20, a team of 40 students and leaders will be going to Knoxville, Tennessee in partnership with Mission Serve and other local churches. This is our second trip to the state of Tennessee as our students served two years ago in Chattanooga. We will be serving one full week (July 7-13, 2024) in and around the city of Knoxville. Our scope of work will be primarily working on construction projects, building ramps, and replacing roofs on houses. There will also be opportunities to serve the local community in local food banks and homeless shelters. Though we will be working with our hands, our mission centers on the work of our hearts as we will be seeking to share the love of Jesus with those whom we serve, sharing the good, powerful, and saving message of the gospel.

Our biggest need for support is prayer. We need prayer, and it is the most impactful way you can help. Paul reminds us in Galatians that the Christian life is evidenced by the fruits of the Spirit. Prayer is the means by which we show that our reliance is solely on the work of the Holy Spirit within us. Will you pray that God will pour out his Spirit to those who need salvation? Will you pray that our team will be empowered by the Spirit to accomplish God's will and work? Will you pray for our team as we prepare to serve people God knows and loves, even though we have yet to meet them? We cannot accomplish God's work without God supplying his power through his Spirit.

As you pray, some of you may desire to be financial partners in the sending of our team. The cost of the trip is \$500 per team member. Our team members have committed to raising at least 20% of their expenses outside of GCC and are already hard at work raising funds.

We are praying that God will raise up a group of people from within our church who will help the families of our students with this cost. If 80 people within our church were led to give \$200, each person's balance would be paid. If you feel led to give, will you ask the Lord how much?

As you pray, if you feel led to be a financial partner in sending our team, you can do so at the church building or online. Gifts can be put in the offering box or mailed to PO Box 1505, Angier, NC 27501. Checks should be made out to GCC with "Youth Missions" written on the memo line. You may also give securely online at graceccnc.org/knoxville. All gifts are tax-deductible. The total amount given will be divided evenly and offered to the members of our team. To help us prepare, a support deadline is set for Sunday, April 14th.

As the team leader, you may contact me with any questions. I believe you will find great joy and purpose in sending our team to Knoxville with prayer. Enclosed with this letter is a mission team card with the names of our team members along with our mission and tasks to help you remember to pray for us. I am thankful to the Lord for your support for our team and I am excited to see what the Lord will accomplish through this team in Knoxville!

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "KM".

Kyler Martin
Next Generation Pastor
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