

Hi Pastor Paul!

I wonder if you really realized the impact you made on the young people on our work crew. I am attaching their writings, which they and I shared during our church service today, as you were mentioned often. As it says in 1 Corinthians 6 – “I, Paul, planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.” The church grows from each person doing their little part in planting or nurturing others. I just wanted to say thanks so much for being there and taking an interest in the boys, and being an example of a Godly man. Kids just don’t get a chance to see that often, and it was so good to have you there. God used you, and will continue to use you for His purposes – you truly are an inspirational pastor. May God bless you and your ministry.

Sue Guilmain

Alex

Hi I am Alex Mowry, and I am a High School junior, who went to New Jersey because my grandparents, Joan and Richard Mowry, thought it would be a good idea. I had gone to Canonicus when I was younger, so I thought this might be a kind of adult camp experience, especially because we stayed in a Methodist church camp, while we worked.

I worked to rebuild a house destroyed by Hurricane Sandy in October 2012 and worked with a team of great people but one that sticks out the most was pastor Paul and the amazing stories he had to share.

When asked what impact the trip had on my faith, I felt that the trip renewed and restored my faith. I felt God used me in the reconstruction work on the house. I am not sure it changed my thinking in any way but it was a great experience for my life.

I was given money and used it for a gift of a pocket knife like the one we showed during Children’s Chat. It was for Pastor Paul, because he was such a great and inspirational leader.

Hi, I am Andrew Guilmain, and I am 16 years old and a Junior in High school. When I went to New Jersey I mainly worked to rebuild a home destroyed by hurricane Sandy, 1 ½ years ago. I did dry walling and had never done it before.

I tore down a ceiling, carried furniture, and did other construction jobs. I met some amazing people from North Dakota, who came to “repair it forward.” They had floods in their city, and many homes there were damaged, but those people came to help others on the East Coast.

The motivation of other workers was so uplifting. Our supervisors, Pastor Paul, Barry, and the other men were uplifting examples to me of Godly men.

The trip impacted my faith because it really showed me how far people are willing to go for other people to do God’s work. I shared my faith with others. It was great to see other people who were not exposed to church, to experience God’s presence.

I felt like God used me to show other people there is hope and there is faith. People who have experienced hard times don’t need to give up, because someone, like us, was there to give them hope.

I think I saw God at work the entire time I was there, with us and with the other teams. Other teams were leading devotionals, and had leaders in faith to set an example, just like our team had.

We were each given money to use for someone or something where we saw a need. Matt and I pooled our money and used it to thank someone for all the hard work she was doing, because we really wanted her to know she was appreciated.

It was a little nerve wracking for me to be asked to lead a devotional on the streets of Ocean City New Jersey, because I don't like public speaking. But in the end it was rejuvenating and it felt really good to do it. I was glad I did that.

This experience made me look at the world and say it is not as bad a place as it is made out to be. It is a good place with good people. I definitely would love to go back because it was such a great feeling to be part of God's work and of something big.

### **Andrew Guilmain**

Hi – My name is Josh Mowry, and I am a junior in Smithfield High School. I went to New Jersey because my grandmother thought it would be a good idea, and I know she prays for me. I worked putting up dry wall, mainly measuring, cutting and screwing it in place. I also built shelves in a storage unit.

I met a lot of cool people while I was there. The one person who stood out was Pastor Paul, from Pennsylvania. He really impressed me with his stories.

My family doesn't usually go to church, but this trip definitely enhanced my faith. It made me feel God is alive and working in the world today. Most kids I know wouldn't go and do things for others like this trip. So it was great to see and meet other people who have faith in God, both other kids my age and adults who use their faith to go out and do things for other people.

I was asked if I felt God used me, and how. I do feel He used me to do what I had to do, to get the job done and help get a homeowner back into her home. He often put me in the right places at just the right time. I am not sure if this experience changed my life, but it definitely showed me there are other people out there who want to help others. I definitely will go on to try and help people, even in my hometown, as much as possible.

The money I was trusted with, was used partly in New Jersey, given to a homeless man I saw on the street. The rest of it went to a friend I know who is also homeless – He lost his job and his house. So I gave him the money to stay a night somewhere. I saw someone in need, and was able to meet those needs at home in Rhode Island.

### **Josh Mowry**

Facts:

22,000 people in New Jersey are STILL out of their homes following Hurricane Sandy, October 30, 2012.

Methodist church of New Jersey is pairing with Catholics and Baptists and others to repair 300 home in New Jersey – we worked with them on 3 different homes in Cape May, the southern tip of the state.

## “God Things”

All 4 boys prayed to accept Christ or rededicate their life during the drive down to New Jersey.

Alex and Josh were walking by the kitchen on a Saturday night when we arrived, exhausted, with a truckload of groceries to be hauled in. God put them in the right place at the right time.

God protected our car from a near fatal collision, when we were making a turn, and another car came speeding around the bend, and missed us by inches. We know people were praying for our safety that day!

We were scheduled to cook a barbeque dinner on Sunday but found there was no grill. Someone from the community, who came to church Sunday morning, out of the blue asked if we could use a large grill for the week.

Our 6 hour drive turned into 9 ½ hours, and Kelly and crew had to shop and cook for 45 people as soon as we arrived. Yet Kelly and Roger served excellent meals –tacos, kabobs, chowder, salads, lasagna, and even a turkey thanksgiving dinner – which all fell together, despite changes, challenges and frustrations. We ate well and had healthy options.

God put a great pastor, Pastor Paul from Pennsylvania on our team with a heart for “Feeding the lambs.” He spent time talking and working with our teens, and touched them in different ways.

One member of our team was hearing impaired. God put her with someone who could communicate easily with her. He also spoke to her through a Methodist pastor who spoke about how hearing impaired people pray with eyes open, as they hear better that way. That resounded with her and affirmed what she had learned but was feeling a bit guilty about – she did hear and pray better with eyes open.

When I was especially discouraged at the end of one day, that tho work on the house was not up to the standards I hoped, I prayed that God would send someone to see and comfort me. And minutes later, the Coordinator, Denise came by to hug, talk and encourage me. She reminded me that my purpose was not necessarily just to build that physical, storm damaged house, but perhaps His purpose was a bigger part of building God’s house or kingdom. God used her, and He used each of us in so many ways that one week. The prayers of each one back home, and the support from fellow workers made this trip truly God-centered. Thanks YOU from all of us, for your support of Missions, for your prayers, and for being a part of a Mission focused church.