

In Rhythm

Stories From Appalachia: How Did We See God?



Christian Ely (L) and Casey Evans (R) working on Miss Eastie's roof

For this month's article, I'd like to revisit the youth spring break trip to Maytown, Kentucky. For the most part, I'll let the kids tell the story with their reflections on how they saw God that week.

As I look back, I'm amazed at how we even made it through the week. Despite lack of sleep, bad colds, injuries and stomach ailments, our group was able to re-roof Miss Eastie's house, rebuild a deck ramp at Miss Ann's, repair the Maytown Center's water heater while also completing several other much needed maintenance projects there. And it was all done with great joy!

How? What comes to mind is this: "We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us." - II Corinthians 4:7-8.

So, how did we see God?

"...in how our whole group kept a positive attitude whatever the situation was. When there were problems, we solved them and even made jokes out of them. This cooperation does not occur often." - *Connor Guingrich*

"I saw God in the way he protected us." - *Trent Bond*

"I saw God in my group that made the walkway for Miss Ann. Everybody got along and worked together. We all had a great time." - *Kyle Foley*

"I saw God in all of the helpers and adults who were patient with us." - *Jordan McGuckin*

"I saw God this week in all of us. We all worked hard and we were the hands of God which helped us all get away from our everyday lives and get back on track with Christ." - *Parker Wray*

"I mostly saw it with the people that helped out with the work we did, people who didn't have to help but did anyway." - *Braeden Brown*

"I saw God through our patience. Even when we got tired and frustrated, we were able to find a way to be focused and we worked together." - *Noelle Turner-Ball*

"He was so present this week in the way everyone got along and in the people we met in Maytown. I'm so thankful for experiences like these." - *Erin Clark*

"I saw God when we were working on projects and when we were talking and playing. God was everywhere." - *Tanja Engen*

"I saw God in mainly two people that interacted with the kids we were with. (Jessica Harding and Jenny Smith) ...Their energy was unbelievable." - *Emma Lawson*

"Maytown, Kentucky is a small town, so yearning for the love and affection of God....(which) we showed them. They taught us so much as well." - *Jenny Smith*

"I saw God in an answered prayer. A distraught young mother lost her car key. The key was found in the most unlikely place. We were able to witness and pray with her." - *Marilyn Bond*

"I saw God in Miss Eastie's contentedness in living. She has no family members, no visitors and her house is falling apart and she is still happy." - *Jessica Harding*

"I saw God in Miss Eastie. She was always happy and positive." - *Casey Evans*

"I saw God this week when myself and

a small group of others stayed up late helping roof Miss Eastie's house....We stayed from 8:30 a.m. to 8:45 p.m.... None of us ever complained ...God gave us all the strength to get through the job we had at hand." - *Christian Ely*

"I saw God when people gave extra time to work while other people left early to have dinner, just to finish a job that they knew was important." - *Kelsey Conley*

"I saw God this week in all of us for getting up in the morning." - *Nick Harding*

"I saw God on Thursday. I was in a really bummed mood, but later God reminded me of how I was working for him and that I should be joyful." - *Mike Smith*

"This week I saw God in Ryan, mainly. He showed me that even though things are frustrating, God is there." - *Zach Turner-Ball*

"My week is hard to explain, but let's just say that Kentucky got louder." - *Noodle Newlin*

"I saw God when we all got together for night worship service." - *Ashton Withers*

"I saw God in our small group. We all shared our stories and listened closely and cried together." - *Konnor Graber*

"I saw God this week on our mission trip by uniting Nashville's youth and adults." - *Melinda Lawson*

"I wish everyone could hear what their children said each night. It was truly amazing and wonderful." - *Debbie Harding*

These are only snippets of some of the stories. For full versions of your kids' reflections, please visit the NCC website at: www.nashvillecc.org.

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