

## NEW YORK MISSION TRIP - 2017

Before I begin, I would like to thank everyone who continually prayed over us and those who went on this mission trip to New York. I would also like to thank everyone who donated money to us to help us financially on this mission trip.

We took off to New York bright and early on Friday morning, arrived around noon and headed to our hotel where we would stay for 2 nights before heading to the church where we would stay the rest of the week. On Friday night, we walked around Manhattan, going to Times Square, eating at a pizza place, and going up into the Empire State Building to see all of New York. We were all worn out from all the walking, but that day was nothing compared to the rest of the week. On Saturday morning, we started the day by visiting the infinity fountains where the 2 World Trade Center building used to be, and also the 9/11 memorial. The memorial was hard to walk through and comprehend everything that went on that day. A lot of emotions were going through all of us, but in comparison, are nowhere near what others experienced that sad day. After going to the memorial, we hopped on a ferry to Staten Island and were able to see the Statue of Liberty. The group split up with some viewing a Broadway play or visiting Trump Tower and Nike Town. We chose to visit Trump Tower which was a sweet experience to see a place where the President of the United States of America has spent a lot of his time. Trump Tower was loaded with Secret Service agents with AR-15s across their chest. In Trump Tower was a store called Nike Town which was 4 stories tall and full of Nike's best shoes and apparel. Once we finished there, we headed to the Rockefeller Center. After that, we headed back to the hotel for the night, where we "settled down", and by settled down, I mean all the guys gathered in one room to watch the Preds beat up on the Penguins in Game 3. On Sunday, we stayed most of the day at Grand Central Station until we got all packed up and headed to the church where we stayed the rest of the week.



The church we stayed at was the Flatbush Dutch Reform Church in Brooklyn. Nashville Christian was split up into 2 groups where each group did different things around New York throughout the rest of the week.

**Monday**, our group did a prayer tour around Brooklyn, as we went to places in Brooklyn such as Ebbets Field, which is where Jackie Robinson played baseball for years. We also went to a soup kitchen, and prayed on other places as well.

**Tuesday**, we went to a place called World Vision in the Bronx. While we were there, we packed up backpacks to provide children with supplies to school. After lunch, we packaged women's clothing as we made an assembly line and went through that very quickly. Once we finished there, we went to NYU, as we treated ourselves to a place called Cookie Do, which served cookie dough like ice cream.

**Wednesday**, we went to a garden called East New York Farms where each of us did a different job helping clean up a garden in a food desert area. Some of us picked up weeds, as others cut wood, and filled up a water tank. We then split into 2 other small groups and did something called an excursion. Our group was left with \$10 for all of us to eat, and we had to hand hygiene packs to people who were experiencing homelessness. Then we had to find our way back to the church without using our phones.

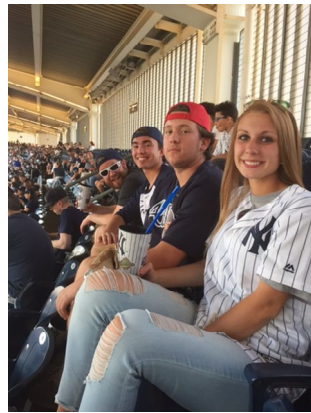
**Thursday**, we went to a place called Project Exodus, which is an after-school program helping children around the surrounding area where we all helped sort books based on their color coding.



This concluded the mission work and Friday was our last day to see other sites in New York. We got to go to Coney Island where some of us ate lunch at Nathan's Hot Dogs and some went to Wahlburgers. We all had the chance to ride a few rides, and then headed back from there to the church. Once we got back, we then headed to the Bronx, as we got to go to the Yankees game which was awesome. Mav and I, of course, are huge baseball fans so getting to go to the Yankees game with them having so much history was awesome. The Yankees ended up winning 8 - 2. We got back from the game around midnight, and had to turn around and get up in the morning to be at the airport at 3.

Overall, the mission trip was an amazing experience. We got to experience places that not many tourists get to see. We went around to the Boroughs of New York, and got to see places where people struggled on a daily basis to feed themselves and care for themselves. Much of this trip for us was breaking out of our comfort zone. Not many of us had been to New York, so getting to see less fortunate places was an experience. It was encouraging to see us provide items to those who need these items as a necessity, but the rest of us might take it for granted and not even view it that way. It was an amazing experience, and I know both of us would love to go back and go on another mission trip to New York. Those attending this mission trip from Charlotte Heights were Robbie Lewis, Kendall Lewis, Stetson Marlin, Maverick Marlin, Connie Jo Shelton, Sonja Shelton and Brady Simpson.

Written by Stetson Marlin, June 2017



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