

Each person who went on one of these trips has a blue wrist band that says "Mission Team 2010," but I really think it should say "Mission Family 2010," because that's what we are, family. If you've been in the other services you've probably heard something along these lines because, well, the family and bonds that were made over this week was a huge thing for this group, especially me.

We started out in Slidell, Louisiana, at Sovereign Grace. After one day we knew that was not where God wanted us to be. But in a way for that one day, it was. It brought us closer, formed bonds that wouldn't have been formed, and created stories that we could laugh about, especially Mike and his tiller.

That night Pastor Roger said something I'll never forget. He said as a Christian you are consenting to let others use you. They may ask you for help. And you will help them, and they may not help you back, but do not let them write "Door Mat" on you. So with that we learned and grew stronger together as a family, knowing what we were doing was pleasing to God but that we needed each other to keep going.

So we left and ended up at Camp Victor in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. The moment we walked in, we knew that this was where we were supposed to be. So the week begins. From cleaning debris, painting, putting on siding, hanging around camp, or putting coins on railroad tracks, bonds and memories were forming.

I was fortunate enough one day to get to talk to Pastor Roger for a bit, we talked some about family and I began to realize how much of family this group was. Every day they were showing me what a family should look like. Nobody was judgmental of others. You could go to anyone in the group for help or just to talk to. You weren't scared to speak your mind, and no matter what the age, you were listened to. They showed me love, kindness, respect and acceptance. There were no cliques or any drama, just one big group. I believe that's what I got to see and experience this week.

-Katie Markel

