

Please, thank you, you're welcome. Simple words, but they have a big meaning. How often do you hold the door open for people at the store? Do you always get thanked? Most of the time, no. Do you take it for granted?

Our first job site was in Slidell, Louisiana, at Mr. Dave's house. Mr. Dave was the type of guy who had 10 shovels, literally. His family were also hoarders.

He would sit in his chair, and bark orders at us. It made me feel uneasy, sort of like I was being used. He wouldn't even give the slightest amount of encouragement. It made me question why I was there. We all did hard work, all with a slight smile, and many comments under our breath and to each other.

I keep wondering if he had said "please," "thank you," "you're welcome," and used our names if we would have enjoyed his company more?

As cliché as it is, mission trips are never the same, even if the same group of people go on them. This trip was a great experience. We learned that Christians are taken advantage of, and how to stand up for ourselves. We also came together over a similar bond. They always say laughter is the best medicine, and it is. We laughed all week over our crazy Monday.

We found a new home in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, and it was a great home full of friendly people from all over the country. The week went GREAT and we painted a house very blue.

Just remember a few simple words... Please, thank you, and you're welcome. Those simple words, make the world go round.

To all the people who keep contemplating whether or not to go on a mission trip.... As Nike says... JUST DO IT! Live life by the seat of your pants, and enjoy a great week. You come back with a new family, and new memories.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the mission teams, we could not have done it without you.

And as Anteneh says... Salame, Y'all!

--- Kelley Coons