



FAITH IN ACTION

You were chosen to be free. ... Use it as an opportunity to serve each other with love. —Galatians 5:13

The 2017 Youth Venture team to Peru included participants from Colombia and the United States.

The freedom to serve

“**W**hew!” Lizzy said. “One, two, three, four, five ... and six!” All her Youth Venture participants had arrived safely at their flight’s gate. Navigating an airport can be a stressful experience in itself, but doing it while also trying to keep track of six teenagers is a whole other thing.

However, airport navigation wasn’t the biggest concern on her mind. Along with the six North American Youth Venture participants, three Colombian team members would join them in Peru. Mennonite Mission Network offers Youth Venture as a summer service experience for young adults 16 to 22 years old to discover the work that

God is doing in the world.

Group leaders Lizzy Diaz and Juan Pacheco Lozano were a little worried about how these young people from different places and countries would get along, or even communicate. Some spoke Spanish, and others English, but only a few spoke both languages.

However, once the whole team was together, they soon found ways to communicate with one another and work together at the projects put before them.

Over the two and half weeks in Peru, they assisted with children’s ministries, a painting project, and a youth camp for around 45 youth from *Iglesia Cristiana Menonita* (Mennonite Christian Church).

“This experience challenged me to think about how serving comes in different ways,” said Bizayehu Bomberger, one of the participants from North America. “There is always room to serve and show God’s love to others.”

Francisco Javier Nates, a participant from Colombia, shared that he was inspired by the speakers and testimonies at the camp. “I learned that it doesn’t matter how big your dream is if it comes from God’s hands.”

“Juan and I feel very lucky and blessed to have had the opportunity to lead such a great group,” said Lizzy. “Each participant was talented, willing, fun, and inspiring in their own way! It made the experience all the more meaningful!” ■

PRAY that the Holy Spirit may reveal opportunities to God’s people to learn to know and collaborate with one another.

PRAY that youth would feel called to serve with Youth Venture. Spots are still open for this summer. Application deadline is Apr. 1.

2018 YOUTH VENTURE LOCATIONS

*Dates subject to change.

Quito and Zábalo, Ecuador

June 13–29, 2018*
6 to 8 participants

In Quito, the team will help with painting, cleaning, and maintenance of a new church building; assist with *Vida Juvenil*, a children’s after-school program; and also help with a refugee project. The team will then travel to an off-grid Cofán village in the Ecuadorian rain forest to learn from the ministries of Jane and Jerrell Ross Richer and their family, who live and work with a small church and children’s ministries.

Barcelona, Spain

June 26–July 11, 2018*
4 to 6 participants

Participants will help teach English to *Comunidad Evangélica Menonita’s* youth and kids from the neighborhood, as well as help with the cleaning and maintenance of the church facilities.

France—FULL

June 5–19, 2018

Participants will experience a French school, learn about early Anabaptists, worship and serve in the local French church, and visit a variety of cities.

Cotonou, Benin

July 10–26, 2018*
6 to 8 participants

The Youth Venture team will join the ministry of *La Casa Grande Benin*, a Christian home for children. Participants will help with summer camp activities for more than 100 local children and for the children at *La Casa Grande*. In addition to the time with the children, there will be time to visit some places of historical significance.

Sapporo, Japan—FULL

June 27–July 11, 2018

The Youth Venture team will learn how the Christian community in Japan is affected by local economics and ecology. Participants will help grow and distribute food for their neighbors, and participate in the rhythms of prayer and work.

Iquitos, Peru

July 17–29, 2018*
4 to 6 participants

Participants will join the youth and children’s ministries of *Iglesia Cristiana Menonita*. They will add valuable extra hands to help prepare for and to assist during the yearly youth camp, and will have the opportunity to share their gifts of music, drama, and even sports.

TAP A SHOULDER

Apply or find other placements at www.MennoniteMission.net/Serve.

Embodying the church, part 2: A reason to believe

This short reflection is part two of a four-part series contributed by Joshua Garber, who serves with his wife, Alisha, and their son, Asher, in Barcelona, Spain. The Garbers will lead a Youth Venture team this summer. His series explores four core elements that light the way for faith communities as they engage in how to be the church today.

By Joshua Garber

We need to give people a reason to believe by reflecting Christ in our own lives and community. A hallmark of post-modernism is the idea that everyone carries their own truth. If, as Christ's followers, we profess we've been shown a better way, then we must be willing to back that up with practical examples. Otherwise, we're met with

the sentiment, "Well, that's nice for you." Paul said it best: "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1).

Consider:

- Who do you regularly encounter? What would Jesus do if he met them? Do that thing.
- Engage in discipleship. Who is shaping you? Who are you shaping?



- Study the life and ministry of Christ closely [read and re-read the Gospels] so you know what you're supposed to be reflecting.

Keep up-to-date with Alisha, Asher and Joshua at www.WorthwhileAdventures.org.



Out-Spokin' reunion

Were you an Out-Spokin' staff member, paid or volunteer, from 1967 to 1982? If so, you are invited to an Out-Spokin' reunion at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center, **Sept. 1-3, 2018**. Come to reconnect and share memories with nearly 100 other former staff members. Visit www.MennoniteMission.net/Out-Spokin for more information.

Cut out or fold over, post, and use this verse for contemplation and prayer over the next month.

Let us love, not in word or speech,



but in truth and action.

—1 John 3:18

Be the Gospel.



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