

# Short Term Mission Trips 2018:

## Is God Calling YOU?

Are you interested in joining a West Side short term mission team this coming summer? Three trips are being planned:

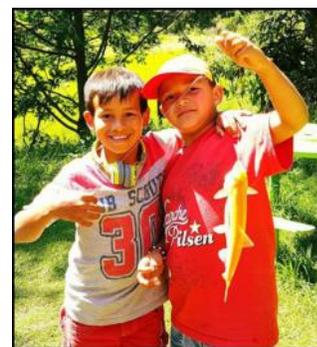


**Houston, Texas:** A Youth Deputation Team from West Side will travel to Texas July 14-21 to help restore homes for families affected by the flooding. The effect of Hurricane Harvey on the Houston area was profound, with more than 20 trillion gallons of water falling across Texas and Louisiana, which is enough water to supply New York City's needs for 50 years. Nearly 200,000 homes were damaged or destroyed by Harvey. Texas Governor Greg Abbot indicated that his state would need in excess of 125 billion dollars in federal relief money. These are just a few of the numbers. But these numbers fail to paint the most important portrait: that of the people who have been affected. They are the ones with whom we have the chance to go and share God's love by partnering with them and others to meet their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. **This trip is reserved for youth and youth advisors only.**

**Medellin, Colombia:** A new opportunity for an adult team this summer is in the works to support a life-changing ministry in Colombia, South America. **Open Arms Ministry** offers life skills education for boys on a farm in the hills above Medellin and provides healthy, hopeful alternatives to otherwise exploited young girls in the city. Our team's goals will be two-fold:

- To complete one of several rooms of a dorm facility on the farm, and
- To explore whether God may be preparing us for an ongoing partnership with this organization.

As we serve alongside the staff of Open Arms, we hope to offer supportive insight as well in the areas of education, construction, and business operations. This partnership will also benefit West Side team members as we discover how our gifts can bring blessings to this vital ministry. The directors of Open Arms, Enoc and Cristina Hernandez, will be visiting our church Jan. 21-29 (see January newsletter for more details). Our trip is planned for the **last two weeks of June.**



**Czech Republic:** As we have for the past two years, West Side will send a team to come alongside the ministry of Andrew and Amy Funka in the Czech Republic. Our team will travel to an **English language camp** in the mountains above Prague. This camp is run by Scripture Union for young people between the ages of 13-17. Our team will lead English language workshops in the mornings and participate in other activities in the afternoons and evenings. Our English language skills are greatly appreciated as many young people wish to hone their skills with native speakers. We will also come alongside these Czech youth as they hear about Christ and what it means to live the Christian faith in a country which is officially atheistic. Dates: **July 25-August 8.**

Perhaps God is calling you to be a part of one of these **two adult teams**. A variety of skills are needed:

- For the **Czech team** - A heart for Christ, some teaching/verbal skills, and a love for youth; and
- For the **Colombia team** - A heart for Christ; construction skills; and possibly a few members with education expertise, business administration and/or finance.

Both teams will be looking for people who have the ability to be supportive, team players.

**Applications are available on the Information Boards in both narthexes and at [Westside1.org](http://Westside1.org) (select "Serve," then "Missions," then "Trips." Applications are due Sun., Jan. 14.**

Questions? Contact the following:

- Ben Downey for the Youth Deputation Team - 509.946.4656,
- Karel Coppock for the Czech Team - 509.946.4656, and
- Steve Critchlow for the Colombia Team - 509.521.6704.

# Jan Term 2018

## Adult Christian Growth Classes

Sundays • Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28 • 9:45-11:00 am • WSS Room 306

Come hear firsthand from some exciting ministries working to change lives and to bring Jesus' love, hope, and healing to our community. Our guest speakers will share how God is working in our community and how West Side can extend our outreach and impact in our community.



### Jan. 7 - Flourish Mid-Columbia - Dan Wodrich

Come learn about Flourish Mid-Columbia, a missional initiative to establish a center for theological education for the 'everyday' Christian here in the Mid-Columbia region. Flourish aims to encourage, equip, and personally accompany followers of Jesus into thoughtful and wholehearted participation in His life—in all of life—in our homes, the workplace, and in our community.



### Jan. 14 - Ignite Youth Mentoring - Sheila Bader

Come hear how Ignite trains mentors to focus their time with kids, ages 8-18 years old, on forming strong values, developing social and job-related skills, and discovering God's purpose for their lives. They match kids with adult mentors through two different programs: One-to-One mentoring and Lunch Buddies. One-to-One mentors come from area churches as volunteers who commit to spending at least 6 hours per month with a young person. We invite you to hear how you could make a difference in the world, one kid at a time.



### Jan. 21 - Mirror Ministries - Tricia McFarlan

Come learn about Mirror Ministries' mission to respond to domestic minor sex trafficking, with the love of Christ, through local education, intervention, restoration, and aftercare. They operate a 24/7 hotline and their advocates walk that long road of healing with each victim through their outreach center. Their vision is to see local victims of sex trafficking become survivors who have hope, healing, and restoration.



### Jan. 28 - Grace Clinic - Avonte Jackson

Come hear about Grace Clinic's mission to share Christ's love through practical acts of compassion by providing free healthcare services to those in need in Benton and Franklin Counties and Burbank.

Their goals are:

1. To provide high quality health care and referral service as they would desire for themselves and their loved ones;
2. To look beyond the medical treatment of disease and to seek healing for the whole person in their physical, emotional, and spiritual dimensions;
3. To speak and to do that which is true and right in accord with moral and ethical principles in the Bible; and
4. To uphold and defend the dignity and value of every human as created in God's image.