

MISSION SOUTH SIDE

A Neighbor's Heart

Interns



2018 MSS Summer Interns – Brittany (Cowel) Sutterby, Maria Bocanegra, Randy Lemus, Sarah Rogg, Olga Vargas, Cody Friesen, Jonatan Ticum (LIT Specialist)

Below are some stories from the interns compiled from Ministry Letters they sent out last month. God is at work in and through these young hearts!

Brittany (Cowel) Sutterby

I've been in the journey of discovering my calling. For the past few years I have been called to learn Spanish and equip myself with the ability and education of learning a second language also known as ESL. There was a specific moment this summer that has calmed my anxiety for my calling and has cleared up worries and questions I had – such as not being able to communicate, and what grade should I desire to teach. These questions and anxiety were answered and calmed by two little boys from Eagles Point Apartments during Backyard Bible Club. In the beginning it was truly difficult and overwhelming trying to communicate with these two young boys who were in constant motion. We were having trouble even figuring out their names. This was the moment that my experience of Special Education and Elementary Education came in handy! Even though it was difficult, and I felt overwhelmed at times, we were able to find different activities to connect with each of them, and it was amazing! Throughout the week we were able to achieve more focused time and more time with them listening to the story for that day. By the end of the week, I would



be greeted with a running hug by both boys, and it was life changing. It was a challenge at times, but was definitely an amazing affirmation from God that this is where my path should lead and that being an elementary education teacher with a master's in special education is exactly where my heart desires to be. God provides and it is on HIS timing through this encounter as I was trying to figure out school, career, and what my heart truly desires in surrender to the Lord. Backyard Bible was a life changing experience that I will never forget.

Maria Bocanegra

Here is just one special story that happened while I've been an intern:



It all started with a quick exchange of a simple giggle at a Royals game. Ruben and I formed our friendship based on laughter and music. Our bond has grown throughout the summer, but my favorite memory so far has been being able to connect with him on a deeper level through the guitar. At Living Waters, (a canoe ministry where the interns, leaders, and LIT kids enjoyed camping together), Ruben showed a huge interest in music, more than ever before. At the bonfire we had, I was able to teach him to play a couple of chords. I saw how eager he was, and at that moment, it became clear to me that he is very talented and wants to learn how to uncover those talents. I began playing the guitar around his age so the sight of him being so interested and excited to learn to play made me extremely happy. So, as the summer continues, (and hopefully throughout the year), I hope to be persistent on connecting with him through music. I want to teach him, encourage him, and explore his talents with him. I ask that you pray for my friend, Ruben. Pray that the Lord truly reveals himself through his interest in music, and that he is able to serve the Lord with the talents He gave him. I also ask that you keep me in your prayers as I

continue to build relationships, not only with kids like Ruben, but with everyone I meet.

Olga Vargas

A highlight from this summer was getting to see the entire group of LIT kids grow, especially my buddy Johana. Johana was a quiet girl at the beginning of the summer when I first interacted with her. The potential she displayed from the start was inevitable to not see. One of the activities we worked on gave each of us the opportunity to choose a word we would want to take time to work on. The word Johana chose was confidence. As her accountability partner each week, I have seen her work on that in the midst of everything in the surroundings. As we met every week, we were able to encourage each other and remember our goals praying and keeping that



accountability. Her willingness to participate, share ideas, open up, and learn more about God's plan for her life shows her leadership skills emerging into the future purpose driven leader this world needs. It has been a blessing to work alongside my new Mission Southside neighbors. No matter the age, God continues to show he is working with us for his kingdom and to be able to be part of that is the greatest blessing.

Randy Lemus

I want to share the amazing experience I have discovering the Lord with all my middle school LIT friends, but my buddy Emmanuel really stood out to me. Emmanuel, right off the back on day one comes in smiling, filled with energy, and ready to dive into whatever activity we were going to do!

There are simply too many great characteristics about Emmanuel that stand out to me, but his gift of joy, confidence, and spiritual knowledge make this kid so special. Even when he is tired, Emanny smiles and cracks a joke or pun to make himself or others laugh to wake everyone up. His confidence in his answers during any activity or faith focus is amazing. He is not afraid to share his creative ideas or be himself, and the fact that he is himself all the time makes him such a strong, inspiring kid not only to his peers, but myself as an intern. The one thing that makes me appreciate this inspiring kid even more, is his ability to want to seek more of what the Lord wants to speak in his and our life. When he shares



experiences, stories, and to be exact, his testimony, he demonstrates God's role in all of it! Emmanu's knowledge of the bible can be seen how he applies it in his life. He is in love with his heavenly Father, and I am glad the Holy Spirit is working in me as well through my brother Emanny! I am glad we have been able to grow together this summer, and I want to continue building relationships with Emmanu and my other fellow friends! I love and enjoy sharing the Good News with such wonderful kids seeking the Lord!

Sarah Rogg

My internship with Mission Southside has given me the opportunity to grow and share my faith in ways I couldn't even imagine. Every Tuesday night during the summer, Mission Southside hosts a sports night where kids from the surrounding communities and apartment complexes can come and play sports like soccer, volleyball, baseball, and football. After playing a sport for a while, the kids are fed dinner, and we have a speaker share about God. After one of these speakers talked about God's grace and forgiveness, we all went back to playing our various sports. I was playing soccer with the younger kids and the goalie, a seven-year-old boy, stopped me in the middle of the game and asked, "what did that guy mean when he said God forgives us."



I stumbled for the words to explain what God's

forgiveness looks like. He kept asking questions, and I was humbled by my lack of ability to answer. Finally, he asked me a question I could answer, "Sarah, could God cut that tree in half?" I said, "Yes, He could if he wanted to, but you know why? Because he created that tree." He seemed shocked by my answer. I then told him, "God created all the trees, and you know what, He created you too!" His face lit up but he told me, "No way!" and I told him, "Yes way!" and he smiled at me with a look of awe and went back to playing soccer. I realized in that moment how often I forget to be in awe of God's creation. This young boy reminded me to never forget how amazing God is.

Cody Friesen



Much of my internship this summer involved the Sports ministry that Mission Southside offers for kids from our apartment Site Teams. One week, we had a big evening planned and we had a former player for the Kansas City Chiefs coming to speak, but the weather was a little different from what we were expecting. We decided to have the speaker come a different night and we were on the verge of canceling the event (even though MSS always says “the rain plan is the same as the dry plan – only wetter”!) We were patient as we decided to have the sports night and to love on whoever was going to show up. The grass that we were going to use was filled with puddles and mud, so we decided to only use the concrete. Even though it was raining, 25 kids still showed up and we played soccer, basketball, and volleyball on the parking lot, and eventually moved soccer to the puddle-filled grass (since we were wet anyway, and puddles just make soccer more fun!). We were slipping and sliding all around, but it was such a good time

and the kids were enjoying it so much. We usually stop about halfway into the evening to have dinner and message, but since what we had planned got changed, the interns split up and asked the first 2 questions from our discovery Bible study with a group of kids. I got to talk with a group of guys and asked them what they were thankful for. One boy said he was thankful for the rain, and that really stuck out to me because we were about to cancel because of the rain. But we kept going and the rain made for a memorable experience. Others were thankful for food (they came hungry and were glad we didn’t cancel!) We also asked what was stressful, and students opened up about things like school, friendships and difficult situations their families are facing. What a cool opportunity to encourage them to look to the Lord for strength and give it up to God. Serving in a relational way is such a key way that Mission Southside puts God’s love into action. The unfortunate circumstance of a rainy sports night actually helped us grow closer with the kids who showed up and we all got to share the experience of “slip-n-slide” soccer.

Jonatan Ticum



I moved to Olathe about seven months ago. I did not know what God had planned for me. I came to Olathe to find a college to attend to, but God had a different plan for me. The first week of living in Olathe, my cousin Thomson told me about Mission Southside and the impact that they have in the community in Olathe. I was not thinking about join Mission Southside, I had other plans. One Thursday my cousin Thomson forced me to go help in one of the programs that Mission Southside has, which is Service and Discovery. I liked how people from MSS were so passionate in helping others. During Service & Discovery I met one

guys, Ruben. Ruben is so passionate in helping others, he always is smiling and enjoying helping others. I see myself in Ruben in many ways. Ruben moved to the United States three years ago. When he first came, he did not speak English. Ruben was a shy guy with big ideas and with a willing heart to help those in need. Ruben and I have kind of the same story. I moved three years ago to the United States. I did not speak any word in English when I moved. I felt a connection when Ruben told me his story and he became my buddy in this amazing journey in Leaders In Training.

In our canoe trip to Living Waters, Ruben was nervous about flipping the canoe or drawing. Ruben drowned before and he was scared of repeating the same situation in our canoe trip. He was counting on God and me to take care of him while we were in the river. I told him to not be scared and trust God in all the time. Thankfully the canoe trip was amazing. The night before we prayed to God if He could let us see an eagle. The next day an eagle flew over us and we saw how much God loves us. Ruben was smiling and enjoying the trip that he forgot that we were in a canoe. I was so happy to see how God showed His love by letting us see an eagle.



The next day we had our devotional and Ruben was just asking questions about God and how we can help others. I could not answer all Ruben's questions but I was so happy to see Ruben wanting to know more about God.

I love how God proves us wrong. God has an amazing way to show us His love. I love God for everything that he has done in my life. I know that my plans might not go as I wish but I know that God has bigger and better plans for me.