

如果沒有經歷過「宣教之旅」，就錯過了人生重要的一課。

體驗「宣教」並不難，可以從自己的家庭開始。大部分的時間我們都在家裡與家人在一起，因此，這是我們事工的一個重要的宣教領域。聖經記載，主耶穌為許多家庭行了神蹟。有一次，耶穌使一個管會堂的女兒從死裡復活（馬太福音 9：18-26）。另一次，耶穌在法利賽人的首領家中治好了一名患水腫的人（路加福音 14：1-4）。又有一次，耶穌使寡婦的兒子從死裡復活（路加福音 7：11-18）。顯然，不僅被治癒的人通過耶穌體驗了神，他們的家人也是如此！就像耶穌如何把福音帶給家人一樣，我們也可以在自己家裡做同樣的事情。通常，我們關注的是外人，與我們不同的人，而忘記了我們最親近、最容易聯繫的人，也就是我們的家人！我們不僅最了解他們，而且我們還與他們生活在一起，時時刻刻與他們互動。讓我們像耶穌一樣，帶領家人認識福音的真理。

把我們的孩子帶到基督面前。孩子在這個世界上最先遇到的人是誰？答案是你們-父母。你們最適合與兒女分享見證，以經歷恩典和憐憫向他們顯示神的慈愛，成為跟隨耶穌門徒的榜樣。做基督徒不容易，但有基督的扶持，這一切都值得。靠著神，克服面臨的任何挑戰。

帶你的孩子參加一次家庭宣教之旅。我們可以教他們如何走出家門，適應不同的生活節奏，沒有電視、沒有 Wii 遊戲機、沒有麥當勞、可能連手機信號也沒有。一家人睡在充氣床墊上，幫忙做飯，服事別人，打掃衛生間，教導聖經故事，修理房屋，學習新的文化，最終一起經歷神。

《甩不掉的信仰》（Sticky Faith）有一項研究得出結論，一起服事的家庭更有可能在信仰上一起成長。作為父母，教導孩子同理心、同情心、和真誠並不容易，把正確的聖經價值觀傳遞給他們就更難了。在家庭宣教旅程中，我們不僅口頭告訴他們，還用實例向他們展示。就像主耶穌，祂除了告訴我們如何正直地生活之外，還以正直地生活來教導我們。

另一項《甩不掉的信仰》研究表明，在一起談論信仰的家庭中長大的孩子，更有可能在成年後堅持信仰。我在服事青少年時學到的一件事：通常父母很難找到與孩子共同的興趣愛好，而難以進行深入的談話。家庭宣教旅行不僅為家庭提供了一起服事的機會，還通過共同的經歷發展了共同的話題，建造了持久的記憶。

為人父母最困難的事就是讓孩子離開。然而，如果你了解宣教旅程對孩子的影響，你的觀點就會改變。

我意識到，很少青少年完全理解「宣教」的含義，直到他們參與其中。我看到了宣教旅程對他們生活的影響，經歷了一起用餐、一起睡覺、一起工作、一起開車，他們變得更加親密，體會到團結的力量，也明白他們不能控制一切，有些時候是無能為力的。這些經歷開闊了他們對掌管一切的至高神的認知。宣教旅程一方面把青少年趕出了舒適區，另一方面，他們目睹了自己帶給別人的影響，而得到了力量。當他們學習神聖之愛的真正意義時，他們會獲得內在的真理和力量，這是犧牲，這意味著把別人的需要放在自己的需要之上。通過宣教之旅，青少年學習、體驗並展示上帝的神聖之愛。

If you have not experienced a “Mission Trip”, you are missing out on an important lesson in your life.

It is not hard to experience “Mission”. You can start with your own family. We spend most of our time with our family at home, therefore, it is an important mission field in our ministry. In the Bible, Jesus performed many miracles for families. On one occasion, Jesus raised a ruler’s daughter from the dead (Matthew 9:18-26). On another, Jesus cured a man of dropsy in the home of a leader of the Pharisees (Luke 14:1-4). Again another time, Jesus raised the widow’s son from the dead (Luke 7:11-18). Apparently, not only did the one who was being healed experienced God through Jesus, so did their families at home! Just like how Jesus brought the Gospel to the families at their home, we can do the same in our own homes. Oftentimes, we focus on people who are outside of our homes and are different from us and forget about those who are closest to us and easiest to reach out to. That is our family! Not only do we know them the most, but we also live with them and interact with them all the time. Let us be like Jesus as we guide our family to the truth of the Gospel.

Bring our children to Christ. Who are the first people your children met in the world? The answer is YOU, parents. You are the best people to share your testimonies with your children, as well as showing God’s love through grace and mercy toward them. You can be an example of how to be a disciple who follow Jesus. Being a Christian isn’t easy, but with Christ on our side, it is all worth it. We can overcome any challenge we face with Him.

Bring your children on a family mission trip. We can show and teach them how to step out and survive the abnormal rhythm of life. During the family mission trip, there are no televisions, no Wii consoles, no McDonald's, and possibly no cell phone service as well. Families sleep on air mattresses, help prepare meals, serve others, clean bathrooms, teach bible stories, repair homes, learn new cultures, and ultimately experience God together.

A research by "Sticky Faith" concludes that families who serve together are more likely to grow in faith together. As a parent, it's not easy to teach our children empathy, compassion and sincerity. It is even harder to pass on the right Biblical values to them. On a family mission trip, we are not only verbally telling them, but also showing them by examples. Just like Jesus, besides telling us how to live righteously, He taught us by living righteously.

Another "Sticky Faith" research has shown that when kids grow up in families who talk about faith together, they are more likely to stick with faith into adulthood. One thing I learned while serving the youth is that parents often struggle with finding common interests with their children which makes it hard to carry on deeper conversations. Family mission trips not only provided families with opportunities to serve together, but also to develop some common topics through common experiences that created lasting memories.

One of the most difficult things in being a parent is to let our children go. However, if you understand the impact of a mission trip on your children, your perspective will change.

I realized that not many teens fully understood what “Mission” entails until they went on one. During a mission trip, I saw the impact on their life. They became a lot closer after spending the whole trip eating *together*, sleeping *together*, working *together*, riding in the car *together*. They realized the power of togetherness. At the same time, they also learned that there are moments where they are powerless because they can’t be in control of everything. This experience helped them in broadening their perspective of our Holy God who is truly in control. Mission trips on one hand pushed teens out of their comfort zones and on the other empowered them when they witnessed the impact they had made on others. They will be equipped with the truth and empowerment inside of them when they learn the real meaning of divine love, which is sacrificial. It means putting others’ needs before theirs. Through a mission trip, teens learn, experience, and show God’s divine love.