

EADS '24 Debrief / Testimony

Hi everyone! You are receiving this letter from me because you have signed up to support me and my mission trip called EADS within the last few months. I will be going into my testimony and takeaways from what God did through me and through the team.

To start off, I'll give some background on where my heart was leading up to EADS. My past semester in college has definitely been a journey that God has brought me through, from balancing academics, a past relationship, and serving for EADS / church on campus. It definitely has been no easy journey, and there were many times when I was doubting God and asking myself what I was doing. But looking back I realize I'm constantly learning something new about God and his character. Even in times when I think that I know enough and I start to depend more on myself, God always brings me back to a state of humility.

Yes, this is my second time attending EADS, but I am always humbled when I attend mission trips, no matter how short or how long. When I see how the people in Mexico that we serve live their everyday lives, I can't help but thank God for His blessings back at home. Many of the locals there that we ministered to work at migrant farms and live off of a few dollars per week to support their families and survive, yet they still have so much enthusiasm and their hearts towards the missionaries were always so kind.

As we began to go day by day throughout EADS, any worries that I may not be able to find joy in serving the Lord being in a leadership position began to go away. I remember praying over Psalm 51:12, which says "Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit". I wanted to share with you guys a conversation that I had with a brother that I met and prayed for while we were doing ministry at a rehab facility. He caught my eye because he seemed engaged to our ministry while sitting in the front row, and he seemed to be a similar age to me. After conversation, I found out that this brother was also 20 years old, and when I asked him why he was here, he told me he struggled with drugs and showed me marks of injections on his arm. I could tell he had a desire to grow closer to God but was struggling to break free from his drug addiction. In that moment God was revealing to me that we were no different and I felt the conviction to encourage him with this fact. We both have our own individual sins that we struggle with, but we both want to draw closer to the Lord. From interactions with locals and through prayer and response, I was reminded of the love that God had for the people here and I was able to find joy in serving Him. I was reminded of the power of the Gospel again. What Tim Keller says perfectly summarizes the heart that I felt and the message I wanted to convey:

"The gospel is this: We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope."

-Tim Keller

We were also constantly praying and interceding throughout our ministry. God revealed to me the importance of prayer when approaching times of ministry no matter how big or small. Mark 11:24, when Jesus instructs “Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours” was highlighted to me multiple times throughout the trip. When preparing for ministry, I realized that a short, half-hearted one minute prayer isn’t welcoming in God’s presence. We NEED to set up the altar rightly before God and in faith prior to doing anything else. As I led prayer topics and shared what was on my heart, I saw that praying with faith kept me and the team dependent on God and not on ourselves. It allowed God to move in whatever ministry we did, whether it was rehab, hosting VBS services, or adult services.

Leading up to EADS, my biggest prayer request for the Cornell team specifically was for genuine personal breakthrough, and finding joy in serving the Lord for the nations through exposure to the mission field. Even if it was just one member of the team, I deeply desired others to see the joy that I found and the blessings that I received when serving for the nations, God willing. Day by day throughout EADS, and hearing testimonies from my teammates afterwards, I saw that God really began to move. I could see the joy and the desire that I found in serving for the nations within my teammates. I saw walls of discomfort and insecurity coming down within individual hearts and God really taking over in whatever way He desired. All I could pray in these moments was “Thank you Lord. Thank you that your presence draws closer to us even before we try to draw closer to you.”

Looking back, I realize that I had many shortcomings while leading and many areas where I could have improved on. I felt unprepared in some aspects, prideful in others, and I felt my love for the team and even for the Lord was very conditional at times. But even through my lack, I saw that the Lord still used my willing heart. His grace covered all of my faults and God really moved powerfully within the team. Seeing other members of the team getting so blessed and encountering God in a way that they never had before had me in awe.

I want to thank you all for following along and supporting me throughout EADS. There is truly no greater honor than to be able to serve the Lord through the nations. And if you haven’t served the Lord in any capacity through the nations, I encourage you to give God a chance. He WILL use your YES.

Thank you for reading!
Samuel Park



Cornell EADS 2024 Team



After baptism!



Uziel, one of my favorite (shh)
students while I taught at this school
last year, reunited!!



Ministry at Rehab Center



Post Cornell & Pitt girls small group
+ me + Dane

