

San Antonio 2011

I want to thank everyone for supporting and sending us to San Antonio! It was an awesome experience which apart from the church's support I wouldn't have been able to attend.

I learn so much in the 4 days we were there, especially from Shane. He came from a rather feisty family and as a teenager had a hard time understanding peace and pacifism. (He said he was the kind of pacifist that "passed it out" at times.) For a long time I've struggled to understand the relationship of peace and justice and so as he talked something really stuck out to me.

He spoke of *active non-violence*, the idea that our place is between the wronged and the wrongdoer. This is what we've been called to do biblically. Basically that means we just stand where God told us to and if that means we have to resist violence we have to resist violence. We simply (simply said, not simply done) pursue peace in all situations. ~**Will Weeks**

I am truly blessed to even of had the opportunity to go to a conference like this. But when it impacts your life so dramatically, that makes the trip really worthwhile. Now I hope that what I say and do is more of a reflection of God and not what modern society has told us is right. The quote that impacted me the most was "Be the hands and feet of Jesus. Be agents of grace." This conference and that quote have given me a completely new outlook on life. ~**Alex Tuttle**

This trip to San Antonio has been a blessing for me. I would like to first thank my parents for letting me go. Not often do I have the opportunity to travel and experience the city life so I was glad I could. Lately, Jesus has been working in me in ways I do not fully understand yet. I've always been a pretty critical, judgmental, sit in the back and listen type of person believe it or not. In some cases this is good to sit back and listen, but in others I miss many opportunities to speak and share wisdom I know Christ has given me. Going to this conference, Jesus has been working in my heart to change that. At first, I wasn't learning anything. Nothing stood out to me and I wondered what was the point of going. During that time, I had wondered if perhaps God had wanted me to be there to grow closer to certain people and learn through them. Yes, I was growing, and still am, in one of my friendships but that wasn't all He had planned for me. Monday came where we headed out into the city to the downtown area. After eating at one of the restaurants for lunch, Christine and I stepped outside and we ended up meeting a homeless man. We talked for a few moments and gave him a few dollars. The expression on his face was one of gratefulness and then he told us, "God bless you." Something in talking to that man started stirring something in my heart. I'm not sure what is it, but also spending time with the people I did has been helping me to feel comfortable talking more and looking at others in a different light. The last two or so hours on the ride home talking with Aaron also was another way of God working in my heart. Then that Wednesday, a friend of mine had been going through a rough moment. We had just talked about witnessing at Lifeguard before I read her email. That night, Jesus spoke through me to her and here comes the most fantastic news: today she is now apart of Christ's kingdom. All because I spoke what God put on my heart. It's amazing what Jesus will do when you are willing to work for Him. :) ~**Ashly Arthur**

The entire time that I was in San Antonio I was thinking about a lot of stuff. But I was mostly thinking about how the way I love others and that I always waited for people to talk to me. The entire time that everyone was walking through the city, most of the people would talk to someone, but I didn't talk to anyone the entire day. The next day, I was thinking about that, and then Shane came out. I started looking at the dreadlocks, and then I started to listen to him. What I was getting out of him was a lot of what I was thinking about. I did everything on the way home that I didn't do during the week. I talked to a lot of people on the bus. God taught me to love others. That's everything that happened on the trip, and what I learned. ~**Dylan McKinney**

I think God just showed me that I don't have to understand everything. I tend to want to know everything there is. But He has taught me that He will take care of it, and that I don't have to worry about anything. I think my favorite part would be worship, because I felt like that was the time when God really talked to me. I loved the two speakers we had at the conference. They were both very funny and I think that God used them in an awesome way. I met three homeless men. Two of them, made me want to cry. The other one though, was really funny. I don't think I will forget any of them. I heard one of the guys tell me their life story. Whenever I think of him I will try to pray for him and that he stays strong. I want to do another trip like this again, as soon as I can. ~**Christine Beougher**

A running theme throughout the whole weekend was being a good witness by letting God's love flow out of us. The first speaker, Paula (who has an amazing Scottish/British accent!) talked about watching what kind of impact we have on those around us. Are we stagnant disgusting waters focused only on ourselves and consequently filled with waste? Or, are we fresh, life-giving waters with the love of God pouring out of us? Shane, the main speaker, continued this theme, talking about giving everything to those around us. Christians these days have a tendency to be judgmental and life-sucking, but Jesus himself, who alone has the power to judge, seemed to think tax collectors and "sinners" more worthy of his time than the religious leaders of the time. So, the conference really challenged me to show Christ's love to those around me. A memorable moment was our "city search" on Monday. We walked to different predetermined stops and asked people what they were doing in the community. We met all kinds of people from compassionate community workers to Catholic priests, from broken homeless people to gang members. The inner city was definitely not something I've experienced before, but it was a great learning experience. When I get home, I really hope to find more ways to reach out to people. I like to stay in little groups of people I really know, but after this conference I think I will try to find those who need ministering to. God willing, I'll find my Calcutta. ~**Katarina Rorstrom**

The best memory I had was when we were at Sea World and went to see Shamu, It was so cool how God made such a graceful and the top predator in the sea. The way I saw God at work was when Shane was talking about that they were helping these homeless people and got arrested for it and when they were at trial the prosecutor wanted them to go to jail and Shane had explained what happened and the judge said that they didn't have to go to jail. I thought that it was a blessing that they didn't have to go to jail. What changed me the most was when Jeff was talking about "do you suck the life out of your parents or do you give them life?" When he said that, I was majorly guilty because I was sucking a lot of my parents' life. I felt very bad so when I get home I am going to go home and apologize and want them to forgive me. When I was there God had opened my eyes and I feel changed and since that happened Satan has tried very hard to stop it from happening. Like when I wanted to find my phone to call my mom I couldn't find it so I was freaking out (like usual cause I lose my phone all the time) and I knew that it was Satan trying to make me freak out so I sat on the ground and prayed and right after that happened Rebecca (one of my room buddies) said "Why don't you check in your backpack so I checked and I found it. I was so happy that she helped me, and I am blessed that I have gotten the chance to go to the Conference. ~**Abbey Rupke**

I think that this trip was amazing in more ways than one. It helped get close to the people who really matter most to me, and it really changed me. I believe now more than ever that God really is present in all of our lives, and just because he doesn't always show doesn't mean he's not there. I really appreciate the church letting me go on this trip because I think if I had not gone, I would be in a much worse place right now. It's opened my eyes that you don't have to know someone to show them the ways of God, you could just simply do nice things for them. I think one of the things that moved me most was when we worshiped together, all 900 of us. It was so

moving and it brought me to tears. Again, I'm so thankful for this opportunity, thanks for everything.

~**Mackenzie Lewis**

I really enjoyed going on the youth conference! It was an amazing experience. The part that was really meaningful to me was the fact that God does all these things for us and all he asks in return is for us to love him. Going out to the poor part of San Antonio was very eye-opening to me. Just seeing all those people walking around with probably no food or water shows me that I take a lot of things for granted. Some of them may not have a lot of faith left because of what they have lost and so I'm hoping we showed them more faith. I think God is calling me to go out and help people to understand God and have more faith. I think it would be great to do mission work to see the world through God's eyes and to do good deeds in the name of God. He has given me so much and so I would like to be able to help others. ~**Molly Barnett**

God taught me to not judge others on how they look or what they act like. In his eyes everyone is equal. I got to experience this when we went out and looked at the city of San Antonio. There were a bunch of people where it was just obvious that they didn't have very much money and they probably didn't get the same privileges as others. We met a guy who was under the influence and I had to tell myself not to judge him or say, "I'm going to stay away from him because he's drinking and he's a bad guy." That was not how I wanted to be and I know that's not how God wants me to be.

The thing that was most significant to me was that God really took care of everything. I didn't have very much to worry about, my focus was on him and he wasn't about to change that. My sister had a challenge to face while down in Texas and it was an emotional rollercoaster there for a little bit but God always kept his arms around me and never made me feel like I couldn't handle what was going on.

I don't know yet what God is calling me to do. Every day is different. I just know that when he needs me to do something special for him he will let me know. ~**Julie Balzer**

I wasn't entirely certain what it was God wanted me to get out of this experience, but by the end of the 4 day weekend, it was clear. One verse that God kept throwing at me was Romans 12:2 - Do not conform, be transformed. The conference speakers talked about it, the seminar speakers talked about it, it was on the back of a t-shirt staring at me in the face during worship. For me, this trip was my transformation in a way. It was the busiest and most hectic weekend and God threw many challenges and trials at me that I was forced to face. However, I chose not to conform to what society expects out of teenagers and remained faithful to God and the plans that he had for me - and I'm so glad that I did! Our God is awesome and he hears and answers prayer! Getting to hear Shane's stories and go into the city and see what happens was such a neat experience. Meeting people and having the opportunity to talk with them is one thing that I will probably never forget. It puts certain things into perspective and causes you to think a little bit about your life. One thing I took out of this is that one of the best ways to witness to others is by simply being an encourager to others. This is one thing that I am going to work on and do my best at. Your relationship with God doesn't have to be perfect and you don't have to know everything in the Bible to be able to encourage others. I am so thankful to my church family for making this trip a reality for me! It was God's plan for me to be in San Antonio that weekend and he proved it to me over and over again. I truly do feel that this conference has changed me and I will take everything I learned and experienced and continue to see what more I can get out of it. ~**Jackie Balzer**

We would like to thank you all for the wonderful friendships we have made that we will remember for a lifetime. Also we would like to thank you for being so nice and just letting us in your group for this trip. This is an amazing and life changing experience. Thank You!!! ~**Jessica Beasterfeld and Jamie Finch (The two girls who went with our group from the MB Church in Topeka.)**

Well I will have to say that this trip started off a little rough for me personally, as we left, the shingles were blowing off our house and wasn't sure what I would come home to and I was still feeling very sick. It turned out to be a great trip and a wonderful blessing. I was blessed by a friend, Mike Burkholder who went and picked up shingles for me and then by my brother, brother-in-law and nephew who came from Branson and Lawrence and re-roofed our house! I was blessed by the group of young people we took and by the wonderful group of parents and youth leaders that we had. They were incredible role models and servants! I come home with a lot of questions that I will be thinking about for a while to come. We heard a lot of good things but here are just a few that I am trying to think about for my life. We were challenged with Shane's story of his time with Mother Teresa in Calcutta India. She told him that everyone needs to find their own Calcutta where God has called them to serve and minister to people. Who and where has God called you to serve and minister to people? I was also challenged by one of the seminar speakers Matt Ford who shared about being an Everyday Radical "Learning to see Jesus in the most ordinary place imaginable...Your everyday life!" Another challenge from several of the speakers was "does my "Christianity" line up with what Jesus said and demonstrated to us?" When Jesus tells us to be "the servant of all" in Mark 9:35, I have to ask the question, "How am I doing at living out Jesus words? What about when Jesus tells us to love God with all of our hearts and minds and to love my neighbor as myself, am I fully and completely living these things out that Jesus told us to do? It has caused me to search my heart and mind to make sure that my life and what I say I believe match up. It was a very good and challenging trip for me. I am so grateful for a church family who sees the benefit and need to invest in the next generation of the church by providing opportunities like this for these students. ~**Jeff Neher**

San Antonio was my first opportunity to travel with the high school kids and I came away completely impressed with the whole experience. Not once did I have to remind them how to behave (they may have reminded me a time or two), where to be or what time to be there. North Oak and parents should be extremely proud of how they were represented while in Texas.

While the conference was great, and the speakers and worship fantastic, God has shown me personally to simply listen to Him. I can't tell you how many times my wife has told me that I need to work with the high school youth. I've also had others ask me before and I would always shrug it off thinking, "Me? I can't do that!" What I have come to realize is that it was God himself telling me, prompting me, encouraging me to step out and just do it. I lived a pretty "hard" life in my younger years and I always felt discouraged that because of that lifestyle, I wasn't worthy to be entrusted with young moldable minds. Well, as usual, I was wrong. God likes to use us screw ups to deliver his message. I am able to be the "well adjusted person" (cough cough) you see today only through the awesome, free, completely undeserved gift of Jesus and his sacrifice. Grace is awesome! This whole idea of jumping in was completely confirmed during the conference when Shane was talking about finding your own Calcutta, India. You don't have to travel half way around the world to be a missionary. It might be as simple as listening to your wife. You never know, it might be God talking to you. James 1:22 says, "But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves." So I encourage anyone reading this to not only listen to what God's telling you, jump up and do it. I remember Pastor Ken talking once about not waiting on figuring out your gift to get into a ministry, but getting into a ministry and having God reveal new gifts to you. I encourage you to "Just Do It!" ~**Bryan Noone**

Dear Brothers and Sisters at North Oak,

It was a blessing and privilege to go with the youth group as a sponsor to San Antonio. Your church is truly a giving body of Christ. It was amazing to see the students so touched by the whole thing. Jeff is a great leader both in responsibility and example of a man who is Faithful, Available and Teachable. His open and honest way of sharing and getting the students to share was neat to see. I also, as a parent of one of the youth, was blessed by Jeff and Jessica's real support of the home and encouraging the students that parents matter. When our daughter (Katarina) goes to youth group I know that what is taught will be a great support of what we try to do at home. It is not always easy for teenagers to see that we are in this together. Parents and kids, learning to let them grow up, and them respecting the authority of God and parents and His word. The youth that went shared their feelings of at times feeling alone in their walk with Christ. I was specifically able to encourage/counsel one of the girls one night that her assurance can truly be real in Christ. Yes others may fail us but Christ Salvation and being with us is what we can know for sure (if we know Christ). The group that went was of course of great value to God, but were also just really neat kids. The girls in my room were ready for every meeting on time. We really shared a lot the last night on processing the whole outreach day etc.

Sorry moms and dad's we stayed up that night till 1:30 but it was a good, edifying and exhorting time of conversation. There are a number of youth that go to other churches in town (including mine) but we know it is a great youth group and thank you for supporting Jeff etc. to have it.

So I will share a little of what I learned personally. I went to one seminar on Peace and another on Sharing Our Faith. The one on peace of course was sponsored by a teacher at a Mennonite college and his apprentice. I really appreciated their convictions. It is refreshing to see people really stick to their convictions. The young people really engaged in this seminar and got good information on what the Mennonites believe about war, etc... We were encouraged to pray for our troops, and their prayer is that no one would kill or be killed.

The second seminar on sharing our faith was neat because the gentlemen shared about his life and learning to share with those that may not look like us, i.e. the biker dude... What he shared was in the acronym. PLAN

1. PRAY

2. LISTEN

3. ANSWER

4. NOURISH (OR NURTURE).

We have some mormon friends in town and my daughter and I have a burden for them. My daughter and I tend to be opposite in that I am not afraid to share Christ via 1, 2, 3, 4; this is what you need to do to be saved. She is very afraid to share, but is such a witness just in who she is and her love for Christ and unselfishness. I shared this burden with my family and husband at the dinner table one night. He said for now we just need to pray for them. That was good advice and that was the first thing this gentlemen remind us to do at the seminar.

I really admire the missionaries sometimes who share/have friendships with folks for an average of 2 years (Muslim cultures for example) before they see any conversions. I am not as patient as them. However this gentlemen reminded me that is can be like that here at well. The verse that I know well is "always be willing/ready to give an account for the hope that is in you". God however (with His Spirit) is the one to convict so I can "pray without ceasing" but just wait on God for the "giving of the account". Please pray for this family with us. God knows who they are. Pray that I would pray more and Katarina (if God should will) will be ready to give that account as God leads.

The verse that I want to leave with all of you who supported this trip is:

1 Corinthians 15:58 (New International Version, ©2011) Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

We may not even see all the works that God accomplished now, through this trip, but we know what is done for the Lord will accomplish what He (God) wants. Thank you again for your generosity. Love in Christ

~**Jane Rorstrom**

I want to thank all of our church for providing this opportunity for us. The speakers were amazing and I really learned a lot! God showed me that sometimes I only dangle my feet in the water when it comes to my relationship with Him but now I'm working on being in the FLOOD. I also learned that as Christians we are not just meant to spread God's Word but we also have to be servants. People should be able to tell that we are Christians just by the way we act. This is another thing that God has showed me that I need to work on. Overall I think the trip was an AMAZING experience for all of us. Not only did we learn a lot but we also had a ton of fun! THANK YOU! ~**Diane Lee**

When I first heard that we were going to San Antonio, I was very excited! However, I didn't know what I was getting myself into! I had the time of my life! The speakers were amazing and the worship was great but the message that we should forgive and let God's love flow out of us like a flood really stuck out to me. It made me realize that I don't forgive as much as I should. I've also been selfish with keeping God's love for myself and not sharing it with others as much as I should. As I've been home, I've definitely tried my best to change my ways. While we were in San Antonio, our mission one day was to go out and learn about the community. This really opened my eyes and got me out of my comfort zone. While we were out and about, we were encouraged to talk to the people we encountered. Whenever we talked to someone, their face just lit up! I couldn't believe it! We also had two girls from Topeka join us and I was extremely happy they came and so were they! They said that they loved how everyone talked and hung around everyone and loved how we welcomed them with open arms on this trip. That was just amazing for me. I was so glad they had a wonderful time! I really think that we grew together as a youth group through this trip. I know I formed some wonderful friendships and enhanced my previous relationships! This trip was definitely worth while! ☺ ~**Emma Henry**

More than anything else, God used Shayne and his stories to revitalize a fire within so that I would come back reenergized and revitalized to get back to doing what I've been doing. I am very excited to continue sharing life and talking with those whom I've been meeting with, to be doing paperwork and attending meetings to get things done that will enable community (normally paperwork isn't my favorite thing), and to continue to follow, listen, and experience the adventure God has for us each and every day. The trip was excellent, the chats with the youth were excellent, but most of all God's presence and encouragement through the communities we interacted with and through speakers was amazing. Thank God for a great weekend! ~**Brandon Nimz**

The San Antonio conference really taught me about how not to be a "normal" Christian. To me being a Christian is living out your faith through Jesus Christ and really trusting in him. Many of the Christians I know don't always do that. I see people and how they act at youth group and then I see them act differently at school. I think this is because it's easy to show your faith and live out Jesus when you're around other people who do; when it's comfortable. I also know people who think that the only way to be a Christian is to go to church every Sunday and read your bible every night. It's important that we do these things to a certain extent but they are not necessary to be a Christian. I used to always worry that I didn't read my Bible enough or didn't go to church

enough; but I have come to realize that it isn't about the stuff we do; it's about who we are. We always think that we have to "do things" like, read the bible, go to youth group, go on more mission trips, etc. We are so caught up in this "do" theology, if we do more, its better. We weren't created to be a human doing; we were created to be a human being. We need to be the Lord's image bearer and live out the word. And I really think God has been trying to show me this all along. Going to this youth conference and listening to the speakers talk about letting Jesus flow through us really showed me that in order to be more of a Christian I need to trust Jesus more and really live out the word. ~**Eryn Johannes**

God taught me that no matter how much we plan, His plan is better. There were so many instances during the time we were gone that we saw God's hand directing our path.

When our bus overheated in a place where everyone was safe and we were able to get supplies we needed to fix the problem...

When He worked his miracles in solving medical emergencies...

When He provided time and space for us to do the extra things we wanted to do in San Antonio...

When He used our group to help business owners in a poor community...

When He worked within us to break down individual barriers so we could communicate with each other honestly and openly...

When He brought us all home safely...

Why do we ever think that OUR plans can work without HIM?

1 Thessalonians 5:18 "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

~**Corina Beam**

This conference was a really cool experience. I am very glad I was able to attend. The speakers had a lot of great stuff to say and they brought it down to a high school level. I got to connect with friends that I never really had a chance to talk to and we all got along very well. I made a lot of new friends in the lower grades. When we were down in San Antonio, we got to go around the city and see some of the neighborhoods and learn about them. We definitely weren't in Kansas anymore; at least not Hays. It was a completely different culture. One thing that I liked about the neighborhood we visited is that a lot of people and organizations were doing something. They were trying to make their homes better. What I think God wanted for me on this trip was to open my eyes beyond my own life. ~**Jordan Flaherty**

My favorite quote from the speaker Shane Claiborne is, "Jesus never talked to a prostitute." Before anyone could get out their Bible to find the scripture that proves He did, Shane continued with, "Jesus never talked to a prostitute because He didn't see a prostitute; He just saw a child of God whom He was madly in love with." In other words, Jesus saw the person, not their situation. This was especially encouraging to me, because I always try to see people the way Jesus sees them. In my job and volunteer work, I have a lot of opportunities to be around people in desperate circumstances, such as people who are sick, or have no money, or get into legal trouble, or for various reasons don't have a family. I get teased for being naïve because I always say, "I don't believe they're a bad person. I think they're a good person who's made some bad choices." People tell me I'll eventually learn that the world is full of liars, thieves, jerks and bad mothers. I hope I never feel that way. The way I see it, Jesus didn't hang around with murderers, thieves, jerks, and liars – He just enjoyed spending time with His children. Jesus sees us for who we are in Him, not for what we've done... and even knowing what we've done, He loves us anyway. That's how I want to love. That's how I saw our kids love in San Antonio. As impressive as the conference was, it was nothing compared to what I got from watching our kids. The way they treated each other, the leaders, and everyone they met was amazing. One of the coolest parts was seeing some of the quieter people come out of their shell, and kids hanging out with other kids in our group that they hadn't really gotten to know before. Many times I saw them help a stranger, even if it was just a smile, or to give up their seat, or to ask someone how they're doing and care enough to listen. They gave away their all-day bus passes to people waiting at the bus stop. When the little café we went to for lunch got behind on our orders, I looked up and saw a couple of our guys taking out the trash. I could tell stories all day about how awesome

these kids are and the amazing ways they served God by serving others, but this was supposed to be a brief paragraph, so... Thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to go on this trip. It was fun, educational & inspirational, and I'm really excited to see what we do with what we learned! ~**Shelly Keller**

While on the San Antonio trip there were a myriad of things God could've decided to show me through the various speakers, seminars and workshops. However, God decided to only cement two very basic, yet very profound concepts into my thick head. The first thing God engraved on my heart was the concept of forgiveness. Fully passionate and sincere forgiveness; it occurred to me through the words of one of the speakers that for so long I have been merely uttering the words "I forgive you." What a curse these words can be sometimes! Words are merely noises strung together in an effort to communicate, and more often than not this communication is insincere and frivolous. I learned from the speaker that in order to truly forgive, I cannot merely say that the person is forgiven, but I must move past their offenses and resume loving just as Christ has chosen to cleanse me and continue to love me. As is almost always the case with "God Epiphanies" this concept seemed so revolutionary at the time, but in retrospect it seems very primitive and frustrating that I never really pursued living out this mentality beforehand. It's always fascinating to me how I can seem to know exactly what I'm supposed to do, yet I fail to live it out. A classic case of a "head and heart disconnect" as Pastor Jeff (Jefe) would say.

The second thing God opened my eyes to, and perhaps the most pivotal was how to truly witness to others. For so long I've had it completely backwards. (This should come as no surprise seeing as it more often than not that we Christians get a little confused on what Jesus meant) For so long my idea of witness was merely going up to someone I knew who didn't know Jesus and telling them the story of the gospel, telling them my testimony and all about my beliefs and the reverent things I do that make me a spectacular Christian. (Pause for laughter):-P This method has a myriad of problems.

1. I am not....nor will I ever be a perfect example of a Christian. (Neither will you)
2. The people probably don't care. Most people I know wouldn't be appreciative of a savior and haven't found the need for saving yet. This can also lead to a bad method of witnessing known as the "Turn or burn" method. (See skit guys for details as to why this is a TERRIBLE IDEA!)
3. Telling non Christians about what is expected of Christians completely sets you up to make yourself out to be a hypocrite. There have been numerous occasions where I have witnessed to somebody, I turn around and say something incredibly unchristian and they instantly call me out on it. Christians ARE hypocrites but there's no need for us to draw even more attention to that.

So.... This is what I learned. Instead of telling people all about Christ and then failing to act like Christ or even love like Christ why not just be a friend to them? San Antonio was an excellent place to really get a grasp on this concept. In a city that had so many destitute people living it, it was amazing to watch how different community organizations planted seeds of Christianity without ever even bringing up the name Jesus. People merely listened to the homeless, talked with them, and treated them as equals. (Which we are....funny how we often overlook that we are all equal in God's eyes) This taught me that it's high time I stop being a "Christian" and start being a friend. I can guarantee that these community assistance organizations have lead far more people to Christ by merely loving one another than I ever have or will by using a tract. It continues to floor me how God always works His way in if you just show someone sincere kindness. It's amazing, if you care for someone long enough in love, they'll eventually get curious as to why you're doing it....or even better than that, they'll ask you if you're Christian. It's high time I stopped professing to be a Christian and started loving like one.

In summation, God taught me two things. Starting sincerely forgiving people, and stop speaking Christian, start being Christian. ~**Aaron Cunningham**

I learned a lot at San Antonio and was very fortunate to go. I had a really great time and can't wait to bring home everything I learned. The worship was very moving and Shane Claiborne, the second speaker, really moved me. He was very great and sounded like he knew what he was doing! During my time at San Antonio I realized 1 major thing. Never give up. There are times where you may think something is too hard or impossible to do, but it IS possible. I hope to keep learning and growing in my faith. It was a great experience. ~**Spencer Greathouse**

This will not be easy for me to articulate, so I'll start with the easy part. This was a great trip. The list of all the reasons it was great is very long and includes; God putting us in the right place at the right time for several things to happen, being blessed with a charter bus and not having to drive, wonderful learning opportunities, and most importantly this was fabulous group of students. I enjoyed every student that was with us. It was a pleasure to be each of them.

One highlight for me was the mission experience. We took our whole group and got on city busses to the West side of San Antonio and had several places to visit and learn about the community. The students did a great job of interacting with people that we came into contact with. When I was growing up, every time that I left the house my dad told me, "Act like you know something." Well, these students acted like they knew something. We visited a community center and learned about a lot of the services available to people in the community. After they spoke to us, we gathered around, laid hands on them and prayed for them. It seemed to really impact them and it certainly did me.

Now, the more difficult part. A lot of the sessions were pretty convicting for me personally. I'm still wrestling with a lot of it, so I won't go into much detail. The two workshops that I attended were, "The MB Peace Position" and "Everyday Radical." Both of these challenged me in how I think about some things. The main speaker, Shane Claiborne, was also very challenging for me. I'm still trying to figure out what to do with it. Though I should probably stop trying to figure it out and pray for direction. Honestly, that makes me a little nervous.

We were very blessed to get to attend this conference. Thank you North Oak Family! We are blessed by your generosity. ~**Jesica Neher**