



Dr. Jake Williams with the students in Jamaica

The Fundamentals of Faith

What I Learned on a Mission Trip

While preparing for my first mission trip, I had no clue what to expect. I didn't know much about Jamaica, and I thought I was going to be a weeping mess, crying everyday and, at the same time, seeing signs and wonders because I was on a mission doing "big things" in the name of Jesus.

I didn't cry once, rather there was great joy every day. I didn't physically see signs and wonders as I anticipated; instead it was all smiles, laughter and singing.

Before our team devotions in the morning on the second to last day of the mission trip, God revealed to me why I had the experience I had that week, why everything felt so natural. It was because this work of laying on hands, sharing the Gospel with the nations of the world and just loving people is fundamental to following Jesus. These are basic things of the faith.

The people in Jamaica are just as beautiful inside as they are on the outside. There is so much love and kindness among the massive amounts of poverty and crime. The Jamaicans' authenticity and joy for life is even more evident when you step into their churches. They are hungry for Jesus. The day before we left Jamaica, I shared with the team my journey with Hebrews 11:3: "By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God's command, that what we see now did not come from anything that can be seen." How awesome is that? What we don't actually see is more real than what we see with our eyes of flesh! I want to live with a spirit love so dense that, even if I bump into someone at the grocery store, my spirit interacts with theirs and they feel it, even if they don't know at the time in their mind, their spirit knows. And that's what happened the last day of our mission. We had just sat down to eat, and our waitress came over and told us to look at her hand. We looked and her hand was shaking, and she could barely talk. She said that, as soon as we walked in and sat down at her table, she was overcome with the Spirit of God and then she started crying. She said she didn't know what to think and was even talking to her manager about what she was feeling. She continued to thank us for sitting at her table, at which I replied and told her that this was a divine appointment and she has blessed us as well. Talk about Hebrews 11:3 in action! It was amazing to see a physical manifestation of what the Holy Spirit was doing at that moment. Come to find out, she was baptized just a couple weeks prior as well. *Our Father is so fun!*



I could go on with all that I learned on this mission and even leading up to it, but I also know that's my journey. I just encourage everyone to try it out for themselves and enjoy the ride. I also couldn't have asked for a better team. The entire experience was well organized, and I plan on going back next year. A special thank you again to my team and all the people that helped get me to Jamaica. Thank you CCA for stepping out and stepping up.

Dr. Jake Williams is a 2016 graduate of NYCC and became a member of the CCA in 2017. He practices in Marysville, Washington.