

11:15 P.M.—Third Baptist Church, St. Louis Missouri.

We arrived at church at a time none of us teenagers even knew existed during the summer. Then we had mushy goodbyes with our parents and loaded up the van to head off into the unknown. Which was actually an hour and a half drive to McDonalds. Once we were all eating our delicious fattening foods we received our first clue [Numbers 32: 16-19] that lead us to our destination. East St. Louis, one of the top three most dangerous zip codes.

After many, many, many, many, many more hours of driving we finally reached our “home” for the night. We dropped off our stuff ate some sandwiches and then loaded up the van to go to the Christian Activity Center. When we were there we were given a mini tour, then they split us up. Some went to set up for the church service that will be held there tomorrow, others went and swept the gym floor, and the rest of us went to weed and spread out the mulch in the playground.

Working on the playground was amazing. While we worked some of the kids from the neighborhood came over to play. They were some of the greatest kids we ever met. They were truly happy that we were there. All too soon it was time to leave, but we really helped those kids. They all were sad to see us go.

After the CAC we were given the surprise of going up to the top of the St. Louis Arch. It was pretty cool, but the line was as worse then Space Mountain at Disneyland!!! By the time we finally came back down it was time of dinner, so we ate at a local restaurant, and than had to go pick up one more kid, Josh. We all were dead already, and so were half asleep when we went to pick him up.

When we finally made it back to TBC, we unloaded the van and trailer, took showers, toured the building, and now we are getting ready for bed

Who knows what tomorrow will bring us? A church service and even more traveling, probably, but you never know...

That’s all we can really say for day one. So good night St. Louis, Topeka, Horton, or where ever you may find yourself reading this.

-Regan Aeschliman, Kristen McLaren, and the rest of us on Missions Explosion

