



URGENT NEEDS

On June 1<sup>st</sup> a group of 15 young men and adult leaders will depart Nashville’s BNA with the final destination of Tegucigalpa, Honduras. This trip is both the culmination of a year of weekly discipleship meetings and an introduction to the ministry and ultimately the Gospel. Last year at this time I met a young man named Mason for the first time and saw a young man with a huge heart trapped in a life that he was losing control of. I saw a young man like myself at his age. A \$2,000.00 gift enabled Mason to join us on our trip and I had no idea how God would radically use one gift of \$2,000.00 to impact his kingdom. Mary, Mason’s mother, shares her story below:

*“Today I am saved and redeemed by God’s grace, and it all began last June when my son went on a mission trip to Central America with Zach Walker and Full Count Ministries. My son’s experiences on the trip and his relationships with Zach and other Full Count leaders led him to attend church at Lindsay Lane, and he invited me to attend with him. The Holy Spirit began changing my heart and opening my eyes. We are told we never know how God will use us to draw others to Him. My son was able to go on that mission trip because of donors supporting Full Count and its mission. What will God do with the young men who go on this year’s trip, helped by your donations?” – Mary Gilliland*

Mary is a beloved and active member and LLBC where she was baptized on Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, in our 8:45 service! Mason’s scholarship was one of many gifts that enabled young men to join us on our trip last year and Mary is one of many stories of how kingdom investment was used by God through these trips and daily ministries. This year we have young men who need your help.

*Note: Names have been changed to respect privacy*

**Jacob**- Recently, Jacob told me he hasn’t had a meaningful conversation with his father in 6 years. He’s attended church here at LLBC but meets opposition at home. Once after a youth rally Jacob came home, wrecked and convicted by what he’d heard. Through tears, he tried to explain to his parents how he’d experienced the Lord and was told to stop crying and that it was stupid. He is a great kid that stays out of trouble, does well in school and excels in baseball and is thirsty for the word. The only way that he will be able to go on this trip is through a scholarship, as he doesn’t have a family or network of believers that would support this or the potential eternal effects this could have on his life. He will be sending letters and trying to raise what he can, but his only family that support him in this endeavor is LLBC, where he’s only visited. Jacob is hungry for something but is fighting doubt and opposition from his parents. *“29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife[a] or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.” Matthew 19:29*

**Scott**- Scott is an exceptional young man who has come through adversity with a strong faith and great attitude. . When Scott’s mother was 7 months pregnant with him, her husband met another woman and informed her he would be leaving her and wanted nothing to do with his son. Scott’s has never met his father, nor has he had a male influence in his life. From birth, he has been the man of the house and was forced into maturity at a young age and it shows. Along with that maturity, he also masks great pain in growing up the way that he did. His mother is an incredibly strong woman and she has taken care of her family and provided for them regardless of the personal cost. Scott has passed all of the necessary steps to be in the final considerations to receive a scholarship to a prestigious school where he hopes to continue his baseball career and become an officer in the military. He is truly a selfless young man, deserving of a scholarship. He will be raising 50% of the necessary funds and will receive a matching 50% scholarship from your generosity. *“31 but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” Isaiah 40:31*

**Gordon**- Gordon was engaged to be married to his high school sweetheart when a tragic automobile accident left her comatose, where she has remained ever since. Gordon has stayed faithful to both his fiancé, and his savior, as he’s been persistent in becoming involved with the ministry and using his platform as a coach to minister to an impoverished community in desperate need. When I had a chance to speak with him about his fiancé he said, *“She was the most selfless, loving person I’ve ever known. If she could talk I know she would say that if the accident and coma is what it took for me to be saved, she’d gladly do it again. It’s just the type of woman and Christian that she is.”* Gordon is in college and coaching baseball at a small school and the accident and subsequent events left him with bills and debts, as well as the cost of college. He will be raising 50% of the necessary funds and will receive a matching 50% scholarship from your generosity. *“As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” 3 “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.” John 9:1-3*

These stories represent just three of many young men who need your help to experience God’s power as we are preparing to go and live our faith and share the Gospel and Good News of Jesus Christ to the people of El Triunfo, Choluteca, Honduras. Through the game of baseball, these young men will use the gifts they were given to show Jesus Christ to a lost people, and for some they will see true faith being lived in a country where there is little light. These trips are as much about impacting the people groups we interact with as they are for these young men to understand what true faith looks like in a place where there isn’t a church on every corner. These 3 are just a small sampling of many deserving young men who’ve requested help with the financial needs of participating in this kingdom work. God used a single gift of \$2,000 dollars to impact the Gilliland family in an eternal way. Are we willing to give of our abundance that he’s provided to see how he might use it in the lives of these young men and their families? The trip cost **\$2,000** per kid and our minimum need is **\$5,000**, however the more we give the more that can go! Let’s unite as believers, in obedience through giving, to demonstrate God’s faithfulness in providing a way for these young men to go on a trip with eternal significance!