

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

Yesterday, I was with our youth group at their mission trip site in Berkeley Springs, WV. We spent the morning constructing an outside staircase on someone's home, and then, after a late lunch, went for a walk along the C&O canal.

I was so proud our youth. They are incredibly gifted, and it was amazing to see them work as a group. Several of them are real carpenters, and the others were eager to learn, willing to do whatever was asked of them and fearlessly, but carefully, trying all the power tools.

It was really inspirational.

Unlike the youth, I am not very handy (just ask wife), and I was petrified of using the electric saw, so I did what I could, mostly carrying some wood back and forth and holding the two-by-fours as the youth measured and cut. Still, just doing that, felt good. I was doing something for someone else, for no other reason than I wanted to help.

People often ask about the meaning of life, and I believe the all-important answer is to be found in serving others. Use your unique, God-given gifts to do good for others, and you will discover the life which only you can live, the life which God intends for you. Forget yourself, for just a moment; live for others, as Jesus did; and, you will find what you are searching for: meaning, purpose, and the real, genuine you.

See you on Sunday,
Andrew