

Can God Use Me????

– by Roger Alva

Do you believe God can use anyone to help complete his work? Well, regardless of age, education, and social status anybody who willingly accepts God's call can take part. I am a witness.

This past July, I took part in a month long mission trip to Cincinnati. It was on a rainy night that I arrived at the Cincinnati airport. Even then, I had doubts to whether I really belonged there. Soon enough, I had arrived at the place I would call home for the next month, Cincinnati Junior Academy. I remember my first day there, it was started off by a brief training session, where we were asked to go to the neighborhoods we were assigned to, and pass out invitations for the evangelistic meetings that were being held in neighborhoods of Clifton, Harrison, and Mason.

I had been assigned to Clifton, along with an experienced bible worker named Jeremy. Jeremy never lectured me on what to do, he taught me through example. He showed me that what impacted others most, was a friendly attitude, a genuine smile, and a Christ-like love for others. I saw that first day, that not only did I have nothing to fear, but that everything would be alright. I quickly discovered that the people of Cincinnati were among the most friendly I have ever met. Not only had God prepared the hearts of those who received the invitation, but he had been working with me all along. Jeremy and I passed out many invitations that day, and encountered many people who were excited to come to the meetings.

The next day, we found that over 300 people had accepted our invitation to come to the Clifton church. As we had expected, the numbers began to dwindle, but by the 7th meeting we had still over 150 people at the Clifton site nightly. Our site's speaker was a young, energetic speaker named Jason. Each night, we saw as God used him to touch the lives of the people there. Since putting on an evangelistic meeting takes several people to take part, I was assigned along with 10 or so other young people to help with the meetings. Usually this involved ushering; leading out in song service, helping take care of children, or anything else that might be needed. I had an opportunity to help with this and more. Soon enough, I realized the joy of seeing one of the people who I had invited, there at the meetings.

Throughout the month I made many friends, one I remember was a young man who lived in the neighborhood, whose uncle, a member of the church, brought him to the meetings every night. My friend Brian and I soon befriended him. He really didn't like to come, but he just wanted to hang out with us and play basketball after the meetings. Almost every night, the Holy Spirit worked through us to answer any questions he had about Christianity. He was an atheist at first, but little by little, he discovered that God truly did exist. Yet, he did not want to do anything with religion. For nearly a whole month we spent time with him answering his questions, hoping that he would be receptive to what we had to say. In the end, it seemed not to have helped him, but made him almost annoyed with us. We saw that by trying to help him, we were tiring him with our discussions and arguments. So, we decided to let the Holy Spirit work with him. On the second to the last night, I was returning from the meetings to the school. On my way through the parking lot, I saw the young man. When he saw me, he said, "Thanks for everything." Well, when I heard this, I was crushed. So I asked him if he wasn't coming back to the next night's meeting. He said that he would, but then he told me to go see Brian, who would explain everything. When I saw Brian, I could see that whatever had happened was great, because he was smiling from ear to ear. Brian went on to tell me that during the meeting, the young man had felt the Holy Spirit calling him to change his life and that he had decided to take a stand and commit his life to Christ. When I heard this, I shouted a loud "Amen!" Brian and I couldn't help literally jumping for joy! This goes to show that anyone with a willing and humble spirit can serve the Lord.