Lincoln, NE 2019 PreTrip Devotional Packet



A NOTE FROM THE YOUTH PASTOR

Welcome to the Lincoln, NE 2019 Pre-Trip Devotional Packet. Each devotional is written by a mission trip participant. It's so exciting to think that each person going on the trip has already started thinking and praying about the trip (by writing their devotional), and that each of us will be preparing for 17 days leading up to this trip! I expect God to bless this preparation in huge ways!

Instructions for using this devotional packet:

- 1. Read each devotional on the date at the top of each page.*
- 2. Pray for the person who wrote the devotional. Prayer tips:

That God would speak through these devotionals and prepare them for this trip. That this trip would be an encouragement in their spiritual life. That they would connect with God in deep ways during worship. That they would give all of themselves to God in service. That they would be an encouragement to others. That they would see God in other people and tell them that. That they would deepen their relationships with people in our youth group. That they would develop, even more, a caring, compassionate heart for others. That this trip would lead to life change after the trip. That they would have SO much fun. That they would keep a positive attitude and help others to stay positive too. That they would understand God in a new way. That God would speak to them through others. That they would be willing to try new things. That other people would enjoy their company. That they would find times to connect with adult leaders. For safety and good health. That they would be hungry spiritually for God before, during, and after the trip.

3. Text the person who wrote the devotional, letting them know you prayed for them. This can be as simple as saying, "I prayed for you today" or you could write out what you actually prayed for

them. (parents & shareholders, its up to you if you want to text them)

*If you get behind doing these devotionals, don't quit. Simply catch up. You need to do them all and <u>text everyone before getting in the vans to leave on</u> July 22.

If you haven't done the devotionals and texted everyone by then, you will have to spend some time alone at the beginning of trip writing out prayers to the people you missed.

July 5 Lincoln PreTrip Devotional

□ I finished doing this devotional.

□ I prayed for and sent this person a message

Facts vs. Knowledge

Josh Sanders (616) 717-2568

Facts About Nebraska:

-SPAM is made there.

-Kool Aid was invented there.

-The Reuben sandwich was invented there.

-There are more miles of rivers than any other state.

Facts About Jesus:

-He was a carpenter.

-There is no record of His actual birthdate -Jesus and John the Baptist were second cousins -He had a diet of mostly bread, lamb, and fish.

Sometimes we like throw out interesting facts about different subjects. It can be fun to know a little about a lot of things. It can make you look smart or knowledgeable. I am one of these people. When it comes to 80's song lyrics, sports trivia, or a ton of other useless facts I'm your man. But having a bunch of lyrics in your head does not tell you the inspiration for the song. Knowing what team won the NBA Championship in 1979 does not tell you what it took for them to win it.

Now some of you may have known those things about Nebraska. Probably more of you knew at least a couple of the facts about Jesus. But does having these facts give you any knowledge about what Jesus' life and teachings are about. Knowing that SPAM is made in Nebraska or any of the other facts will not help us love the people of Lincoln.

"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:11

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God." **1** John 4:7

As we prepare for this trip I would ask that we all commit to going deeper with Jesus, each other, and those we will meet and work with in Nebraska. Let's spend more time getting to know Jesus through Bible study and devotions. Take the time to think about what Jesus went through. Place yourself in His situation. Not to compare how you would handle it, but to get a feel for what things were like for Him. When we put ourselves in somebody else's shoes we gain a better understanding of their choices. This goes for each other, and the people of Lincoln as well. Getting to know someone and what their life is like is a gift not only to that person but yourself.

"No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you." **John 15:15**

"Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." **John 14:6**

Jesus has a personal relationship with us. It's what he came for and what he died for. We all need to put in the time and effort to have one with him.

God I pray that in preparation for this mission trip we commit to a deeper knowledge of our relationship with You. Open us up to all the great things that this "friendship" can mean in our lives. I also pray that we commit to knowing each other and the people we will meet this week in a meaningful way. I thank You for this group and the opportunity to do awesome things with them! Amen

July 6 Lincoln PreTrip Devotional

□ I finished doing this devotional.

□ I prayed for and sent this person a message

God's Workers by: Cece Johnson 616-644-8737

Hebrews 6:10

God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.

Challenging thoughts

Society has turned most of us, while some are an exception into self absorbed people. Going on the trip invokes me coming out of my own worries and thoughts, to focus on the people and different type of community present.

<u>Song</u>

Reckless Love - Cory Asbury

<u>Prayer</u>

Dear God,

I pray that our absorption of self worth and worries can be set aside during our trip, I pray that in the short time we will have that we can impact the lives and communities we visit, Amen.

July 7 Lincoln PreTrip Devotional

 \Box I finished doing this devotional.

□ I prayed for and sent this person a message

Following Jesus Ellie Mott (616) 551-7255

Listen to the song My Lighthouse by Rend Collective

Isaiah 42:16 "I will lead the blind on roads they have never known; I will guide them on paths they have never traveled. Their road is dark and rough, but I will give light to keep them from stumbling."

This Bible verse relates to the song because the Lord is saying he will guide us in the right direction even if it is scary. He will always know the right way and lead us there. Listening to him and following him no matter how hard it could be will help you to grow closer to Him and live more like Jesus.

When was a time in your life when you allowed God to fully guide you?

Pray that on the trip you will let God take control and get out of your comfort zone. Let him lead you to try something new and help and serve others through him.

July 8 Lincoln PreTrip Devotional

 \Box I finished doing this devotional.

□ I prayed for and sent this person a message

Having a Positive Attitude By: Josh Verbrugge Phone# 616-406-4639 Email: 2022jverbrug@gmail.com

Romans 8:28: And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Thoughts: When going on mission trips we are asked to do a variety of things. Some we might like and others not so much. While our minds may be focused on the things that we would rather do, we have to remember that <u>all</u> the things we will be doing have a purpose. We are on this trip because God has called us to visit Nebraska. God may be using all of our attitudes and actions to recklessly love someone else and bring them closer to Him.

Song: "Reckless Love (Acoustic Version)" by Cory Asbury https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZLFak6N04GY

Prayer: Dear Lord, as we go on mission trip may we always have a positive attitude know that we are not doing these things for ourselves, but to share Your love with others. Amen.

July 9 Lincoln PreTrip Devotional

 \Box I finished doing this devotional.

□ I prayed for and sent this person a message

Lexie Austin 616-648-6263

Trust in God

Proverbs 3:5-6

"Trust in the lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understandings; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your path straight."

This verse talk about how we should trust God because he knows what is good for us and he would not do anything that might bring harm to us. We need to trust in him no matter what, even if we think that something is not right for us we should still trust him because he knows if it good for us or not. We need to be able to trust him with leading us out of our comfort zones and doing something that we would normally not do. He knows what will be the outcome of what we do and he knows that it will be good in some way even if we don't even realize it.

Song: Oceans(Where feet may fail) by Hillsong United

Prayer:

Dear Lord, please help us on this mission trip to let others see you through the things we say and do. Please help us to do the best work we can and to always put your first in all of our thoughts and actions. Please help us to always keep our trust in you even if we don't always feel comfortable with the things we do. Help us to have a great mission trip and help us to all grow closer to you and each other on this mission trip.

Amen

July 10 Lincoln PreTrip Devotional

□ I finished doing this devotional.

□ I prayed for and sent this person a message

Different Emma DeVries (616)633-4986

Scripture: "The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore." -- Psalm 121:8

This verse has been my favorite for a while since I'm now done with high school and will be heading off to college very soon. I know God will be with me as my life changes from what I've known my whole life to something completely foreign. God will also be with all of us during our mission trip.

Listen to the song <u>Different</u> by Micah Tyler as you continue this devotion. This song speaks of changing and being, well, different than other people. To separate yourself from other people and stand out. We can all do this on our trip easily of course by helping out the community and the people in it. However I encourage you to try to be different pretrip. It can be something simple like offering to help your parents clean around the house or telling a friend how much you care about them. Or if you're feeling adventurous you could pay for someones meal, volunteer at a local organization of your choice or even (*wink wink*) spend a day helping out at Camp Zion. In a world full of routines you'll be surprised about how easy it can be to break away from your normal schedule once you set your mind to it. So what's one thing you can do this week that's different? What's one thing that can show God's love shine through you?

Prayer: God I pray that we all are different on our upcoming mission trip. That we actively make changes to our lives and that those changes will stick after we come back home. I pray that we all learn more about you, grow closer together, and make memories that will last a lifetime.

July 11 Lincoln PreTrip Devotional

□ I finished doing this devotional.

I prayed for and sent this person a message Jesus Daily Ella Bond Phone Number: (616)-734-9249

John 15:5- "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

Listen to "Lord I need you" by Matt Maher.

The part that speaks to me in this song is, "Lord I need you, oh I need you, every hour I need you, my one defense, my righteousness, oh God how I need you."

These lyrics in the song really show how every minute of every day, we need God to be with us.

Here are some questions to think about as you're preparing for mission trip: How do you see God working in your everyday life?

How are you going to look for and try to notice how much you need God on mission trip and in your daily lives?

Are you going to ask God to show you all the ways he is working in your life and that you would recognize that you need him every day, every hour? Prayer: Dear Lord, Thank you for this wonderful opportunity to serve you and learn more about our leaders and the people in our youth group. Help us, in every hour of the day, to realize how much we need you and how you are working in our lives. Amen.

July 12 Lincoln PreTrip Devotional

□ I finished doing this devotional.

□ I prayed for and sent this person a message

Pain is a Gift

Kenzie Sanders (616) 427-8073

We are all blessed in on our ways. If you were asked to list your blessings, I'm sure the list would be pretty long. But I'm wondering how that would compare in a list of all the things that have caused us to feel pain in our lives. Now I'm not talking about the pain you felt when you broke your arm in 4th grade. I'm talking about the pain you feel every time you see an ex best friend hanging out with their new friends at school or the pain you feel every time you hear your parents fighting or the pain you feel from just being so emotionally exhausted. This pain plays a big role in how we think and act overall affecting our everyday lives. Do you ever wonder why you experience this pain?

In the book of Joel, God sent a locust plague to destroy to the city of Judah as a consequence for all the wrong doings that had been happening throughout the city. In a way, this was God showing his power over the people in order to get them back on track and following the Lord. This example may be a little over the top but this is similar to what God would do. **Pain is brought to us by God in order to return to the Lord and the life he wants us to have.** Have you ever thought about it this way when you are going through pain yourself?

We are blessed to be able to experience emotional pain. These deep, rawl feelings are a way for God to communicate with us telling us where we went wrong, that we deserve better, or that we can be better. Personally, throughout middle school and the beginning of high school, I experienced a lot of pain from the so called 'friendships' I was apart of. This is something that really confused me because I was unsure of what I was doing in order to deserve this in my life. Quickly God showed me that there was better friends waiting to take me in. The pain I was experiencing was a sign from God that I deserved better. The quicker you realize this in your own life the better it will be for you going forward.

Luke 15:20 says "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him". This comes from a story to resemble how God acts toward us when we are experiencing pain. He will always be there waiting for you to turn back to him. When we turn back to him, he will be there looking. That's the kind of God he is and always will be.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for being that God that you are. Thank you for using pain as a way for us to learn about what you want for us. I know that you will give back to us a glorious everlasting life for all the suffering and pain I have experienced. Help this upcoming mission trip be a time where my pain is lifted so I will be able to focus on the people we will be serving. Amen.

July 13 Lincoln PreTrip Devotional

□ I finished doing this devotional.

□ I prayed for and sent this person a message

Purpose and Thanks Sarah Orme (616) 706-0732

When going throughout our days on mission trips it easy to get wrapped up in the rush and busyness of it all. It is easy for us to absentmindedly do the tasks that we are given, but we need to remember that God has a purpose for all the tasks that we are going to be given and they are important for the city that we are serving. We are only going to be in this city for a week and God has purpose for all the experiences that we will endure throughout our week, so we need to stop, and be purposeful with every task.

Romans 8:28

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

When feeling rushed or overwhelmed, don't forget the reasons why we are there. Notice the blessings that God fills your day with. Stop for a moment. Enjoy. Thank him.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Give thanks whatever happens. That is what God wants for you in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 3:15-17

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

How are you going to be purposeful on this upcoming mission trip?

Prayer:

God help me to slow down for this upcoming week, and remember to have purpose in every task that I am presented. Help me to give thanks and notice God's creation in Nebraska. Amen.

July 14 Lincoln PreTrip Devotional

I finished doing this devotional.
I prayed for and sent this person a message

God Time

Benjamin Hewitt (616-345-0551)

Matthew 14:23 (NIV): After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone.

Mark 1:35 (NIV): Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

For context's sake, the first verse was right after Jesus fed the five thousand (*Fun Fact: they estimate it was more like ten to fifteen thousand because they only counted the men and not the families*), and right before he walked on water. The second verse was after Jesus drove demons out of people in Capernaum and before healing a man of leprosy.

There are more points where Jesus went away to pray and I feel like this is not talked about guite as much, or at least I don't hear about it as much. Jesus would go and sit down away from the busyness and crowds to the silence and peace to just talk with God (Luke 4:42, Matthew 14:29, Luke 5:16, Luke 6:12, etc.). Just from observing the frequency, the natural assumption would infer that there is something to learn from this. On the mission trip we will be in a different place and we will be more than busy, but we will have some downtime. It's not so much about isolating yourself and more about just slowing down and praying. I'm encouraging you to take that time to find a spot and just talk with God. Simple as that. This devo is a reminder that you can talk to him at any point, time, place, and busyness and I do encourage you to do so. In the scenarios' shown, Jesus went to pray in a place of solitude. It seems like He valued this personal time with God, so why should we not do the same? Do we not enjoy talking to our friends, even the guieter ones? I know, it feels hard to talk to a celestial being who feels like they say nothing, but he responds in different ways then we are used to with a human being. I touch on this because it's always been something I found difficult and weird, and I still find it that way. We just need to pray and listen. I recommend spending some of our ever so precious free time to speak to Him on our trip, and most importantly, to listen to Him.

Jesus, please keep us safe as we travel to do work for your kingdom. Help us stay in good health as we help those that you have sent us to. Remind us to talk with you during our trip to remember you are always there for us, guiding us, and showing us Your truth. Open our minds to hear your words. Give us the strength to carry on and help inspire us on this trip. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen

July 15 Lincoln PreTrip Devotional

I finished doing this devotional.I prayed for and sent this person a message

I am Second Kyle Vande Pol 616-308-3007

I love the Olympics! Watching the best athletes in the world competing at the highest level representing their love and devotion to their sport and country is something that I look forward to every 2 years. Watching the medalist stand tall on the podium as their country's national anthem is being plays is something that can almost bring a tear to your eye; but what about the athletes who fall short ? Watch this video from former Olympian Shawn Johnson.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BEmtRuJwb7A

Or go to youtube and search: I am second Shawn Johnson

We have all felt like Shawn at some point in our life, dedicating everything we have to something but coming up just short and even though we far from failed we can't help but feel like a complete failure that has let everyone down including our self. Yet as we are reminded that no matter what we think we are facing or feeling God is the answer to everything, and no matter what we think we need to do or achieve it is not that end all be all. In the end second place is just a label placed on us some times by others but most of the time by our selves.

I John 3:1 "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him."

I love this verse because it reminds us that no matter what we think we fall short of, or what we think we are not capable of it doesn't matter because we are all God's children and we are loved by Him. No matter if we only land is second place we will always be first in the eyes of our Heavenly Father!

Prayer

God help us to feel your love so that even when we think we fall short we know that you are always there for us. Be with us on this upcoming mission trip and help us to remove all thoughts of inadequacy we may have about what we are capable of doing when we serve you. Help us to show love to those around us as we serve those in Lincoln and always keep you as our focus. Amen.

July 16 Lincoln PreTrip Devotional

I finished doing this devotional.
I prayed for and sent this person a message

Shanda Vandepol 616-308-0700

Trusting God

Psalm 31:14 But I trust in you, LORD; I say, "You are my God."

Some days these words are easier to say than others. We can trust God and praise Him when things are going well, when we see God working in our lives or the people's lives around us. We praise Him and trust His power when things are going easy and life seems to be working out into our hopes and dreams.

Then there are those other days though when life has gotten hard, relationships have been broken, we aren't getting the grades that we've put the work into getting or the doors aren't opening into our hopes and dreams the way that we thought they should. Now what?

Are we going to choose to continue to have trust in Him or believe that He is still with us, walking with us through those tough days and that He still is a kind, good and loving God?

I ask you today to recommit to God, staying on the path of life with Him. Enjoying His presence and seeing Him out continually. Find the joy in life around you and bask in the goodness of God even when life is hard. Choosing to recommit and TRUST Him in all circumstances.

Prayer: (Or write out your own prayer of a recommitment to trusting in the God) God, I come to you today surrendering all to you. There are moments in life that I can not predict and outcomes that I can not understand but through it all I want to seek you first and be faithful to you regardless of what happens in life. I trust you God and I believe that you are with me always, walking along side me. Thank-you for being my God.

Listen to: Come What May by Lindy Contant https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vrb1MHU37E4

July 17 Lincoln PreTrip Devotional

□ I finished doing this devotional.

□ I prayed for and sent this person a message



By: Olivia Davis (616) 217-1090

SCRIPTURE

1 John 5:14, NIV: "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us."

THOUGHTS

Praying is something that is always associated with anything we do whether its with your nervousness with a test you were about to take or problems that you are dealing with. As 1 John 5:14 said " If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us." And as we are approaching our mission trip listen to this song called when we pray and remember that God always listens to you even if you don't think he is.

SONG:

When we pray-Tauren Wells

People hurting, people broken Beaten down and feeling hopeless Wonder if it's gonna always be this way Who will speak up for the captive Show some love and heal a past that Binds the wounds we think will never go away

But what if we could be a people on our knees As one before the King 'Cause we believe

PRAYER

Dear God thank you for always listening to me and always being there for me, please be with us as we are preparing for the mission trip have us have calm nerves and trust in you through our prayers and know that you love us. Amen.

July 18 Lincoln PreTrip Devotional

 \Box I finished doing this devotional.

□ I prayed for and sent this person a message

Jeremy Zoet Cell: 616-886-1620 | Email: jzoet@zionreformed.org

Dikaiosune

Scripture:

Matthew 5:6

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled." (The words of Jesus)

Thoughts:

When the Bible gets translated from it's original language, we, as English speaking people, often miss what is really being said. In this passage, the word for *"righteousness"* is the Greek word *dikaiosune* (pronounced dih-ky-oh-SUE-nay). While this is an accurate translation, there is more to this word. It also is talking about God's just rule, or God's justice. This is the same word thats used in Matthew 6:33, "But seek first his kingdom and his *dikaiosune*, and all these things will be given to you as well." When we hear righteousness, we tend to think of living right or being good. But what if we thought of righteousness as more than "right living" *and* more of a heart for *justice* (God's kingdom meeting the spiritual, emotional, social, and physical needs of others)?

This passage also starts with hungering and thirsting. Think of a time you've been extremely hungry or thirsty. Maybe you ran a 5k for cross country at an away meet and you forgot your water bottle. Maybe you had to do homework or had a meeting during lunch period and had no lunch or snacks until you got home. Maybe you played mid-field at your soccer game and ran the length of the field what seems like a hundred times and you get home and there is "nothing to eat." In these moments there's somewhat of a sense of desperation to quench our hunger and thirst. We ache and long for food and water. We simply need it and will do whatever it takes to get what we need.

What if we long for God's kingdom to meet the spiritual, emotional, social, and physical needs of others in this same way? What if we will do whatever it takes to have these needs met in others?

My hope for every mission trip, is that our eyes are open to the injustices of the world, and that we want to see God's kingdom bring about justice - through us and others. So, on this trip, may we long for right living and justice for us and the people we meet. And may we go home after this trip with a hunger and thirst for *dikaiosune* and do whatever it takes to quench it.

Prayer:

God, give us a heart like yours. Give us a hunger and thirst for right living and justice. And as we hunger and thirst for it, may we be filled. May you use us and the organizations we partner with to bring right living and justice to the city we serve in and back home.

Listen to Surely We Can Change by David Crowder Band

July 19 Lincoln PreTrip Devotional

□ I finished doing this devotional.

□ I prayed for and sent this person a message

GOD'S LOVE

Shawn (616)427-8072

So as we look forward to another amazing trip. I could not be more thankful for the opportunity to embark on another adventure with this group.

When I was growing up when I was asked, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" My answer was always, "A Mom." I never had dreams of a big, time consuming, high pressure career. My main goal in life was to raise a family.

Twenty one years ago my dream came true! It is everything I dreamed and prayed about and more. You really can not describe it but the love you have for your children is different than any other love you can have. It is so unconditional. It is not based on achievements, good deeds, or how your children love you. This is the love GOD has for us!

"This is love! It is not that we loved God but that He loved us. For God sent his Son to pay for our sins with His blood." 1John 4:10

"See what great love the Father has for us that he would call us his children." 1John 3:1

"I will comfort you as one is comforted by his mother." Isaiah 66:13

Over the years I have been called the "Mom" of the youth group. I have always taken that as an honor. Being a Mom means you love and care for people. I love you all more than I could ever express. As a parent you get to watch your kids grow and learn new things. As a youth leader I have been blessed to see the love of Christ grow in you kids.

As we go to Nebraska I pray we can show the Love of God the Father to each other, and those we will be working with.

Dear God,

Thank you for the love you give us everyday! You have given us the gift of eternal life with you through your Son Jesus Christ. All you ask is we love you back.

Let us use the gifts and strengths you have given us to help the people of Lincoln. I pray that your love will lead us in all we do, and will be evident to the people we meet. Thank you for this opportunity! We Love You God! Amen.

July 20 Lincoln PreTrip Devotional

 \Box I finished doing this devotional.

□ I prayed for and sent this person a message

All Things New

By: Kim Verbrugge Phone: 616-238-2515 Email: kimverbrugge12@gmail.com

Isaiah 43:18-19 ~ Forget the former things: Do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up: Do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.

We all go about life stuck within our routines and schedules. We wake up, brush our teeth, get dressed and go about our business day after day. We may want to get out of our bubbles and do new things or even challenge ourselves in our faith. But it can be hard getting out of our norm. Trying new activities or pushing ourselves out of our comfort zone isn't easy to do at times. We make excuses of why we can't do it or how we don't have time. Our week in Nebraska a perfect opportunity to get out of our bubbles and pursue the new things God is calling us to do. Even when it's hard or nerve-racking God is right beside us encouraging us to follow His calling. He wants us to open our minds and hearts to His plans and wants us to put our trust in Him. Maybe for you, letting God take full control is something new.

Listen to the song <u>New Wine</u> by Hillsong Worship. <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?</u> <u>v=1ozGKl0zEVc</u>

The following are some lyrics that really stand out to me.

Make me your vessel. Make me an offering. Make me whatever you want me to be. Jesus make new wine out of me.

This trip we are about to take together is going to be one filled with new opportunities and challenges. We may be stretched and pushed in new ways. My hope is that everyone is ready to pursue that push. That we open hearts to what God may be calling us to do this week and approach it with excitement and confidence. Let's all be vessels of God's love and share it with everyone we come in contact with.

What is something new you hope to try or encounter on this trip? How are you going to step out of your comfort zone? Are you going to follow God's call when He presses you?

Prayer: Father, I pray for courage to pursue the new things that you have in store for us on this trip. I pray that You guide each of us. That we are pressed in new ways that will turn us into the people you have created us to be. Open up all of our hearts to Your calling. Help us all to follow you wholeheartedly throughout the week with a servant's heart. Amen.

July 21 Lincoln PreTrip Devotional

□ I finished doing this devotional.

□ I prayed for and sent this person a message

Struggles

Dylan Lamb 616-389-7942

Bible Verse: Proverbs 18:10 The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run into it and are safe.

In this verse I feel like it is telling me that no matter how your life's going it will get better and if you always Keep the lord in your head you will always become better and more powerful.

Prayer: Lord

I pray that we can get through our hardships and stay positive during this trip. I pray that we help out the people in need and stay safe on this trip. I pray that anyone struggling would be able to find help.

Song: Life Song by Casting Crowns <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?</u> <u>v=Gnf1xczuOrA</u>

I feel like this song brings an up most beat to my heart and reminds me that everything will be okay and in my life. Even though I struggle every day, everything will be okay.