



DEAR YOUTH PASTOR,

Thank you for considering Immersion as a mission trip for the youth of your church or ministry. We are incredibly excited for what God is doing in the young generation, and hopefully this letter communicates our heart in offering this opportunity for your students.

WHAT IT IS

Immersion is a 10 day mission trip for high school students who want to be stretched in their faith, go deeper in their relationship with Jesus, and put their faith into action. At the heart of this trip is discipleship. Our hope is that students will be consumed with a desire to know Jesus and make Him known wherever they are, whoever they are with. The trip starts out with 3 days of backcountry camping for a fun adventure, team bonding, and preparation for the week. Our main activities for the rest of the trip will be discipleship training for the students and mission work to meet practical needs in our neighborhood.

HOW IT STARTED

Immersion was birthed out of an organic Christian community on the West Side of Grand Rapids called the Bridge Street House of Prayer. Beginning as a group of 20-somethings hungry for a deeper sense of community and wanting to make a difference in the world, we soon realized that most of us had dreams and natural gifts for discipling young people. These dreams developed into a real calling to invest in the young people of Grand Rapids to be whole-hearted followers of Jesus, completely surrendered to His will at any cost.

THE DREAM

Our hope is that Immersion will launch students into a life surrendered to God and that students will start living for something outside of themselves. As a fellow youth pastor, I know this is both our dream and our frustration. In a culture obsessed with the self, we need something radical to wake us up. Could 10 days in an urban Christ-centered community dedicated to living simply and giving extravagantly be enough? It seems like such a small thing, and yet we have witnessed God do incredible things in the lives of young people over the last several years: A high school sophomore started a 24-7 prayer gathering, a senior girl was set free from years of depression, and many students experienced an incredible transformation, finding new purpose in pursuing God and advancing His Kingdom. I haven't even mentioned the incredible impact all those students had in our neighborhood. We were honestly blown away by the ways that the God we sing about on Sunday mornings came alive during those 10 days, and we're anticipating even greater things this year.

So, this is an invitation to be part of something a little bit outside of the box. Please take some time to seek God's heart for your students and see if Immersion 2012 lines up with His plans.

Derek Sterenberg

