Mission: The Call to More

In the following pages, you will find a great deal of information about our upcoming mission: what you will do, where you will serve, how you will prepare for your mission experience, and the costs associated with participating.

What is a mission and perhaps just as importantly, what it is not.

A mission trip is about so much more than the work you will do. If it were only about the work, we could find plenty to do right here in our beautiful North Country because, as we know, there is need everywhere.

There is a reason we leave our own communities to serve. When we step away from our daily routines, responsibilities, and distractions, we give ourselves the time and space to see and hear things we might otherwise miss, to reflect on that deeper calling within ourselves, and to discover something more about who we are and our relationship with others. A mission trip gives us the opportunity to explore that calling, to give ourselves completely and without expectation.

If all we do is show up, complete a project, and go home, we may have accomplished something good, but we may also have missed something far greater.

It is about people. The people you serve, the people you serve alongside, and just as importantly, it is about you. And ultimately, we do this work in the name of God.

A mission is about service, which naturally means providing help where it is needed. But it goes much deeper than that. Service is an exchange of gifts. I give what I have to offer, and in return, I receive what you have to give. Not as a transaction, not as an expectation that because I do something for you, you must do something for me, but as an exchange of love and grace, freely given and freely received.

And often, in the very people you have come to serve, you discover something that has been missing in your own life.

A mission of service is an answer to a deeper calling within ourselves, a call to give back to others the gifts that we have been given.

In many cases, it is a call we might not fully understand. A nagging pull in our hearts, perhaps in those infrequent quiet moments of reflection, that there is more we are made for, more we are called to do.

Because no matter who we are or what we may believe, there is always the call to more.

The call to be more than the world expects of us, more than we think we are capable of, and sometimes, more than we want to be.

The bonds you will form with those you serve and those you serve alongside will be rooted in this common experience. Together with that inner journey of reflection and discovery, these relationships can change your life in ways you may never have imagined.

What begins as an earnest journey to help others can become a life-changing affirmation of who you truly are in your heart.

For me, this quest for more is rooted in my faith, in striving to live the example of Jesus Christ and to honor the love and mercy that God has so freely given to me by sharing those gifts with others.

This may not be your spirituality. However you understand your calling, and however you choose to answer that pull for more, you will have the opportunity to truly live it while on mission.

At the North Country Mission of Hope, we have always been guided by this call to more, recognizing that for us, God is that spiritual more, and that our work is guided by Him. It is this faith that gives us the strength to hope when things seem hopeless, to find joy even in the darkest of times, and to discover our true selves along the way.

I have seen, time and time again, how this experience can set people on a new path, changing not only their own lives but the lives of those they touch through their work, their vocations, and the way they choose to live and honor that call to more.

All of this is open to you, if you allow yourself to take your first uncertain step with an open heart and open arms.