***Lesson: Honoring Graduates and Mission Report***

***July 21, 2019***

**From Mike:**

Did you ever stop to think about all of the experiences of life that have made you who you are? Life is full of things that become life forming passages as well as unforgettable experiences. Our young people who graduated recently will look back on graduation as one of the major life passages in their life—just as we all do with ours. It represents a dozen years of learning, growing, and creating memories that helped to turn them into young adults, ready for college and a life of learning what it means to be an adult. Many of them will add the Teen Mission trip to their list of life-changing and life-guiding experiences. It will be forever in their memory bank and it will be one of those experiences that they will look back on with fondness and love.

 We all have life experiences that form and transform us. The shared experience of Bible Action, with its planning, preparation, months of rehearsals, and wonderful sharing of work, prayers, devotionals, and hoping...is an experience that I will never forget and that helped me grow in many ways. It will always be a special memory that I am thankful for. The same could be said about our recent vacation trip. Yes, cruising to Alaska is wonderful, but it was sharing the experience with four other couples who we love and are now much closer to that made it unforgettable. It’s been a long time since my graduation from high school, but I remember it like it was yesterday. AND, there have been a lot of memories since then.

 Life passages include both happy and sad experiences, all of which make us who we are. Having said all that, the absolute most important life passage we will ever have is when we finally, personally, and totally recognize the presence of God. We talk about it for many years before most of us truly accept its reality, but it should be the most life-changing transition we will ever experience. It takes a lot of seeking, praying, and growing to truly “Be still and know that I am God” and He is as near as our next breath of air.

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