Welcome to Designed to Serve

Why is it that we have such a good feeling when we serve others? It's because God created us that way. It's in our DNA. We're designed to serve.

Why is it that when we love others, it feels so right and so good? It's in our DNA! We're designed to love and be loved.

The writer of Psalm 139:13-14 sings his praises to God:
For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

I opened my ancestry.com package and decided to take a walk around the lake to reflect on the results. It's amazing to think that my ancestors, starting with my parents and grandparents, were created by God and blessed with their unique DNA. I am who I am today because of them. We truly are fearfully and wonderfully made.

As you prepare for your mission trip, be thankful to God that you are uniquely designed to serve and to love, and be deeply thankful for each new person you will meet during your mission trip. Know that they, too, are wonderfully made (and loved) by God, and they, too, have been Designed to Serve and to love.

I know you'll have an inspiring and life-changing trip!

Rev. Dr. Frank Nelson, author

Pre-Trip Devotional #1 Today's Date_____

Designed to SERVE

To serve is to do whatever it takes to improve the life of another person.

Key Verse (Suggestion: You may want to write this verse down and carry it with you today.) *(Jesus said) Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.* John 12:26

Do you agree with Albert Schweitzer who wrote…*The purpose of human life is to serve, and to show compassion and the will to help others.* ❑ yes ❑ no ❑ maybe Why?

I remember serving someone else when I (did what?)…

Make a list of some of the people who serve you:

List three things you might do during the days of your mission trip to be helpful to others:

Read Philippians 2:1-11 and then write in the space below words or phrases from the reading that will help you during the mission trip.

Dear God…

I want to thank you for giving me many things, including (list)…

Thank you for the people in my life who serve me, including (list)…

Forgive me for the times I have not been willing to…

During our mission trip, help me to serve others by…

Amen.

Committing to God's Design

Because I am wonderfully designed by God to SERVE others, during the next 24 hours I will try to serve (whom?) _____by (doing what?):

Travel and Mission Day Devotional #1 Today's Date_____

TODAY'S WEATHER: ***(circle one)***

TODAY'S MOOD: ***(circle one)***

Designed to WELCOME

To welcome is to receive another person gladly, not as a "stranger" but as a "friend."

Key Verse: *Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.* Romans 12:13

Henri Nouwen described hospitality like this: *Hospitality means the creation of a free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy. Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place.*

During the past 24 hours

Something new that I saw or noticed…

I'm glad I was able to…

Something new that I experienced…

I felt accepted and welcomed by _____ when he/she…

I reached out to welcome and accept (whom?) _____ when I…

Something or someone who made me laugh…

It felt good when…

An emotional high point (or good time) was when…

A low point (or hard time) for me was when…

From the Bible (Circle key words or phrases that stand out or challenge you.)

Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:1-2

Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. 1 Peter 4:9

(Jesus said) "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me." Mark 9:37

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me. Revelation 3:20

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God. Ephesians 2:8

Extra Bible Reading: Grab (or borrow) a Bible and read the story of how Jesus welcomed the Samaritan woman (John 4:4-24). As you read the passage try to enter the mind of the woman and make some notes on the open Design Space. How do you think she felt about being welcomed and accepted by Jesus? How do you think his welcome changed her life?

Prayer: Read (or reread) the Travel Day Prayer on page 16 and then write your own prayer below:

Dear God…
Today I'm especially thankful to you for (make a list)…

Please forgive me for…

And help me to…

Today and in the days of our mission trip, please help me to…

I promise You that I will…

Committing to God's Design
Because I am wonderfully designed by God to WELCOME others, during the next 24 hours I will make every effort to welcome the "strangers" I meet and treat them as new friends. This is what I will plan to do with each new person I meet…

Design
Space
A creative place for your
questions, notes, sketches,
ideas, thoughts, memories,
prayers and promises.

My "Elevator Speech"

When you are back home from your mission trip, people might ask you, "How was your trip?" It's a great idea to have a 30 secondnd answer to their question (the time it takes to ride in an elevator). Your task is to summarize your trip during the elevator ride. Use the space below to write an "elevator speech," and then, practice giving your speech to family and friends so that you'll be ready when anyone says, "Tell me about your trip!"

Back Home Day #1 Today's Date_____

Designed to BE THANKFUL

To be thankful is to be grateful for both the gift that is given as well as the one who gave it.

Key Verse (You may want to write this verse down and carry it with you today.) *Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.* 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

George Herbert wrote this beautiful prayer: *Thou who has given so much to me, give one thing more: a grateful heart.* And someone once wrote: *In happy moments, praise God. In difficult moments, seek God. In quiet moments, worship God. In painful moments, trust God. In every moment, thank God.*

Today, I'm most thankful for…

Being thankful helps me to…

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28 and then write in the space below words or phrases that challenge you to be more thankful. Why do you think God wants you to notice these words or phrases?

Read more from the Bible (if you have the time): Psalm 118; Philippians 4:4-9; Colossians 3:12-17.

Dear God…
Thank you for giving me…

Please forgive me for taking life for granted and not giving you thanks for…

Thank you that, during our mission trip, I learned to be especially thankful for…

Committing to God's Design
Because I am wonderfully made by God to BE THANKFUL, during the next 24 hours I will honor God by expressing my thanks to… (List those you want to thank in person or by email/text/Facebook.) Be sure to complete "What's Your Story" on pages 45-47 if you haven't done so yet. Also, work on the pages on 59-61, "Designed to Grow in Christ".