

Students, Leaders, and Parents of High School Mission,

I'm very excited about our mission to Bogalusa, LA! We have been working for many months with a team from Elizabeth Sullivan Memorial United Methodist Church (ESM UMC) to arrive at this vision: **Planting seeds of God's hope by working together to revitalize our Bogalusa community**. We will join in this vision through a baseball/softball camp, VBS, home repair, block parties, and more. Our partner church, ESM UMC, is situated in a town that is economically depressed, significantly divided, and searching for hope. We are going to help them build relationships so that the people of Bogalusa recognize that church as one who brings hope and revitalization for their community. They will continue and maintain those relationships so that disciples of Jesus can be made and revitalization can happen.

Students and leaders will be in Bogalusa to help begin a revitalization process because we have experienced revitalization in our own lives through Jesus Christ. This will require us to understand how Christ brings us new life so that we can example that new life to others. This means that we'll have to put the needs and desires of others before ourselves and to love people who might be different than us. For this reason, we will be looking at our vision statement above as a guide for our devotional times throughout the week. We'll be asking students, "Do you make disciples?" and "Have you experienced revitalization?" and equipping them to do and be that here in San Antonio.

### **SEE BELOW FOR NEW EXPECTATIONS REGARDING CELL PHONES**

Things you need to know:

1. On **Friday 7/14 at 6:00pm** please come to the north side parking lot with your packed luggage for the week. Luggage will be put in vans and then you are free to go. Students can pack a backpack for the van with any necessary items for the following morning.
2. If your student takes prescription medication please bring it on Friday 7/14 when you drop off your luggage. Medication(s) must be in the original prescription bottle, and please bring ***only the amount needed for the duration of the trip***, along with a Medication Form which is attached to this email.
3. **At 6:30pm on Friday 7/14** we will have a short leader meeting upstairs in the Labyrinth room. I need all adult leaders going to Bogalusa here for this.
4. Everyone **must arrive at the north side of University UMC (The U) no later than 6:30am** on Saturday July 15<sup>th</sup>.
5. **Bring a sack lunch** with you for the road the morning of 7/15. **No peanut products**. Come having eaten breakfast already.
6. **Cell phones and other electronics are not allowed** on the trip and students must leave these at home. At check in on Saturday morning 7/15 students must either:
  1. Hand their cell phone to their parent while being witnessed by Student Ministry staff.
  2. Hand their cell phone to Student Ministry staff where it will be securely locked and left at the church for the week.

7. We will be sleeping and eating most of our meals at Pearl River Community College in neighboring Poplarville, MS.
8. If you received an email regarding our need for your student's medical information form, please return that to Sarah Morris at [sarah@theu.org](mailto:sarah@theu.org) by Sunday 7/9.
9. We will return to The U by 5:30pm on Saturday July 22.
10. Pay attention to the student ministry Facebook page (The U Students), Twitter (@theustudents), and Instagram (The U Students) for updates throughout our trip.

[Click here for the packing list.](#)

We will make stops on the way to and from Bogalusa, so if a student wishes to purchase a snack or drink while at these stops, it is up to them to pay for it.

On Friday July 21, we will take a break from work and go to Gulf Islands Water Park in Gulfport, MS. Lunch will be provided on this day, but if a student wants to buy snacks or anything else while there, it is up to them to pay for.

Finally, please be in prayer for the week. Pray that we can successfully create disciple-making relationships in Bogalusa and that the people there realize the hope of Jesus and the life that He brings. Pray that we can look past ourselves so we can serve well and be better equipped to grow the Kingdom here in San Antonio. Pray for safety for our week. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Student Ministry office at 210-696-1033.

Blessings,

Clay Smallwood  
The U Student Ministry