



## To my families and friends:

**In** this time of uncertainty and grief throughout our ever-changing world, we learn more and more how necessary it is to rely on God. In the fall of 2005, many hurricanes ripped through the Gulf Coast, but none rivaled the destruction left by hurricanes Rita and Katrina. In response to the desperate cries for help that arose from this area of the country, God sent many relief teams to help with the devastation. Surprisingly, many of these teams were composed primarily of young people. After their first trip to help with the relief effort, a group of five girls from Glen Mar United Methodist Church realized exactly the enormity of the disaster that had been laid before them. In response, the girls immediately began making plans for a return trip of their own. They obtained sponsorship from a local, Christian-run organization, known as GenXaret, and formed the group now known as Youth on a Mission (YOAM). When asked about their visions for YOAM, the girls responded with the following statements:

*Essentially, I envision YOAM as a mission organization, connecting with the global community in response to disasters not only on a large scale, but to personal devastations as well. I want to stretch our reach across the world and into any niche we can find to help. I see this trip to Slidell as only the beginning of a huge and wonderful undertaking.*

*My vision for YOAM is that the youth in this area are serving a purpose, that purpose being in the eyes of God, to help other people.*

*This is our chance to help with the clean up of a natural disaster, one that affected the whole entire country. This is our time, I believe, our opportunity to serve the way God wants us to. I want to see this happen, whether I'm a part of it or not, I want to see that the youth of America or at least in our community, are going on this mission to make things right, and influence families that were affected in the south, using God's hands.*

*Others might see it as a journey for ourselves, which is it, but I believe more that it's a journey through God to help others so they can continue their own journey.*

YOAM is now forming a team of about 50 adults and youth who are voluntarily giving up their winter break (January 2-8, 2011) to travel to Slidell, LA, to continue repairing the homes, hearts, and spirits of the community. This is the fourth year we are working in this community to assist them in their recovery. We would like to extend to you the opportunity to help support this mission effort through both your prayers and your fiscal contributions. Currently, the estimated cost to each person for this trip is \$300.00 and the total cost of the trip is estimated at \$500.00 per participant.

**First, we ask for your prayers for our Mission.** Yet, there are many ways to give, and support those going on the trip - no financial amount is too small to make a difference and we will include you in a daily progress report as we travel, whether you can give at this time or not. One suggested gift is a daily sponsorship (one day's for one participant is about: \$100.00). Another is to give what you might spend that week on a daily luxury like Starbucks coffee (app. \$20-\$25). Please indicate on the attached form how you would like to support this trip. We have enclosed a self-addressed envelope for your convenience. However, to be able to apply as much of your donation as possible to our trip, we have not stamped the envelope. All checks can be made payable to Glen Mar UMC with YOAM in the notation line. Thank you so much for your prayerful consideration of our trip to Slidell, LA.

May God bless you and yours, in Him, the Youth On A Mission team

SIGNED:

*“As the body without spirit is dead,  
so faith without deeds is dead.”*

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I WILL PRAY FOR YOU AND FOR YOAM \_\_\_\_\_  
I WILL SPONSOR THIS TRIP THROUGH GIVING \_\_\_\_\_  
SPONSORSHIP AMOUNT: \_\_\_\_\_