

# FaithBIT



## Experiencing God through Service and Music

**Reflection by Hope Anderson**

(This was first shared as a First Word, an opening devotion at Confirmation)

My name is Hope Anderson and I am a junior at Eden Prairie High School.

Please pray with me. Dear God, we ask for your wisdom, for your strength and power to be constantly present within us. We pray you would make us strong and courageous for the road ahead. Give us ability beyond what we feel able, let your gifts flow freely through us, so that you would be honored by our lives, and so that others would be drawn to you. Amen.

A few years ago, I made the best decision of my life. With my best friends from this church, that I met through Confirmation, we went on Immanuel's senior high youth mission trip to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. I was so excited to experience something new with my best friends. While there our service group worked with kids in the kids' club, but before we could work with them, we would have to learn more about their lifestyle. Many of these kids had dealt with death, alcoholism, drug addiction, poverty and abuse within their families. This was all very saddening to hear about because I have never had to deal with any of these things before, so I tried my absolute best to be the kids' friends and make their days a little better. I was able to play with a girl, Pretty, and her little brother, Junior, for three whole days. Seeing those kids each day was just an amazing experience.



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truly feel that God was with  
us.”**

**- Hope Anderson**

When we were not volunteering or playing with the kids, we went on a hike in the Badlands. My friends and I were determined to be the first ones to the top, and we were. Once there we waited for everyone else to join us and by that time the sun was setting over the horizon and the city down below. That was when Martin thought it would be a good idea if we all sang 'Sanctuary' before heading back down.

As we all sang together, I remember Carter Anderson harmonizing with everyone, and the musicality of it all was amazing. I had never felt God's presence so strongly before. In that moment I could truly feel that God was with us. I will never forget that moment.

Closing prayer: Dear God, I thank you for the gift of music. I thank you because playing music has allowed me to gain clarity in life and it has helped me to enforce truths that You have opened my eyes to. Music is just one way that I enjoy worshiping You. I thank you for this gift that you have given me; I do not take it lightly. Amen.