

# FaithBIT



## Transformed in Port Aransas

Reflection by Bridget Zillmer

My sister Annie wanted me to visit her in Corpus Christi, TX where she often vacationed because she loved the beauty of the area and the genuine people. I never got there prior her passing in 2016.

The 2019 Camp Noah mission trip assigned our Immanuel team to go to Port Aransas, Texas which is a town that neighbors Corpus Christi. Port Aransas was destroyed by Hurricane Harvey in 2017 and the community is in recovery to once again be a beautiful tourist destination.

Our team of 12 Immanuel volunteers, like Jesus' 12 disciples, clearly witnessed God's work daily. I felt my sister's spirit as the week unfolded. I met a fantastic young teen who connected with his brother through choosing the same blanket his brother chose - he did not know at the time that he was choosing the same pattern! (All Camp Noah participants receive a fleece blanket as part of the camp curriculum.) The two brothers sang the country music song "Strong" at the end of the camp to express their resolve to recover from the devastation of Hurricane Harvey. They bonded so closely just like my sister and me.



**“My heart was filled with  
JOY to see God’s plans  
unfold.”**

**- Bridget Zillmer**

I met a retired adult artist who lost everything except a pair of sandals in the hurricane. She shared her palm pod painting with me. She reminded me of my sister, who was also an artist. After hearing the children process their storm stories, the Community Site Leader decided to coordinate an adult retreat so that adults could tell and process their stories as part of their recovery process. The local student leaders decided to form an on-going youth group after spending the week with the Immanuel team.

My heart was filled with JOY to see God's plans unfold. "The Lord who guided me with strength and made my way safe" Psalm 18:32. It is through their courageous stories and unconditional love and resiliency in the midst of life's challenges that I, too, have been transformed and began to understand why my sister loved this area so much.