

# ACTS Mission Trip 2018

## Mobile, Alabama

### Alive in You Camps

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Early morning, in the middle of nowhere, we arrive at a dilapidated gas station after cruising for some miles, with an abrupt stop which marked the beginning of our peril, on the way to our mission trip in Mobile, Alabama. We have already made it halfway to our destination, but we got stuck in the middle of Tennessee, Jackson to be specific. Without any other choice, we were lead to a Waffle House to have breakfast, where we rested, ate and had a bit of fun for a while. Then, though, it was time to leave... Instead of wandering around without aim, we decided to celebrate the Eucharist. Oh snap, we have no place! Well, we have big parking lot in front of us, so we can do it on the grassy area... We got ready, and the celebration began. The Gospel of the day reminded us: "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and those who enter through it are many. How narrow the gate and constricted the road that leads to life. And those who find it are few." What a way to start our trip, a broken bus, without a place to stay and a bit grumpy. It reminded us of the struggles we have face in order to enter the Kingdom of God. Moreover, after the Eucharist we found a new place to hang out for a while, but it was getting harder and harder to be there. One of our chaperones called St. Mary's Catholic Church, which was close enough to walk to, asking for a place to rest a bit. Immediately they told us that we could walk over there and they will open a couple of rooms for us to rest... Think of the Gospel of Mathew, welcoming the stranger. It was a hard beginning of the mission trip, but it allowed us, the teens and chaperons, to work and to experience, in a different way, our mission. The teens worked so hard, participated, enjoyed and lived the experience in a unique way. They were able to experience beforehand the generosity of people, in the midst of difficulty, before they were able to go and serve. What a way to live!