



After 8 years, the ETN Expo has Built a Community of Friends

It's hard to believe that this year in East TN we celebrated our 8th outreach blessed by God's gracious presence and love. In fact, the Expo there was our 39th since starting the ministry in 2010 and while some things have changed over the years like the addition of a rock wall this year, the annual tie-dye decorated t-shirt art and the wheelchair basketball station, sharing Jesus which is the core of the ministry has stayed the same. We still give a Bible in each goody bag, have a Gospel bracelet station and pray with our volunteer team before the Expo starts. The results are still the

same, too. Smiles full of the joy in the Lord and lives touched by His grace abound throughout the event. God is so faithful working through the hearts and minds of His people to serve so many in the ETN area and this year nearly 900 folks attended the outreach there on August 19th.

After 8 years, it is encouraging to see so many of the participants, volunteers and exhibitors look forward to seeing friends they have made and just plain fellowshiping with one another. It's this community within the local community where much of the ministry of support occurs giving those in need the hope to carry on throughout the rest of the year.

Sharing the bond that God gives us in Christ is the most powerful source



of strength we have that will help sustain us each day. Knowing not only that there are those who understand the challenges of disability but more importantly genuinely care about those walking in that journey can be a light that brings a smile in the day to day living that we all need.

Our prayer is that God continues to grow this community in the wholesome light of His love as we develop more Outpost gatherings like our Spring Fling and Christmas Jingle and Mingle and that those living with disabilities and their family members will find hope in Christ and His promises and be encouraged, inspired and cheered on by His people. ☺