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A Year with God

BY ASHLEIGH JARDINE

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. —1 Corinthians 15:58 ESV

Ashok Willmott says his decision to be a missionary was “all God.” “Even though I had my best year at Andrews my sophomore year, I knew I was putting other things in front of God,” he says. “I wanted to get out of the U.S. and figure out my relationship with Him. God really made it happen.”



Mike, Ashok Willmott and Mikkel

Ashok has spent the 2011–2012 school year as a student dean at Vejlebjergskolen Academy in Denmark. He says God is using the experience to teach him to serve others and to live life to the fullest.

Ashok was one of ten student missionaries who arrived in Denmark in August 2011. The group has spent the year “being kids,” says Ashok, and building relationships with students. On a typical day, Ashok drives students into town, plays sports, laughs and spends time with them. He also directs chores and does night checks in the dorm, morning wake-ups and monthly worships.

“I didn’t think I’d be this involved spiritually or in sports,” he says. “Playing sports is a big way I connect with the kids.”

Ashok also didn’t expect to connect so well with the students, particularly Mike.

Mike, a ninth-grader, struggled at the beginning of the school year. He was temperamental, angry and had a bad attitude, says Ashok. He also got in trouble a lot and didn’t seem to care.

Ashok took Mike under his wing and learned of his troubles at home. Years earlier, Mike’s dad left his mother when she refused to have an abortion. The missing father-son relationship was hurtful and confused the teenager. As the school year progressed, however, people noticed a change in Mike’s behavior. He aced his classes and smiled more; he even attended Bible studies with Ashok. The two spend regular time together — talking, playing basketball and growing in their faith.

“Since the first day I met Mike, we became friends,” says Ashok. “He’s changed a lot in the last few months. Even though he’s five years younger than me, he’s teaching me things.”

Although Ashok misses his family and friends, he knows God put him in Denmark. Visit <http://www.awillmott.tumblr.com/> to read of his other “Adventures in Denmark.”

Ashleigh Jardine is a freelance writer from Berrien Springs, Michigan, where she is majoring in physical therapy at Andrews University.

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