

# Celebration 2005 Program



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# Spring Break Mission Week: Official Mission, Purpose, and Task



## Our Mission

To share the light of God  
across the campus, the community,  
the nation and the world  
through the work of our hands,  
the love of our hearts,  
and the knowledge of our minds.

## Our Purpose

To redeem the week of Spring Break  
through committed acts of  
servant leadership,  
restorative justice,  
and transformative reflection.

## Our Task

To use our common  
and mostly unskilled abilities  
to help clean up, help remodel,  
help rebuild, help teach,  
and help heal our world.  
While our task is important,  
it is only a vehicle to our  
mission and purpose.

# *Prophetic Voices:*

## *A Vision for Mission Programs at OWU*

*An Excerpt from the Mission Workshop and Manteling Service  
by Kelly Adamson, Associate Chaplain of Mission and Vocation*

*...Mission programs at OWU go beyond a week of doing the something you can do. If you stopped there, you would be noble givers of charity. Yes, you would be rightly (and perhaps righteously) meeting an immediate need.*

*But, what is hoped for you is far riskier than giving up spring break or summer vacation time. This is the risk we have not yet discussed today. We send you out to do for others, to learn about and from others, to encounter others, and hopefully in the process, to encounter the Other - capital O. And we hope, when you come back home to OWU and back to your own local communities, we hope you find yourself saying again with Helen Keller, "I am only one, but still I am one, I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. I will not refuse to do the something I can do."*

*We hope you tell your story of encounter. We hope you allow yourself to be changed, and find yourself unsatisfied. That's right. We hope you come back unsatisfied - unsatisfied with a world that allows great poverty, unsatisfied with a world that allows children to go hungry, families to live unsheltered, and that allows inequality and injustice to lead to terrorism and war.*

*Yes, a week of charity and service is noble. But we want more for you, for the world. We dare to dream that you will return with a passion for justice, for educating and dialoguing for real and lasting change. This is the risk you cannot calculate. Do you dare to risk being so open to another culture that you may encounter God there? Do you dare to risk being forever changed and transformed? Upon return will you dare to risk the life of a prophet?*

*And so, we listen to the story of encounter.  
We wait to hear the prophet's voice...*

# Appalachia Service Project Chavies, Kentucky

## Original Vision

This project will explore poverty in Appalachia and service to the community through relationships, cultural understanding, spirituality, and a hammer and nail.

## Final Reflection

The Appalachia Service Project Team traveled to Chavies, Kentucky where we spent the week repairing a bedroom floor, waterproofing a roof, and digging a very large hole for a retaining wall. We worked side by side, laughed, sang, formed bonds with our families, grew close as a group, and learned more about ourselves - overall, we had an amazing week!

## Team Members

Erica Bachlor +  
Tharindu Gajawęera  
Amanda Mook

Lushani Nanayakkara  
Taapsi Ramchandani  
Sarah Steęle \*

Amy Tuttle  
Sahan Dissanayake \*\*  
Blairę Moody \*\*



\* Team Leader  
+ Spiritual Guide  
\*\* Faculty/Staff Advisor

# The Benedictine Experience: Women in Community Erie, Pennsylvania

## Original Vision

Team members will experience the Benedictine model of faith, community, prayer and social action as they help with a variety of the sisters' service projects (including a soup kitchen and an inner-city youth art house), learn about the social justice initiatives of the sisters, participate in community and prayer life of the monastery, and converse with sisters on special topics.

## Final Reflection

The importance of purposefulness was evident – a single purpose that permeates all aspects of life is a beautiful and powerful thing. For many of us, the week was transformational. We were inspired by the faith, compassion, generosity and sense of community the sisters displayed. Their spirit awakened us to new possibilities, for ourselves and for our world.

## Team Members

Kathy Finley  
Shannon Jakob  
Sarah Lord

Justina Ludvik +  
Julianna Moczera  
Kelly Adamson \*\*



\* Team Leader  
+ Spiritual Guide  
\*\* Faculty/Staff Advisor

# Borderlinks Arizona/Mexico

## Original Vision

This experience offers students the opportunity to examine the dynamics that exist on the border between Mexico and the United States. Students will explore these dynamics from both sides of the border.

## Final Reflection

By crossing and studying the complex and sometimes artificial economic, political and social boundaries that try to distance us from our closest neighbors, we have found that love, hospitality and our own humanity transcend all borders. We have been outraged by the injustices, frustrated by the complexities, touched by kindness, and overall, moved to make known and change the situation that now exists between the U.S. and Mexico Border.

## Team Members

Anita Chandrasekar

Rachel Goodell

Latrice Johnson

Luke Kapper

Allison Kesslering

Julie Peterson

Elizabeth Polter

Amy Raksakul +

Yun Kyoung Ryu

Sizsh Shrestha

Ellen Stedtfeld

Allison Wood

Hillary Zung \*

Kaaren Courtney \*\*

Robert Gitter \*\*



\* Team Leader

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\*\* Faculty/Staff Advisor

# Kids Without Borders Hanoi, Vietnam

## Original Vision

This team will work with disabled children who are victims of Agent Orange in a Vietnamese orphanage.

## Final Reflection

Our team has learned so much in the one week we were in Viet Nam, and we have gained a much better perspective on the effects of Agent Orange and the great deal of support that is still needed for those affected. Seeing the love and happiness in the smiles of the children affected by Agent Orange was a greater blessing than any other; we were blessed with the opportunity to share hope and joy with the children through song, dance, and play. We were also able to provide the children with needed medical, educational, and recreational supplies. The people of Viet Nam greatly appreciated our mission, and we were humbled by their hospitality and only hope we were able to and can continue to reciprocating this love and compassion to those affected by Agent Orange.

## Team Members

Kevin Barron	Melanie Hill	Thanh Nguyen *
Jennifer Brunsdon	Matthew Laferty	Jessica Schaffner
Kumar Chheda	Eric Mangus	Jon Powers **
Jennifer Frabritius +	Nga Nguyen *	Lisa Spradley **



\* Team Leader  
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# Habitat for Humanity: Collegiate Challenge

## John's Island, South Carolina

### Original Vision

The Collegiate Challenge program has become a national tradition. Students from all over spend spring break 'concretely' serving through relationship and construction.

### Final Reflection

Our team went to Johns Island, SC to serve the local Habitat for Humanity chapter. We worked on new construction doing everything from digging footers to priming and painting. Through our work, we learned about ourselves and each other—uniting our diverse collection of people into one team.

### Team Members

Amanda Baker  
Lindsay Desiato  
Mikayla Ebitz  
Chad Ellis  
Gulcan Garip  
Sam Harold  
Melissa Herman  
Matt Herring  
Marian Homan \*  
Katie Janca

Troy Jeffrey  
D.J. Kazimi  
Meghann Kerr  
Bob Matthews  
Jasmin Mitchell  
Amy Morgan  
Jon Neckers  
Eugene Oteng  
Kirsten Pfund  
Tiffany Priest

Joe Rosato  
Dan Sharpe  
Noah Shunfenthal  
Naina Sood  
Yulia Strizheus  
Jill Sullivan  
Gloria Twesigye  
Joshua Warner +  
Mike Hollway \*\*  
Paula White \*\*



\* Team Leader  
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# Racial Reconciliation Jackson, Mississippi

## Original Vision

Through work with a renowned racial reconciliation institution, this project focuses on past and present issues and practicalities of race in America.

## Final Reflection

This trip has reinforced in our minds the urgency of race issues in all of our lives, communities, campus, and in the greater society. Through this experience our group grew and bonded as a unit. It was through this process that we experienced first-hand and began to understand one of the fundamental first steps to racial reconciliation; the building of relationships.

## Team Members

Elizabeth Antwi  
Katherine Casey-Leininger  
Danielle Sampson +  
Melissa Taylor

Damon Warren  
Clifton Williams  
Terry Williams

Sarah Yerian \*  
Ray Albright \*\*  
Toosina Durham \*\*



\* Team Leader  
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# Restorative Justice: Ohio Prisons Central Ohio

## Original Vision

Visiting central Ohio prisons and talking with inmates and staff will be the focus of this unique project as the team explores concepts of justice, and what the term 'restorative justice' really means.

## Final Reflection

All people are the same, all susceptible to making mistakes. We as humans must realize that none are greater than others, we all just get different callings at different times from God.

## Team Members

Trigen Hodges

Jennifer Howard \*

Christy Siegr +

Dan Wigbe \*\*

Lauren Wigbe \*\*



\* Team Leader

+ Spiritual Guide

\*\* Faculty/Staff Advisor

# Two Communities of Faith Rome, Italy

## Original Vision

This team will work with Mother Theresa's order of religious sisters in their men's homeless shelter, soup kitchen, and food and clothing bank, situated in the heart of ancient Rome, Italy. They will also explore the Catholic faith by visiting the holy sites of Rome, going to Mass at St. Peter's, and receiving a blessing from the Pope.

## Final Reflection

The Rome Mission Team began the week with a trip to Gemelli hospital in order to see the pope and to receive his blessing. The group then spent the week in prayerful service at the men's homeless shelter at San Gregorio, which is run by the Sisters of Charity. The Rome Mission team also journeyed in religious pilgrimage to the various holy sites in the city of Rome that are at the center of Roman Catholicism, including the four major basilicas. During the season of Lent, when Christians reflect on the suffering of Christ, this experience was a reminder that we are all called to work to address the suffering of those in need in our own communities, and around the world.

## Team Members

Stephanie Bologzorges

Jessica Brøneman +

Dan Corcoran \*

Melissa Diggles

Megan Dillhoff

Elizabeth Villar

Jessica Walz

Meghan Weaver

Sally Sikorski \*\*

David Sizemore \*\*



\* Team Leader

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\*\* Faculty/Staff Advisor

# Wilderness Trek North Carolina

## Original Vision

This trip offers students the opportunity to challenge themselves physically, emotionally, and spiritually in the great outdoors while developing faith and leadership skills.

## Final Reflection

The wilderness has a way of teaching people dependence on each other and on God. Learning to live in a mountain environment in early March demanded each person to learn how to depend on each other for not just food, warmth, shelter and navigation, but also for emotional safety, room to encounter things in themselves, and encouragement to understand the parallels of the journey in the wilderness with the journey of our lives back at Ohio Wesleyan. Through changing plans on the go because of unexpected snow, grueling uphill hikes with heavy backpacks, sleeping outside in cold weather, some rain and a lot of wind, a community was formed, and together the group learned to serve, play, be honest, confront, reconcile, and talk about how to bring some of these things back to their lives out of the wilderness.

## Team Members

Charles Boazuf

Mitchell Briant

Erika Fox

Karen Johnson

Colin Kelly

Bradyn Kessler

Daniel Krofchek

Ashley Pezle

Phil Mollenkof \*\*



\* Team Leader

+ Spiritual Guide

\*\* Faculty/Staff Advisor

# Wilderness Trek New Hampshire

## Original Vision

This trip offers students the opportunity to challenge themselves physically, emotionally, and spiritually in the great outdoors while developing faith and leadership skills.

## Final Reflection

We, The New Hampshire Wilderness Trek, Went to the wilderness and were humbled (by the 35 below wind chill's, 4 + feet of snow) and saw what was in our hearts (as we cared for our self each other and the environment around us) Deut 8:2. In our weakness we discovered the strength of a real community, true reconciliation and the awe inspiring Glory of the Lord who Sustained and dwelled in our camp with us.

Clint Davis

Erin Eilbeck

Jarrod Job

Kimberly Martin

Miriam Meinhardt

Curt Sykes

Ryan Carlson \*\*



\* Team Leader

+ Spiritual Guide

\*\* Faculty/Staff Advisor

# Summer 2005 Teams

## Christian Reconciliation: Ireland/Northern Ireland

The purpose of this team is to learn about the economic, cultural, socio-political, and religious roots of the conflict in Ireland/Northern Ireland. The team will spend time in service with two reconciliation groups, Corrymeela and Glenerree and visit with other peace and reconciliation groups. They will also explore early Christianity in Ireland along with cultural and pilgrimage sites.



## South Africa

This mission team will focus on work with AIDS, racial reconciliation, and the effects of apartheid. This team was formed last fall, and only has two remaining spots.



## Crossroads of the Powerful and Powerless Washington, D.C.

Throughout this program, participants will explore power as it relates to poverty. They will spend time both with the poor and those working on the grassroots level to alleviate poverty as well as lobbyists and politicians who strive to reduce poverty.

# A Special Thank You

To those who worked behind the scenes, giving much of their time and talent  
Without this special community, this endeavor would be impossible.

Vicki Blommel

Jean Bussell

Mark Huddleston

Lisa Ho

Bill Louthan

Marsha Tilden

The Accounting Staff

The Purchasing Staff

The Chaplain's Office Staff

Evan Reas and WCSA

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And to Donors like you...

49% of our overall budget was contributed from donors

29% was contributed by the Lilly Foundation Grant

22% was contributed by WCSA



"I want to share with you that my soul rejoices after listening to so many sincere and great stories from students. All of these programs are such a success, because it is not only the determination of the organizers, but as well of the participants with their generosity to get involved in so many issues that demand attention and commitment. I want to congratulate all of you for your dedication and hard work. These programs are, in part, what Ohio Wesleyan University is all about. Once again, well done."

Patricio Plazolles

# Next Year's Mission Projects

Were you inspired by one of this year's teams? Did you participate in a project that you think needs to happen again? Have you heard rumors of past years' projects that you would like to see revived? Do you have a new idea?



## Proposal forms for next year's Mission Projects

are now available in the Mission and Vocation Office (Ham-Wil 4<sup>th</sup> floor)! All projects must go through this formal proposal process. Any student or staff member is welcome to submit a proposal. Proposals for previous and new missions projects are welcome. We look forward to working with you to make your vision a reality!

Proposal forms are due Friday June 3, 2005.



We are in special need of domestic proposals.

In addition to this year's projects, some other ideas from years past for domestic programs include:

The Lakota Nation: Building and Rebuilding Anglo-Lakota Relations

The Hopi Nation

Washington D.C. Homeless Immersion

Chicago Refugee Relocation Center

McCurdy Mission School, New Mexico