

Spring Break Mission
Week 2006
Celebration!



Friday, March 31, 2006
7:00-9:00 p.m.
Benes Room
Ohio Wesleyan University

A Chaplain's Office and Community Service Learning
Collaboration

Celebration 2006 Program



Welcome and Opening Remarks

Team Presentations

The Benedictine Experience: Women in Community

Border Servant Corps

Habitat for Humanity: Collegiate Challenge

Two Communities of Faith: Rome

Building and Rebuilding: Lakota Nation

Hurricane Katrina Recovery

Sustainable Harvest: Honduras

Wilderness Trek

Faculty/Staff Team to the Houma Nation

Appreciation

Closing Remarks

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 Mantling 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...*

The Benedictine Experience: Women in Community

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

Covington, KY recently found 7 OWU women within their community. The group stayed at and worked in conjunction with St. Walburg's monastery to learn about Benedictine life and spirituality as well as doing community service with the sisters. For the week, the team followed the life and teachings of St. Benedict, framing learning and service with the liturgy of the Hours four times a day. This integrated approach allowed the team to fully understand and appreciate the Benedictine way through relaxation, reflection and renewal.

Team Members

Stephanie Bologzorgs*

Carrie Christian

Cate Daily

Julie Evans+

Jasmine Jenkins

Katrina Kugler

Kay Albright**

Kelly Adamson **

* Team Leader

+ Spiritual Guide

** Faculty/Staff Advisor

Border Servant Corps Texas/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

Border issues were explored with regards to a variety of perspectives concerning immigration, poverty, domestic violence, economic and social consequences of an expanding Mexican economy, political influences, and the abuse of power in American foreign policy and in the Mexican government as well. We met with people from all walks of life, including Border Servant Corps volunteers, a border patrol agent, Catholic priests and nuns, and volunteers in the social services sector of life on the border. The experience was filled with confusing and contradictory perspectives as well as some wonderful self-developed insights by the team as a group and as individuals. All the little pieces we explored helped us see the larger picture, become aware of the problems, and how the people we met are working at the grassroots level to help deal with the consequences of such intricate dilemmas.

Team Members

Sarah Bobbit
Kelly Callahan
Sarah DelPropost*
Brian Demeter

Laura Harden
Brandley Hilgert
Donna Langerfeld
Amanda Mook

Stephanie Schroeder
Dalz Larson**
Paula Travis **

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

Habitat for Humanity: Collegiate Challenge

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

The Habitat for Humanity Team served in Goldsboro, North Carolina by working construction on a house for a woman and her two children. We built, raised and plumbed walls, attached roof beams, put up the catwalks that will serve as roof supports, and affixed OSB board to the exterior of the walls...all to hurricane code. However, while we did a lot of physical labor, such labor was not all we experienced. Habitat is not a charity organization. Their motto is "not a hand out, but a hand up." We were there to work *with* the community and we certainly did. We labored side by side with local people. We learned about race and diversity issues, both in Goldsboro and among ourselves. We experienced the local culture of Goldsboro through the church where we stayed, the people we worked with, the food we ate, and the places we went to relax. We received many gifts from our hosts and from each other: gifts of laughter, gifts of hospitality, gifts of love and caring, and above all gifts of community. We left OWU weary from pressures and deadlines; we returned rejuvenated and more in touch with the joys of life. We went as 11 individuals; we came back as a family. Truly, our spring break was well spent.

Team Members

Janna Dagley
Paula White**
Chad Johns**
Sam Harold*

Michelle Hartman+
Milda Maciulviciute
Sarah Manor
Leslie McLaughlin

Emily Turner
Steve Yang
Dan Warner

* Team Leader

+ Spiritual Guide

** Faculty/Staff Advisor

Building and Rebuilding: Lakota Nation, SD

Original Vision

This intentionally interfaith team will engage the mission to rebuild Lakota-Anglo relationships through conversation, reflection, and service. We will help build a house, serve meals in the senior center, assist with children, and meet with the spiritual elders at night.



Final Reflection

Our time at the Rosebud Reservation was intense and wonderful and painful and healing. We saw and experienced firsthand the poverty, unemployment, and isolation the Lakota people endure on a daily basis. But we found out that this is not all that defines them; we also saw and experienced the hope and generosity that the Lakota people have for each other and outsiders. We came to know what they mean when they say "Mitaku oyasin"--all my relatives: that they (and we) are connected with each other and with the earth, that everything in creation is connected to us.

Team Members

Kevin Barron

Katie Daniel

Katrina Debs

Tyler Fox

Kara Manns

Jessica Morris+

Elizabeth Polter

Lydia Spitalny

* Team Leader

+ Spiritual Guide

** Faculty/Staff Advisor

Jon Powers**

Karen Poremski**

Ben Goodrum

Naina Sood*

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 Team experienced a deeply personal pilgrimage on this year's trip. The team was able to attend a Papal Audience, and prayed at the tombs of many Saints and Apostles. Our work with the sisters exposed us to new depths of humility and service. We shared and reflected at every meal together and grew as a community of faith. The Rome Team is anxious to continue growing and sharing their faith at Ohio Wesleyan, through continued service and faith exploration.

Team Members

Katie Ayers+
Megan Bazler
Melanie Brenneman

Laura Coonfield
Megan Dillhoff*
Jessica Habian
Lynn Kelly

Terry Williams
Wendy Piper**
David Sizemore *

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

Sustainable Harvest International: Honduras

Original Vision

This team will explore sustainable agriculture practices and how they contribute to the economic and environmental well-being of local communities as they work with local families seeking to implement these practices



Final Reflection

We worked through an organization called Sustainable Harvest International. In Honduras we worked with FOCOHISO or Fundacion (a dash over the o) Cosceha Sostenible Honduras which is a newly independent and recognized non-profit organization in Honduras who had its beginnings with SHI. We worked in the district of Santa Barbara in the countryside of San Pedro Sula. There we worked on a FOCOHISO demonstration farmsite, and visited different communities to learn about and see some of the projects that community members are doing through FOCOHISO. The trip allowed us to see how sustainable practices are so beneficial to both the environment and the families that implement them (health of families, trade with in the community.) There is so much hope, and families are so proud of their accomplishments; they have gain power over their lives and can provide a good life for their families. Finally and most of all, I met wonderful Honduran people, and witnessed the wonderful aspects of the Honduran (rural) culture. They are generous, selfless, and community/family oriented. This contrasts with an aspect of American life. American individualism can lead often lead to isolation and disconnection, but through this experience we have seen that there is a better way.

Team Members

Lacy Babnik*
Laura Bangz
Nicole-Marie Cotton
Emily Phan-Gruber

Jon Hollis
Stacy Ling
Eric Magnus

Amanda Masters+
Dana Owen
Akbar Mahdi **
Shari Stone-Mediator**

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

Katrina Relief Project

Original Vision

This team will seek an opportunity to assist with Hurricane Katrina Recovery efforts somewhere in the Gulf area.



Final Reflection

The disaster relief team was an eye-opening experience for all members of the team. Most of our time was spent gutting houses that had mold growing from floor to ceiling. Although the experience was full of ups and downs, highs and lows, the city and its resilience made a lasting impression on each one of us. As we came close to New Orleans and saw the destruction, one student best summed up our initial impression of the area by saying, "this is not America." But, throughout the course of the week we met amazing people, who despite the fact that they had lost everything, were beaming from ear to ear and so thankful. They could not reiterate enough how truly blessed they were. Their pride for their city and their optimism consumed all of us. New Orleans truly is a City of Hope and our short time in this city was nothing short of life-altering and brilliant.

Team Members

Erica Bachlor

Chad Ellis

Melissa Herman+

Tharindu Gajawera

Nicholas Johnson

Lushani Nanayakkera

Tiffany Priest*

Jonathan Smith

Margaret Smith

Matt Yoder

Ryan Yoder

Barbara Andrzejek**

Bob Barnz**

* Team Leader

+ Spiritual Guide

** Faculty/Staff Advisor

Wilderness Trek

Original Vision

This experience offers students the opportunity to make connections with self, others, God, and the Creation through living and traveling in the wilderness together.



Final Reflection

We were led to the wilderness of North Carolina and were humbled by the 60+ mile/hr winds, the freezing temperatures and hazy hills. We saw what was in our hearts as we cared for each other, ourselves and the environment around us. In our wandering and weakness we discovered the strength of a real community and the awe inspiring Glory of the Lord who sustained and dwelled in our camp with us.

Team Members

Ryan Carlson**
Karen Johnson*
Ericka Newell
Danny Brown
Shelbie Ely
Shawn Kurtzman*

Clifton Martin**
Forrest Fuller
Lauren Woods
Erika Fox
Liz Calhoun

Sarah Steele*
Karen Odem
Phil Mollenko**
Dan Krofchek
Ashley Pezle *

Curt Sykes*
Dale Stewart
Grace Catranis**
Allison Faucher
Clint Davis*

Outdoor Ministry Team*

Faculty/Staff Advisors**

Faculty/Staff Mission Team

Original Vision—Really!

This year, for the first time ever, we had a group of people comprised entirely of faculty and staff serve as a Spring Break Mission Team. This team incorporated professors, administrators, buildings and grounds, public safety, coaches, and housekeeping. Many of these people had applied to be faculty/staff advisors for the student trips, but with so much interest, we just couldn't place them all on student teams. Not to be deterred, we worked together to form a separate team for them. Over spring break they went to the Houma Nation in Louisiana to assist with Hurricane Katrina Recovery, especially with displaced school children. As with our other teams, a phenomenal experience ensued. As one member of the team put it, "This isn't the first Faculty/Staff Mission Team...This is the first **ANNUL** Faculty/Staff Mission Team."

Team Members

Sharon Tom

Marge Redmond

Lisa Spradley

Nancy Gamso

Chris Mickens

Daniel Montoly

Lynette Carpenter

Leslie Mass

Summer 2006 Teams

Ghana

This project provides an opportunity for African American and African students to experience their shared heritage as well as serve individuals and families in Ghana.



Delaware Sister City Project: Omutninsk Russia

This team will discover Delaware's sister city as they participate in an ongoing cultural exchange between Delaware, Ohio and Omutninsk, Russia. Time in service will primarily be spent helping youth practice their English skills.

Team Members

Amy Collins-Warfield** Blake Michael** Amanda Baker* Juliana Mercera+

Anne Bizzarro Alex Branstool Hilary Holmes Matt Lafferty Krista Lambo

Emily Laybourne



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

Marsha Tilden

The Accounting Staff

The Purchasing Staff

The Chaplain's Office Staff

WCSA

The Lilly Foundation Grant for the Theological Exploration of Vocation



And to Donors like you...

37% of our operating budget was contributed from donors

33% was contributed by the Lilly Foundation Grant

22% was contributed by WCSA

8% was contributed by President Huddleston



"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 Plazollis

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

will soon available in the Mission and Vocation Office (Ham-Wil 4th 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 mission projects are welcome. We look forward to working with you to make your vision a reality!

Proposal forms are due Friday June 5, 2006.



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 Hopi Nation

Washington D.C. Homeless Immersion

Chicago Refugee Relocation Center

McCurdy Mission School, New Mexico

May my feet rest firmly on the ground

May my head touch the sky

May I see clearly

May I have the capacity to listen

May I be free to touch

May my words be true

May my heart and mind be open

May my hands be empty to fill the need

May my arms be open to others

May my gifts be revealed to me

So I may return that which has been given

Completing the Great Circle

The Terma Collective as read at the Mission Mantling Service