

Spring Break Mission
Week 2007
Celebration!



Friday, March 30, 2007
7:00-9:00 p.m.
Benes Room
Ohio Wesleyan University

A Chaplain's Office and Community Service Learning
Collaboration

Celebration 2007 Program



Welcome and Opening Remarks

Team Presentations

Appalachian Service Project

The Benedictine Experience: Women in Community

Border Servant Corps

Building and Rebuilding: Lakota Nation

Habitat for Humanity: Collegiate Challenge

Love and Hope Ministries: El Salvador

Two Communities of Faith: Rome

Hurricane Katrina Recovery

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.

Appalachian Service Project

Original Vision

Repairing homes in the Appalachian region of Chaviz, KY while experience Appalachian culture and exploring the unique socio-economic and environmental challenges that lay before this region is the focus of the this team.



Final Reflection

Our team worked with the Appalachian Service Project, a Christian ministry open to all people which fosters human development by addressing the housing needs of Central Appalachia. We were able to explore rural poverty while building lasting relationships with the people of Appalachia and each other.

Team Members

Ratiz Ayers*
Julie Blaszak**
Harold Bussell**
Jean Bussell**

Cate Daily
Megan Dillhoff
Rachel Goodell
Bradyn Kessler

Mark Miller
Terry Williams +

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

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

We fully immersed ourselves in the Benedictine Community. We felt so welcomed by the sisters, we plan to visit them again in the future. While we were frustrated by the social inequality in Erie, we were inspired by the sisters' undying patience and faith to find ways we can serve others every day.

Team Members

Kelly Adamson **
Laura Coonfield*
Natalie Cunningham +

Shannon McHenry
Kate Kriegl

Kayla Mrazec
Katherine Townsend

* 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

During 8 days of visits to and conversation with members of various communities, shelters, advocacy groups, governmental and non-governmental offices, members of Border Mission team learned a great deal about the issues and challenges confronting both citizens and officials of the governments of the United States and Mexico. More specifically, the team was able to develop a deeper appreciation for the sufferings of people whose aspirations for a better life are thwarted by the border between the two countries.

Team Members

Chioké Barkari
Sally Born
Elizabeth Curszen **

Laura Harden *
Yu Hu
Akbar Mahdi **

Molly Muhl
Amanda Mook +
Jordan Swisher

* 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

We must take responsibility for the past and work for a better future for everyone. To do this, we must both meet the most urgent needs of people all over the world and make time to celebrate diversity. The Lakota experience is most especially significant in that it is an opportunity to appreciate and be immersed in one North America's original cultures. After our experience on the rez, all we can say is, "Thank you."

Team Members

Vance Brown	Brian Fahcy	Chris Mickens**
Elisabeth Benoit	Tyler Fox +	Alex Paga
Nathaniel Cook	Ben Goodrum*	Karen Porzmski
Sarah DelPropost	Taylor McConeghan	Lisa Spradley**

* 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

"You will never know how much the work you're doing means to us," said one of the owners of the house we were building. But truly, he will never know the impact they have had on us.

Jake Barnett
Annamarie DelPropost
Jaime Fluor
Dan Freed-Pastor
Helen Gernszy

Team Members
Elsibeth Griffith
Chad Johns**
Nelson Mandrell
Robert Naples
Alison Park

Summer Quisenberry
Emri Schwartz
Laura Sedlak
Paula Travis**
Steve Yang*

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

Love and Hope Ministries:

El Salvador

Original Vision



Final Reflection

Our trip to El Salvador to work in the Love and Hope Children's Home was a life changing experience for every group member. The trip was a great balance of work, play, and reflection.

Whether it was improving the facilities of the home, helping the kids with their homework, or team reflection time, every moment of the trip was spent learning and improving some aspect of our lives or others.

Team Members

Ella Clancy
Janna Dagley +
Katie Donnan*
Maria Fullenkamp

Jill Hollway
Mike Hollway**
William Kenny

Ben Malceki
Amy Warfield**
Amanda Zechal

* 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

As we journeyed across the Atlantic to the birthplace of the Roman Catholic Church, we also made our own personal journeys of faith, fellowship, and service. From seeing Pope Benedict VI and walking where the founders of the church walked to serving the poor men of Rome alongside the Missionaries of Charity, we immersed ourselves in the Roman Catholic faith, which allowed us to question and grow in our faith.

Team Members

Melanie Brennehan +
Theresa Dahlinghaus
Tricia DiFranco*

Clair Knight
Evie Koh
Bob Mathews

Amy Neuzither
Wendy Piper**
Tara Sestito

* 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 in New Orleans.



Final Reflection

Our group was perhaps touched the most from the home owners we met. We felt their sorrow, but were strengthened by their spirit and kindness. We all left as better people than when we arrived.

Team Members

Barbara Anderzek**

Bob Barnes**

Brian Cafarella

Nicholas Johnson

James Long

Amanda Matthews

Sara Nignaber

Tara Pavlovacak

Emily Rose

Nicholette Sitola

Jonathan Smith*

Edward Thode

Ryan Yoder

Matt Yoder +

* Team Leader

+ Spiritual Guide

** Faculty/Staff Advisor

Wilderness Trek

The four Wilderness Trek teams will be formally celebrating their experiences at a noontime celebration next week. Tonight, however, we would like to acknowledge and honor all Wilderness Trek participants.



Creation Speaks

Adrienne Found
Laura Sloan
Kelly Callahan
Sarah Marous

Jennifer Williams
Patricia Troy
William Hestand

Forrest Raub
Mike Wagner
Shawn Kurtzman

Liz Callhoon
Kim Martin
Lauren Woods

Desert Wisdom, Joshua Tree

Edmund
Livingstone
Jeremy Franz

Brandon Beebe
Alex Branstool

Lauren Smith
Karen Johnson

Curt Sykes
Ryan Carlson

Murion Adventure

Elizabeth Polter
Julie Peterson

Erika Fox
Amy Fabritius

Rebecca Deatsman
Selby Majewski

Ashley Pezle
Clint Davis

Women's Backpacking

Tina Gravzer
Amy Tuttle

Sahar Mazhar
Mery Kanashiro

Lydia Spitalny
Jessica Kynion

Summer 2007 Teams

Peace and Reconciliation: Northern Ireland

The purpose of this team is to learn about the economic, cultural, socio-political, and religious roots of the conflict in Northern Ireland. The team will spend time in service with Corrymeela, a Christian reconciliation organization.

Team Members

Robyn Case* Patrick Gallo+ Chad Johns** Lisa Ho** Catz Daily

Stephanie Bologorges Danny Meisterman Troy Jeffery Amy Tuttle Alexandra Panait



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...

35% of our operating budget was contributed from donors

33% was contributed by the Lilly Foundation Grant

22% was contributed by WCSA

10% was contributed by President Huddleston



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 be 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 1, 2007.

May God bless you with discomfort
at easy answers, half-truths
and superficial relationships,
so that you will live deep in your heart.

May God bless you with anger
at injustice, oppression, and
exploitation of people and the earth
so that you will work for justice,
equity and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed
for those who suffer
so you will reach out your hands
to comfort them
and change their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with the foolishness
to think that you can make a difference in the world,
so you will do the things
which others say cannot be done.

Source unknown.