

In Solidarity
With All God's Children



Ohio Wesleyan University

Spring Break Mission Week
Celebration 2008

Celebration 2008 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.*

Chicago Project

Original Vision

Team members will work with multiple agencies that serve the poor while learning about issues that impact and are impacted by urban poverty in the United States.

Final Reflection

During Spring Break, our team was transported into the heart of urban poverty. In Chicago, our team learned from amazing individuals some of whom were homeless themselves and others who worked passionately to feed, clothe, and care for the impoverished around them. The trip truly impacted our lives and helped ignite a fire of passion in each of our hearts. We walked away from Chicago forever changed with an understanding of the poverty that is among us."

Team Members

*Jessica Black
Julie Blaszak **
Josh Curie
Rachel Decker
Claire Everhart +*

*Jaime Fuentes
Elizabeth Griffith
Christopher Kelley
Giang Lee
Chris Mickens ***

*Siobhan Sloane
Samantha Spiridelis
Melissa Tan
Amy Tuttle **



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

Nicaragua

Sustainable Harvest International

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 in a remote area of Nicaragua.

Final Reflection

The Nicaragua SHI Mission team spent their spring break working on environmentally sustainable projects in the rural Kukra Hill district on the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua. The group visited family farms in La Fonseca, helped with the construction of a biogas digester, and established a nutrition and reforestation project at an extremely impoverished local school. Team members were able to experience a new and hospitable culture and began to see the world we live in from a new and enlightened perspective.

Team Members

*Natalie Cuevas
Lucia Herleth
Matthew Jordan
William Kenny*

*Alisha Kissell *
Nancy Knopp **
Sara Nienaber +*

*Forrest Raub
Martim Thomaz
Paula Travis ***



** 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 Benedictine Team had the unique opportunity to spend a week in a monastery, experiencing the daily routine of the sisters in Erie, Pennsylvania. The trip was both active and reflective. We followed their prayer schedule, as well as participated in a variety of missions, including an inner city art house, a soup kitchen, migrant worker's daycare, and a transitional house for women. We learned about the sisters' commitment to social justice and their ongoing faith journeys, all within the context of their community life.

Team Members

*Kelly Callahan
Cate Daily *
Kate Kriegel +*

*Shannon McHenry
Lucy Schmitt
Katherine Townsend*

*Jessica Wright
Christina Yost
Kelly Adamson ***



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

Love and Hope Ministries El Salvador

Original Vision

Team members will seek to develop an appreciation for the economic, social, and political conditions in El Salvador as they serve the most vulnerable - dispossessed children. The team will serve with Love and Hope Ministries, an evangelical Christian ministry, "sharing, providing, and caring."

Final Reflection

Our trip to El Salvador to work with Love and Hope Children's Home was an amazing experience. We got to help improve the facilities of the home, be there for the children, and brought donations for the home and surrounding community. We were challenged individually and as a team, and together, we climbed spiritual and physical mountains that brought us together as a family.

Team Members

*Amanda Baker
Joshua Brown
Erin Gursky
Troy Jeffrey +*

*Claire Knight
Ben Malecki *
Molly Mehl*

*Alfonso Taylor
Lauren Wiebe **
Bob Wood ***



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

Habitat for Humanity Collegiate Challenge

Original Vision

This team will work with Habitat for Humanity's Collegiate Challenge program, offering a hand up, not a hand out to families and persons in need of affordable housing. Participants will engage in construction, painting, and other services as needed by the site. Exact location to be determined in October with some team input.

Final Reflection

We came to help, unknowing what we were capable of. While inexperience proved daunting, we were undeterred from doing what we set out to do. It's amazing to see how much of a life changing difference you can make, in less than a week.

Team Members

*Chad Claussen
Dan Freed-Pastor
Helen Gerseny
Benjamin Goodrum
Joanna Hartley*

*Chad Johns **
Taylor McCleneghan
Mark Miller *
Mats Nordbo
Andrew Riley*

*Eshara Silva
Alexa Von Der Embse
Hasani Wheat
Paula White ***



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

Belize

The Belize Mission Project

Original Vision

The purpose of this team is not only to service Christian mission in Belize, but also to study the very nature and purpose of Christian today. While in Belize the team worked with the Belize Mission Project, which is associated with the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission.

Final Reflection

The Belize Mission team spent the year leading up to our trip studying Christian mission and how we can best put our faith into action in mission work. Our time in Belize was spent painting at Body and Soul Ministries in Roaring Creek, Belize and giving food and donations to villages outside the capital city of Belmopan. The entire team was inspired by the love and faith displayed by the people in Belize and we hope to carry that with us in our own lives back home.

Team Members

*Katie Ayers
Bob Barnes **
Brittany Cross
Allison Cozzone*

*Janna Dagley +
Barbra MacLeod **
Sydney Parmis*

*Brendon Ross
Matt Yoder *
Ryan Yoder*



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

Nicaragua: Foundation for the Medical Relief of Children

Original Vision

This team will work with the Foundation for the International Medical Relief of Children. Participants may find themselves providing health education, shadowing doctors, and staying with local families. The team will actively engage in learning about healthcare needs in underserved areas and the multiple issues that give rise to and impact those needs.

Final Reflection

*"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."
-Aesop, Fables.*

The "Costaraguan" team cannot express the depth of their gratitude for the kindness received in the short three days of volunteering in Nicaragua. The mark we had left in Limon, Nicaragua was in many ways small and insignificant, but the impact the community had on us was indelible and life altering. In the future we hope to return again to Limon or another community in need to share our blessings and the love.

Team Members

*Britta Buchenroth
Laura Coonfield +
Paola Grullon
David Johnson ***

*Nancy Murray **
Jeffrey Thongsawath
Bryn Trogon*

*Emily Turner
Anne Worth
Steve Yang **



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

Hurricane Katrina Recovery New Orleans

Original Vision

This team will again work in New Orleans on the recovery efforts. For the first time since Hurricane Katrina hit, this team will be focused not on demolition but on rebuilding! Building skills or a willingness to learn them are a must!

Final Reflection

The ReNew Orleans Mission Team spent their week in sunny New Orleans, Louisiana, working with the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity to rebuild homes destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. We worked on a house in St. Bernard's Parish, one of the hardest hit parishes in the suburbs of New Orleans, doing everything from putting up hallways to nailing in sheathing. When we weren't working, we experienced pieces of the vibrant culture of the most unique city in the US, dining on po'boys, listening to live jazz and street musicians, and walking through the historic French Quarter.

Team Members

*Robyn Case +
Michelle Corbett
Lauren Culp
Aisha Ford
Heather Grunkemeyer **
Mery Kanashiro *
Max Kraus*

*Tory Lee
Gregory Lewis
Veronica Malencia
Joanne Neugebauer
Ezugo Onuekwusi
Zeb Pavlisin
Morgan Payne*

*Drew Peterson **
Kimberly Seibert
Asegedech Shimellis
Edward Thode
Morgan Waddles
Marisa Wintrow*



** Team Leader
+ Spiritual Guide*

*** Faculty/Staff Advisor*

Summer 2008 Teams

Brazil

This team will work with Brazil's street children, helping other Amizade volunteers, Santarem locals, and some of the at risk youth being helped by Pastoral Menor. Participants may also help with construction or workshops.

Team Members

Francesca Ramsawak* Katie Donnan+ Stefania Mendoza Querra Delmar Flournoy
Katherine MacLam Crystal Contreras Stacey Venzel Stephanie Heiser
Akbar Mahdi** Lucinda Cloud**



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.

Team Members

Jon Powers** Kim Dolgin** Catz Daily Hannah Davies Kyle Herman
Jessica Keener Chioké Barkari Kalzigh Felisberto Simon Brown Vanisha Bisnath
Renée Colvin Chen Gong Elizabeth Griffith Mark Miller Shan Song

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.

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Lisa Ho

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David Robbins

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The Accounting Staff

The Purchasing Staff

Residential Life Staff

The Chaplain's Office Staff

WCSA

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And to Donors like you...

39% of our overall budget was contributed from donors

27% was contributed by the Lilly Foundation Grant

25% was contributed by WCSA

9% was contributed by the President's Office



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 Workshop

*A proposal workshop will be held Thursday, April 17 at noon.
Tips for putting together a successful proposal will be shared!*



Proposal forms for next year's Mission Projects

are now 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 missions projects are welcome. We look forward to working with you to make your vision a reality!

Proposal forms are due Monday June 2, 2008.



We are in special need of creative domestic proposals.