

Heart 2 Heart

Spotlight on: Community Ministry Spring Break Teams

Nine teams from community ministries went out over Spring Break to a variety of areas including New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, and Wisconsin. Most of these teams worked in urban settings. The rest of this newsletter gives a brief overview of seven of the trips.

Chosen People

This team went to Manhattan, to Chosen People, an outreach to Jewish people. This ministry presents the Jewishness of Christianity to them through Jewish festivals/traditions with a Messianic twist. Trenton Simon, team member, enjoyed watching the worship in synagogue. "The thing that had the biggest impact on my life was that so many people could be blinded to who Jesus really is. They are so close and have so many of the ingredients, but lack the Savior. The most memorable moments would have been watching the worship at the reform synagogue, it was a taste of how excited these people really do get about worshipping. I just wish that it wasn't in Hebrew so I could have sang along."

Inner City Impact

This team worked with Inner City

Impact in Chicago. During the day, they worked in a Chicago K-8th grade school and in the afternoon the team helped with the Inner City Impact kids' clubs. For Bonnie Brady, one of the team members, the biggest impact this trip had on her was seeing the need for the Gospel in kids' lives. "I've pretty much lived in rural areas my entire life so living in the city for a week among gangs and many different cultures was really eye opening. I saw the need for the Gospel message in the city especially with the kids. They are so influenced at such a young age by their surrounding culture and being a part of showing them Christ's love for the week that I was there was rewarding. It really taught me to have hope that the lost can be saved if Christians are persistent and bold."

Master's Mission

This team went to North Carolina and worked at Master's Mission, a missionary training facility. They did various work projects to help them out. Becky Erwin enjoyed the opportunity to build new friendships and interact with missionaries. "I think the friendships that were built and the time we spent with the missionaries

were the best parts. It was just great to get to spend time with fellow students and take a break from the mental school work to do some physical work. Getting to hear the missionaries talk about their experiences was also very encouraging. It reminded me that even if we are not involved in full time missionary work, we need to support those who are."

Open Air Evangelism

This team headed to New York City to do Open Air Evangelism. For Corey Reeder, team leader for the trip, the most rewarding thing for him was watching his team share the Gospel. "Getting outside of our comfort zone and boldly proclaiming the truth was the most rewarding part, but as a leader, I think it was more rewarding to see my team do this. They were really incredible and surpassed my expectations by far. At one point in the trip, our group had split up to cover more ground. When it was time for us to go, everyone who had broken off from the main group was in a conversation. Everyone was working and stepping out and



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proclaiming the truth to the last minute. My team was truly a blessing."

Rescue Mission

This team went to Syracuse, NY and worked with the Rescue Mission, an all male homeless shelter. They were involved in the various activities planned for the men staying there, worked with the maintenance team, and at the warehouse where they sort through donations before sending them to their Thrifty Shoppers (similar to Goodwill). Megan Bell, team leader, was reminded of God's control of our lives. "I was reminded over and over again that God is in control of every moment of our lives. He chose to send a team of seven girls, and one guy to an all men's homeless shelter- which we were completely unaware of until arriving on Saturday night. God brought so many people to us, and allowed us to pour His Son's love into them. We built incredible relationships, and were able to hopefully encourage the staff there to continue serving the men that He has brought to the Rescue Mission. We got to worship our God with the men on Wednesday night, and they had a night of testimonies and prayer. I don't think anyone on our team had been involved in such a sincere and passionate time with brothers and sisters in Christ. Hearing the men cry out desperately to God about their hunger for Him humbled me in my habitual faith. I think that every member of our team would tell

you that Wednesday night was one that we won't ever forget.

Shepherds Home

This team went to Shepherds Home in Wisconsin, a home for adults with mental disabilities where they receive vocational training. The team did some maintenance work including stripping wallpaper and painting. In addition, they led 2 chapel services for the residents, music time for their prayer meeting on Wednesday, and enjoyed some interaction with them in their daily activities as well. Hannah Hollingsworth, team leader, enjoyed seeing the residents' passion for Christ. "I was most impacted by learning how to interact with adults with mental disabilities and seeing how much they understand about the gospel and their desire to share it with others. They have a passion for Christ that I did not expect to see, even greater than that held by some college students on our campus. When we first got there we were a little scared just not knowing how to interact with them. One fellow came up to us and ask one of our team members to pray for his cold, right then and there. Several other individuals did the same thing. It was really neat to see their trust in a creator that allowed them to be mentally disabled. It was quite amazing to see that they were capable of loving people so much more perhaps than we often attempt to."

Urban Hope

The Urban Hope team went to inner-city Philadelphia to support a church plant. They helped with the children's and teen's ministries, talked to and prayed with homeless people, volunteered at after school programs at a local elementary school, and prayed with the church leaders.

April Cooper, team member, was challenged by the dedication of the ministry leaders. "I was greatly challenged by the way that the leaders of Urban Hope approached ministry. Through the way they have dedicated their lives to loving the people of the Kensington neighborhood, they challenged me to look at ministry as a lifestyle, not as something to do in my spare time. On Monday night we were privileged to go out as a team with a lady who runs a homeless ministry in Philadelphia and spend a few hours passing out lunches and warm clothing to homeless people in the city. It was humbling to see their friendliness and cheerfulness on such a bitterly cold night. We definitely saw the grace and love of God at work in the city."

Teams also went out to Project Genesis and Urban Impact.

If you have any questions about Community Ministries or Heart 2 Heart, contact Brynn Paine or stop by Christian Ministries in the DMC.