

Heart 2 Heart

Spotlight on: MIS Spring Break Teams

Missions Involvement Services (MIS) sent out five teams over spring break to work in Central America.

Dominican Republic - Social Work

This team worked in San Pedro helping a church and putting on a purity conference entitled Guard My Heart for 3 evenings and in a Haitian sugar cane village one morning.

They had the purity conference on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evening. For Katie Nicholl, team member, Wednesday morning was the most rewarding being able to sit down in a Haitian village in the DR and speak to the kids about purity, the importance of Christ-centered relationships, and saving yourself until marriage. The team also helped clear a field of rocks, trees, and shrubs on which the missionaries plan to build a campus of orphanage homes, a Christian school and Bible College. They also went door to door handing out a newsletter from the church, which announced the conference and included other articles of interest.

Christine Fulmer, team leader, saw God work in the girls' lives who came

to the conference. "The young women in the Haitian Village were so open and vulnerable. It was amazing to see God work in their lives. In the evening conferences, we were blessed by positive feedback and many decisions choosing God's plan for sexual intimacy. I saw God's hand working in the hearts and minds of our students. They were so open to being used by God. I saw them heal and grow and flourish. They blessed the missionaries, the youth, and me."

Dominican Republic - Women's Tennis

The women's tennis team also went to the Dominican Republic, but this team partnered with HOPE International in Santo Domingo and local pastors. The team planned on doing English language camps for children by assisting nationals in doing games and activities with the children, and then HOPE International would provide a Bible lesson for the children in Spanish so they would not miss the message of the Word.

This team got to see God work through allowing them to do the Bible

lesson at the last minute, and see the camp doubled in size on Thursday. Pam Johnson, one of the coaches, shared how she saw God work through having the number of campers doubled. "We started with a total of 25 to 30 children on Monday and had over 80 on Thursday. Yet we had enough materials and the team was given the energy, patience, and confidence to end the week strong. The Wordless bracelets were well received, and Pastor Daniel will be able to build on the work God allowed us to do with the children."

Lauren McCully, team member, was impacted by how the kids were seeking what it means to be a Christian. "I was able to share my testimony to a group of teenage kids during the Bible time, and then our group asked them if they had any questions. They had a lot of thought provoking questions such as how has Christ changed your life, and do you ever get mocked for your faith? These kids were really seeking what it meant to be a



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Christian. Also visiting some of the poverty stricken villages impacted our team greatly. It made me take a step back and evaluate how comfortably I live here in America and how much I take what God has blessed me with for granted everyday such as clean drinking water and clean clothes. It was neat to see how HOPE International is literally giving hope to people living in poverty by distributing micro-finance loans."

Eleuthera

This team went to Eleuthera, an island in the Bahamas. They worked with the Eleuthera Bible Training Center on construction projects at the center and in various ministries throughout the island.

Guatemala

Six guys spent Spring Break ministering to the people of Guatemala.

Josh Hueni, one of the team members, got to see God work through schedule changes and unplanned events. "We saw how God is in control of our schedule, not us. It seemed like the whole time we would plan to do something and either it would be delayed or something would go different than planned, which actually helped our ministry as we showed good attitudes and perseverance. We were intending to fly a few minutes to a small village, but had difficulty getting there. The village didn't

think that we were coming, but after 5 hours by van, 5 hours by truck, and 3 hours hiking, we reached the village and the difficulties traveling just strengthened their view of our commitment to helping out their small village in the middle of Guatemala."

"In the small village we visited, Chel, the people had very little. They didn't have medical care, well balanced diets, clean environments, and just basic pleasures that Americans enjoy, but yet, the people were very content. The kids had very few toys, and little entertainment, but they always had smiles on their faces. It just encouraged me to think about where I'm focusing on building my treasures - on earth or in heaven? And that I need to be thankful for the blessings God has given me."

"Our team got to fly in two little 6-seater airplanes. It was amazing to see God's creation, and it was pretty sweet when the pilots started doing little tricks in the sky to scare us. We also got to lead worship one night, which was an experience because the people didn't understand any English, the instruments were in real bad shape, and the vocalists were pathetic (us guys)."

Mexico

The Mexico team went to Puebla to help run elementary and high school camps for missionary kids and other kids attending Christian schools in Mexico.

During the elementary camp, the team got to share with the kids about their identity in Christ. During the high school camp, the team talked about true worship—worshiping God not just at church but through everything you do 24/7. Both the team and the campers got to practice this Friday night as they united to pray for Dan and to praise God. The team saw God work most powerfully during this time as several campers came to Christ, rededicated their lives, or had a renewed passion for witnessing to their unsaved friends.

Justin McCoy saw God work through counselors as they chose to praise God in difficulties. "I had the awesome privilege to see God work in the lives of the counselors so that they could find peace amidst the various storms that came. There is nothing more encouraging than seeing those serving beside you choosing to praise God even when things didn't seem to make sense."

Julie Johnson learned to trust God's plan. "God used the trip to really show me that I have to trust that His plan is best for me especially when I don't understand what God is doing or allowing to happen in my life."

For more information about any of these trips, contact a team member.

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