

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SERVICE AND MISSION



NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SERVICE AND MISSION OVERVIEW

Student programs

Service Trips

Over each academic break (Fall, January Term, and Spring), Service Trips send students to organizations throughout the nation. They partner with a wide variety of ministries: after school programs, homeless shelters, soup kitchens, sports camps, construction organizations. Through these partnerships service trips expose our students to issues such as immigration, homelessness, poverty, and racism. Their hope is that through experience of these issues, students will be motivated to develop a lifestyle of service, a passion for a reconciled and just society, and a commitment to working toward change in these areas through whatever vocation they pursue.

- messiah.edu/external_programs/agape/national_international/NationalTrips.html

International Missions

With generous donor gifts and support, students are able participate in cross-cultural service and ministry team experiences through the Agape Center. Alternative spring break trips travel to El Salvador and Northern Ireland in long-term partnerships, while summer teams continue to serve local communities in Nicaragua and Bolivia with Food for the Hungry. In all of our international experiences, the Agapé Center partners with existing and established local organizations that exemplify international service-learning best practices and who are involved in long-term work with representative community leaders.

- messiah.edu/external_programs/agape/national_international/InternationalService2.html

Human Rights Awareness

Human Rights Awareness educates the student body about the injustices of the world, whether it is sex-trafficking or child soldiers, through our own annual programming and also with conjunction with our two partner organizations, Invisible Children and International Justice Mission.

- messiah.edu/external_programs/agape/national_international/HRA.html

World Christian Fellowship

World Christian Fellowship is an organization which acknowledges the world's greatest needs while providing avenues for students to ask challenging questions. Students are challenged to contribute to global and local projects as well as organizations whose mission encompasses service, missions and social change.

- messiah.edu/external_programs/agape/national_international/WCF.html

MISSION AND PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Agapé Center cultivates experiences with community partners to prepare individuals for lifelong service.

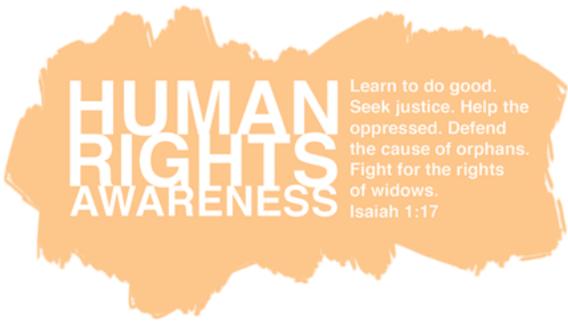


A team of 9 students and 2 educators spent their spring break serving in a N. Ireland school.

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ADVOCACY ON CAMPUS



- messiah.edu/external_programs/agape/national_international/HRA.html

Message from the HRA director

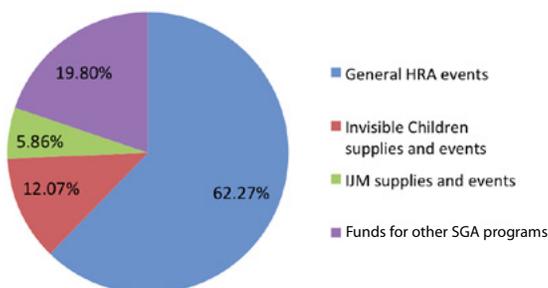
College is often easily disguised as an opportunity for the self-discovery of students. Between personalized professor meetings, workshops where students are encouraged to discover their passions and interests, and the tendency for the Messiah “bubble” to consume thoughts and planners, self-absorption can sometimes begin to feel semi-natural. This is where I believe the work of Human Rights Awareness and our partner organizations, Invisible Children and International Justice Mission, comes in. Although we value these four years as a personal transformation experience, we believe it is also critical to open a lifelong conversation and thought process about how the values of social justice are practically lived or absent throughout the world. Through speakers, fundraisers and movie showings, we seek to educate students about the plight of the world’s most vulnerable before encouraging students to use their resources to fight the systems and structures that cripple these individuals. For if we do not now, as young, energetic and passionate individuals, open ourselves to the larger world, when will there be a better time?

—Morgan L. '12

HRA Activities:

- Alternate chapels
- Bake sales
- Human Rights Awareness Week
- Loose Change to Loosen Chains
- Red Cross certification class on International Humanitarian Law

HRA Budget 2010–2011



WORLD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP



- messiah.edu/external_programs/agape/national_international/WCFhtml

Salt and Light Elective Chapels

- 482 students came to at least one of the Salt and Light Chapels
- Fall theme: Redefining Missions
- Spring theme: The Local Missionary

Canoe-a-thon

- 40 participants
- Nearly \$2,099 raised

Mission Awareness Week (MAW)

- 12 agencies

30 Hour Famine

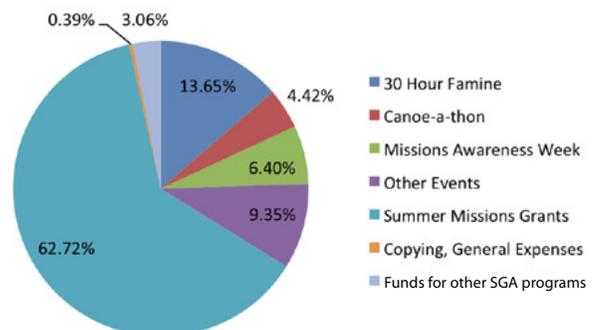
- Student participants: 65
- Amount raised: \$5,282
- For 30 Hour Famine Messiah students were challenged to go without food and learn what it takes to stop hunger. Students raised fund and interacted with local organizations whose mission is to end homeless In Harrisburg, Pa. Guest speakers from KNO clothing, an organization whose goal is to end homelessness through fashion, challenged Messiah Students to be the change. A resident from Silence of Mary relayed his experience as a homeless person and how this organization helped him to find a job and become an active contributor of society. A World Vision speaker challenged student to remember we are the change. 65 students responded to the challenge and raised \$5,282.

The Purpose of World Christian Fellowship is to:

- Educate the Messiah College Community to become aware of the worldwide fellowship of believers and of the world’s physical and spiritual needs.
- Equip the community to act upon this awareness: to go, to send and to pray.



WCF Budget 2010–2011



SERVICE TRIPS

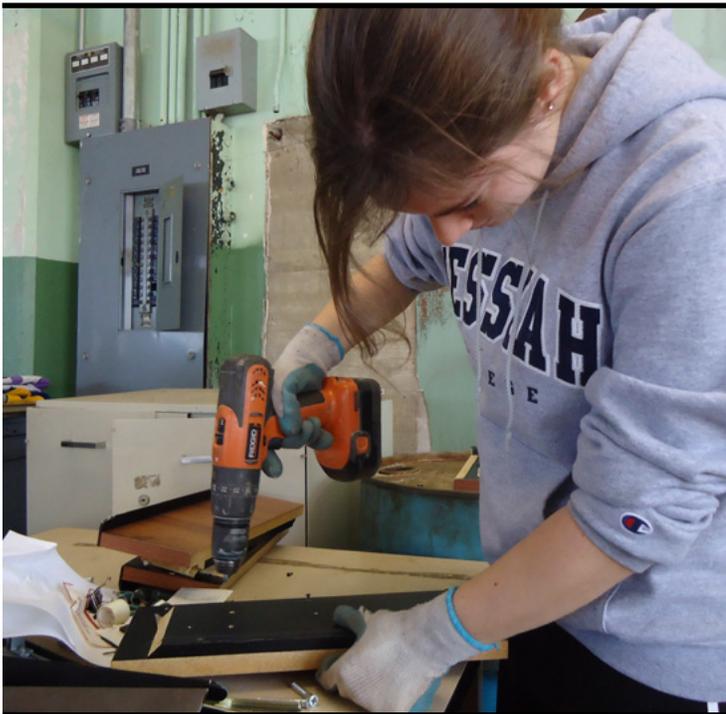
- messiah.edu/external_programs/agape/national_international/NationalTrips.html

Service Trips is a student-led, student-operated organization. Under the advisement of the program manager, Service Trips teams provide opportunities for students to engage in service over their fall, January term, and spring breaks; helping the College realize and fulfill its vision for reconciliation in church and society. In turn, teams enable community partners to accomplish projects and tasks in a short amount of time that would otherwise be very time-consuming and expensive.

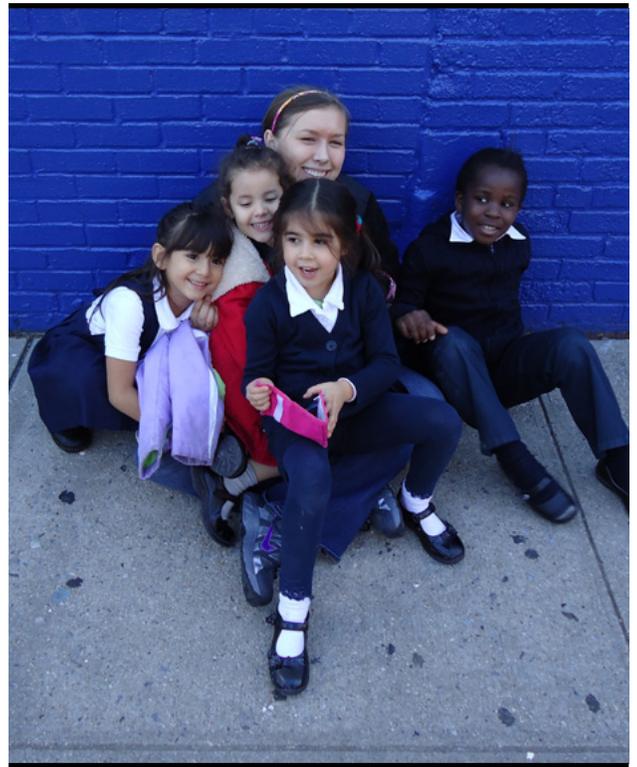
A Legacy of Service

Service trips have a powerful legacy at Messiah College. Ernie Boyer's essay, "Retaining a Legacy of Messiah College," describes how two students in 1967 decided to form a "committee for the inner city," and in turn ventured on a service trip to Kentucky. While such trips had been taking place for many years, they eventually became institutionalized as a program called Spring Break Service Projects, which was initially managed by World Christian Fellowship. With the founding of the Agapé Center in the 1998–99 academic year, this branch of WCF became its own organization.

This year, service trips organized more than 139 participating students. The Agapé Center is proud of the student participants who chose to serve during their breaks from the academic routine and knows that these students learned a great deal of practical skills and principles of Christian living.



Students willingly spend their breaks working together and serving others.



Sarah S. '13 spends her fall break at the Urban Discipleship Center in Bronx, NY.

“[The Messiah students] are a **great** group of people—they had a wonderful spirit, a **servant’s heart** and worked hard to help us in our ministry of sharing **God’s love** with homeless men. I told our staff that this was one of the best **volunteer** college groups we ever had. They all agreed.”

—Robert Emberger, Whosoever Gospel Mission in Philadelphia, Pa.

SERVICE TRIPS AT A GLANCE

Trip	Participants
FALL BREAK (4 days)	
World Impact (Newark, N.J.)	8
Christian Endeavor (Manchester, Md.)	10
Youth Development, Inc. (Headwaters, Va.)	11
Urban Discipleship Center (the Bronx, N.Y.)	10
Harrisburg Trip (Harrisburg, Pa.)	9
JANUARY TERM BREAK (4 days)	
World Impact (Newark, N.J.)	11
Syracuse Rescue Mission (Syracuse, N.Y.)	10
Whosoever Gospel Mission (Philadelphia, Pa.)	9
SPRING BREAK (8 days)	
Urban Promise (Camden, N.J.)	9
YWAM (Myrtle Beach, S.C.)	9
YWAM (Chicago, Ill.)	8
Camp Bethel (Wise, Va.)	6
Good Works (Athens, Ohio)	6
Urban Discipleship Center (the Bronx, N.Y.)	6
Push the Rock (Allentown, Pa.)	6
Mountain T.O.P. (Cumberland Mountains, Tenn.)	5
Christian Endeavor (Montgomery, W.Va.)	6
Total	139

Message from the Service Trips Director

“Throughout my three years as a member of the Service Trips team, I found it easy to get caught up in the tasks of the job, in the emails and forms and phone calls and meetings. But debrief meetings following the trips consistently refocused me and reminded me of why we do the work we do. At these meetings I heard of relationships forged between peoples of vastly different cultures and social classes. I heard of lives touched, of perspectives altered, of hearts moved and made more sensitive. Through these stories, I was taught that despite our best efforts or our worst failures, God moves and can use us to accomplish His redeeming work. I was taught that service only requires an open heart and ready hands, a willingness to allow God to work through us.”

—Amy L. '11

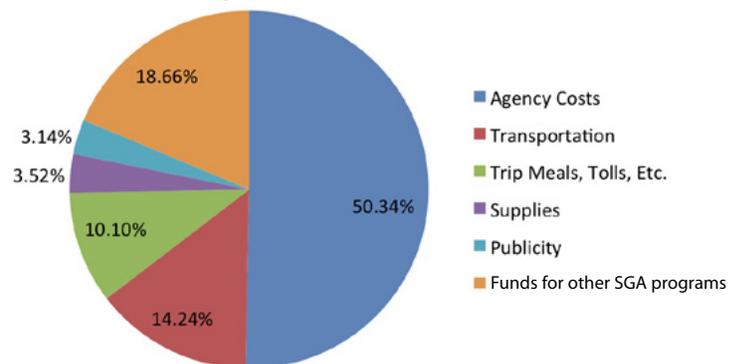
“Our group was so **close**. It was clear God called us there for a reason, and the work we **accomplished** and the **connection** we made with the homeowners we helped was a God-directed **relationship** and moving **experience**.”

—Spring Break Trip participant at Christian Endeavor



Service quickly brings students together as they join together for a greater cause.

Service Trips Budget 2010–2011



INTERNATIONAL SERVICE AND MISSION

- messiah.edu/external_programs/agape/national_international/international.html

Spring Break Mission Teams

- messiah.edu/external_programs/agape/national_international/SpringBreakTrips.html

EL SALVADOR:

7 Students 1 Advisor

- This team is learning and serving alongside Marta Benevides, a remarkable El Salvadoran woman who worked with Archbishop Romero before his assassination. Marta is a Salvadoran activist, theologian and educator. She is the Founder of Ecohouse and the International Institute for Cooperation Amongst Peoples-IICP. She works on environmental issues at the regional and global levels with the UN processes and other concerned groups.
- March 13–21, 2011

NORTHERN IRELAND

8 Students 2 Advisors

- The Northern Ireland team serves educators at the Lurgan Jr. High School as they seek to engage youth in cross-community service-learning. In an area greatly divided by Protestant and Catholic rivalries, this team seeks to better understand youth culture while empowering students to tell their stories both in and out of the Jr. High classroom.
- March 13-21, 2011

An estimated 720 hours served over students' spring break.



Spring break international mission teams traveled to Northern Ireland and El Salvador.

“I learned so much about poverty and about the country in general. However, the most **important** thing I learned is that God is **working** everywhere in the world. We met some truly amazing people in Nicaragua who **opened** their homes to us and called us brothers and sisters without knowing us at all. I could see Jesus in their **smiles** and their **hearts**. One man, Antonio, has a smile that lights up his entire face, and he is so in love with the Lord. I’ve always **believed** that God is working everywhere, but I actually saw it for myself on this trip.”

—Vanessa K. '10

MISSION TRAINING PROGRAM

All international mission teams from the Agapé Center participate in the Mission Training Program in addition to weekly team meetings prior to the trip. Training topics include:

1. Fundraising: This topic creates a lot of apprehension for people. Here the biblical roots of soliciting donations, the spiritual and psychological implications, and the nuts and bolts of how to raise funds were discussed.
2. Introduction to Holistic Community Development: This training explores the depths of human brokenness and the need for Christians to engage in healing on all levels and in all ways. With Christ as the king of a new and coming kingdom, this training focuses on what it means to be agents of healing in every area, and to be healed in the process.
3. Sharing the Gospel in Word: While many of missions teams focus on physical work, an emphasis on how the Gospel can be shared in a cross-cultural setting is important.
4. Spiritual Preparation for International Service and Mission: International servants are often unprepared for what can happen spiritually in and to them before, during, and after a trip. This session discussed ways to develop intimacy with God and awareness of what can happen and how to cope.

SUMMER INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

- messiah.edu/external_programs/agape/national_international/SummerTrips.html

Food for the Hungry: A Community to Community Partnership (fh.org)

International missions has opted to focus our international efforts on working in communities that we have established relationships with to encourage community growth and development. As a part of this transition, all of our summer mission teams will be serving with Food for the Hungry in Bolivia and Nicaragua. The mission of FH to walk with churches, leaders and families in overcoming all forms of human poverty by living in healthy relationship with God and His creation fits very well with the goals of the Agapé Center. We are excited to grow in relationship with FH and with the communities students will be serving.

Summer missions teams:

NICARAGUA

5 Students

- This team partners with FH in their mission “to walk with churches, leaders and families in overcoming all forms of human poverty by living in healthy relationship with God and His creation.” This trip will explore sustainable agriculture projects and economic justice issues in the community.
- June 19–July 2, 2011

BOLIVIA

8 Students 1 Advisor

- Students serve and learn in Rodeo, Bolivia, the site of Messiah College’s Community to Community (C2C) partner. Participants may have an opportunity to meet their sponsor child, and continue several water and library projects that past teams have begun.
- July 18–29, 2011
- An estimated 1200 hours were served through Food for the Hungry in summer missions.



Community to Community:

For the past 3 years, Messiah College has engaged in a community partnership with Rodeo, Bolivia, which was made possible through the Food for the Hungry Community to Community (C2C) program. The C2C program involves creating a long-term relationship between a community in a developing nation and an American church or school. Stateside partners go on short-term team trips, sponsor children, pray, receive regular updates, and educate their congregation with a Biblical view of poverty. By getting personally involved with the poor, stateside partners are able to see and experience the transformation that comes from a strong relationship.

The relationship with Rodeo, Messiah’s C2C partner, has begun with multiple points of engagement. Last summer, Messiah alum Chris Putnam interned with Food for the Hungry in Bolivia to develop the relationship and he has stayed on at a school there. Biology professor Erik Lindquist and his family spent 2009–2010 in Bolivia on sabbatical to help with community based research and educational initiatives for FH.

Following the Class of 2009 Senior Gift of over \$4000 to support Messiah College’s commitment to the C2C, the Class of 2010 gave over \$6500. This money combined with additional funds raised by our missions team to Rodeo will be enough to complete the clean water project proposed by FH. The Messiah Community currently sponsors two teams traveling with FH in Nicaragua and Rodeo.

“While we were in Rodeo, I was blessed to meet and get to know my sponsor child. Even with a language barrier we were able to laugh and play and get to know each other. It was an incredible experience to meet a child that I have been praying for over the past months. It was humbling to see that God used me, a “Gringo” who knew no more than three words in Spanish and had a very sheltered worldview to touch the heart of a little boy all the way in Rodeo, Bolivia. This trip showed me that God’s Love reaches every corner of the earth and covers all the children of the world. I have a new passion for the children of Rodeo. I am excited to see how God uses FH to change that community. It is my hope and prayer that I’ll be able to see them again someday. Until then, I will be praying.”

—Isaac Anderson



AGAPÉ CENTER

For Service And Learning



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