

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SERVICE AND MISSION



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A MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SERVICE AND MISSION DIRECTOR

I do this job because I believe in the global body of Christ. 1,880,000,000 members of our faith do not live in the U.S. This should change things for us. The majority of people who are “our people,” are dramatically different from us in nationality, language, complexion, culture and customs. “My people” are Kenyans, French, Chinese, Ukrainian, Greek, Bolivian, Brazilian, Lebanese, Iraqi, Mexican, and Nicaraguan and on and on. This office provides unique opportunities for students to experience this truth on the ground, as well as be convicted by the truth seen even in the lives of those who do not confess Christ (Romans 2:14–16). All of these people can speak God’s truth into our lives as we can speak truth into theirs.

We are trying, paradoxically, and like Jesus Christ, to more fully identify with the world while not conforming to it. Most Christians need not be missionaries to other lands, but our hearts and minds should be full of the world that is beyond our small allegiances, and our lives should be full of compassion for the world that includes all that Christ loves. Short-term missions and Christian advocacy are powerful ways to fill our hearts and prepare us all for Christ-like living.



A team of 12 students spent their spring break serving in Peru through Bridge Builders International.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SERVICE AND MISSION OVERVIEW

The Agapé Center's National and International Service and Mission Office (NISM) exists to empower and coordinate campus programs that reach beyond the local area, allowing students to apply and exercise their faith and learning in transformative ways. Students can create their own experiences, with our support, or participate in existing programs such as:

- Service trips that engage student stateside over fall, January term and spring breaks;
- World Christian Fellowship (WCF), a student group working to increase multicultural Christian fellowship and awareness of the Global Church on campus and facilitating student engagement in missions;
- Human Rights Awareness (HRA), a group of students who collaborate with and resource concerned students and groups on campus to increase global Christian concern, and advocate for and respond to human rights-related injustices in the world;
- International service and mission trips over spring and summer breaks;
- C2C, a program with Food for the Hungry, through which Messiah College has formed a partnership with Rodeo, Bolivia.

NISM enhances the College's mission of preparing students for lives of service, leadership and reconciliation. The 2009–2010 academic year was filled with significant growth experiences for students, staff, faculty and community partners. In reflecting upon this success, the NISM Office will continue to seek opportunities for:

- Vocational missions: Resourcing more academic departments with a vision and opportunities for vocationally based missions.
- Forging partnerships: Identifying missions-partner-organizations that exemplify "wholistic" community development.
- Focus: Developing consistency in international missions and service work around convergence with other areas of Messiah's global network (study-abroad programs, international admissions recruiting, cross-cultural programming, etc.).



Through a grant, Jonathan L. '11 traveled back to his home country of Thailand to serve in a hospital as a translator.

“My role this summer was to **volunteer** at the hospital everyday for three weeks, build **relationships** with the staff and other volunteers, find **opportunities** to share my faith, and impress upon every staff, volunteer and patient I significantly **interacted** with a favorable view of Christianity.”

—Jonathan L. '11

SERVICE TRIPS

Service Trips is a student-led, student-operated organization. Under the advisement of the NISM director, 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 160 participating students. The NISM Office 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.



Sarah S. '13 paints at the Fellowship House in Camden, NJ.



Students willingly spend their breaks working together and serving others.

“Each student **demonstrated** integrity, honor and respect, which is a direct **reflection** of the value system of Messiah College.”

—Paul Atkinson, His Mansion CEO

SERVICE TRIPS AT A GLANCE

Trip Participants

FALL BREAK (4 days)

UrbanPromise (Camden, N.J.)	6
Joshua Farm (Harrisburg, Pa.)	8
Urban Impact (New York City, N.Y.)	8
Youth Development, Inc. (Head Waters, Pa.)	6
Christian Endeavor (Mt. Pleasant, Pa.)	7

JANUARY TERM BREAK (4 days)

Allentown Rescue Mission (Allentown, Pa.)	10
Clear View Ministries (Morrisdale, Pa.)	12
Catholic View Ministries (Baltimore, Md.)	12
Fellowship House (Camden, N.J.)	12
World Impact (Newark, N.J.)	12

SPRING BREAK (8 days)

Native American Ministries (Courderay, Wis.)	9
His Mansion (Deering, N.H.)	11
Syracuse Rescue Mission (Syracuse, N.Y.)	7
Christian Endeavor (Montgomery, W.Va.)	6
Urban Discipleship Center (Bronx, N.Y.)	7
YDI & Equipping the Saints (Headwaters, W.Va.)	4
YWAM (Myrtle Beach, S.C.)	12
Fellowship House (Camden, N.J.)	9
Mountain TOP (Altamont, Tenn.)	10

Total **168**

“Every time I go on a service trip, I feel like I am forced to **contemplate** how God wants me to live my **life** better.”

—World Impact participant,
Newark, N.J., J-Term 2010



Sheba S. '13 and Katie H. '13 serve meals to the homeless in Baltimore, Md.

STUDENTS WITHOUT BORDERS: INTERNATIONAL SERVICE AND MISSION

This year, the Agapé Center spearheaded five trips abroad for service and missions. Additionally, the NISM Grants Committee distributed close to \$60,000 in grant money to individual students taking summer service and mission trips, in addition to some members of the Collaboratory and Agapé Center service and mission teams.



2007 alumni Kristen Kane Osorto and Hieraald Kane Osorto led a trip to El Salvador in a partnership between the NISM Office and the Office of Multicultural Programs.



Martin T. '11 mentored children in Peru during a spring break missions trip.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE AT A GLANCE

Trip	Participants	Length of Trip
SPRING BREAK		
El Salvador	10 students, 1 staff	1 week
Peru	12 students	1 week
Northern Ireland	10 students, 1 staff	1 week
SUMMER		
Nicaragua	4 students, 1 staff	2 weeks
Dominican Republic	8 students	2 weeks
Bolivia	13 students	2 weeks

“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



The Northern Ireland spring break missions team worked at Lurgan Junior High School on peace and reconciliation initiatives between the Protestant and Catholic churches.

SUMMER MISSIONS GRANTS PROGRAM

The Summer Mission Grants Program was created to support Messiah students who may not have the necessary support structure to achieve full funding for their trips. This program preceded the existence of the Agapé Center. In fact, current NISM director Matt Hunter received a grant for his trip to Haiti through Isaachar's Loft in 1996. By the first year of the Agapé Center, in the 1998–99 academic year, 30 students had received grants. At that time, there were three primary grants, including the Emerson Frey Endowment, the Parents Council Endowment (which began around 1996–97) and WCF, who had just begun giving their own mission grants.

To date, more than 500 students have received grants. This year, the Individual Mission Grant Program helped 49 Messiah students serve nationally and internationally in 15 countries.

GRANTS OFFERED:

- **Parents Council and World Christian Fellowship Grants:** Provide funds to help cover the cost of a service and mission experience.
- **Mulberry Grant:** Provides eight \$3,000 grants towards student tuition to help offset lost summer income that results from commitments to service and mission.
- **Frey Family Endowment Grant:** Provides 10 \$2,000 grants towards student tuition to help offset lost summer income that results from commitments to service and mission.

“God has decided to identify with human beings in all of our human experience. He is not going to be aloof when it comes to relating to people. He is not going to love them from a distance. He is going to go all the way down. He has decided to immerse himself in our discouragement, in our loneliness, in our distraction, in our confusion, in our embarrassment, in whatever we deal with, and to become a part of it.”

—Isaac Anderson



Students form relationships and memories that last a lifetime.



An effort is made to partner with the local community to best meet their needs.

WORLD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP



The mission of World Christian Fellowship (WCF) is to develop, equip, pray for and send student leaders into the world to work for change in the kingdom of God. WCF provided a number of exciting opportunities this year, including:

Salt and Light Elective Chapels

- 319 students came to at least one of the Salt and Light Chapels.
- fall theme: “Being Transformed”
- spring theme: “Genuine Worship”

The Canoe-a-Thon

- 65 participants
- nearly \$4,000 raised

Mission Awareness Week

- 22 agencies
- This week, in cooperation with College Ministries, World Vision president Richard Stearns and Food for the Hungry representative Isaac Anderson admonished our student body to identify with Jesus, to live more fully and joyfully out of our callings, and to attend to global needs.

Other activities include:

- a bake sale, the annual Himalayan Tapestry Sale for women of Dorcus House in Northern India, the Human Wrong Campaign and the Amazing Race fundraiser for summer missions.



The Amazing Race is an event organized by World Christian Fellowship to raise money for summer mission trips.

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, and to equip the community to act upon this awareness: to go, to send and to pray.

“I’ve seen the hungry fed and people taught to fish and farm. I’ve watched wells being drilled and cisterns being built—the thirsty given water. I have met refugees who have been re-settled, disaster victims who’ve been restored. I’ve seen widows comforted, orphans cared for, children freed from slavery and abuse, schools built, clinics opened, babies vaccinated, loans giving the poor a hand up, not a handout. I have been an eyewitness to this amazing, full gospel, transforming the most broken of lives and flooding the darkest of places with the radiant light of hope. So I know it can be done.” —Richard Stearns in *“The Hole in Our Gospel”* (Thomas Nelson, 2009)



The Canoe-a-Thon raised nearly \$4,000 to help students go on spring break and summer mission trips.

HUMAN RIGHTS AWARENESS

- This year, HRA experimented with open weekly meetings before moving to a regular alternate chapel format.
- Our International Justice Mission (IJM) Chapter, headed by Kristin Miller, emphasized that prayer is practical. They held several prayer vigils for those in human bondage, and they also raised more than \$2,000 through their “Loose Change to Loosen Chains” drive (essentially providing the funds the IJM needs to free 4 of God’s children from slavery!). Additional fundraisers included a battle of the bands benefit concert and a Christmas candy cane sale. They also participated in a letter writing campaign to support IJM president Gary Haugen’s address to the House of Representatives.
- HRA’s World Aids Day panel brought international orga like JESUSpolitik together with the local AIDS Commu liance and Child Aid Africa, an organization started by professor Njoroge Mbito, who is from Kenya.



The purpose of Human Rights Awareness is:

To educate the Messiah College community of the tragic human rights abuses throughout the world. Human rights are those as defined by the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948.

To equip the Messiah College community with tools to alleviate and strive to eradicate the abuses through the world.



“In Maputo, Mozambique, they now have a safe house where the street kids can live. The project has gone from helping 52 kids a year to 350. The children are all receiving their basic education, vocational training, Bible studies, food, water, housing and some have been able to be reunited with families. Thanks for your prayers and support for JESUSpolitik. The Lord has really been blessing the projects!”

—Melissa Davis,
founder/director
Jesuspolitik

MISSION TRAINING PROGRAM

All international missions teams from the Agapé Center and individual mission grants recipients participate in the mission training program. While Agapé teams have regular team meetings and monthly large group trainings, a highlight of preparing students for their service and mission trips is the annual cross-cultural ministry orientation retreat. Getting away from the busyness of campus life for a time of refreshment, training and experiential learning is a crucial element of the NISM program. This year, it was an honor to have Ben Homan, Food for the Hungry president, as a guest speaker. Homan continued the focus on God's passion for drawing diverse people together into one, helping individuals reconcile with one another and with God. Other training topics included:

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 Wholistic 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. Spiritually, socially, physically and politically, all are damaged by sin. With Christ as the King of a new and coming kingdom, this training focuses on what it means to be his agents of healing in every area, and to be healed in the process.
3. **Sharing the Gospel in Word:** While many of the Agapé Center interdisciplinary mission teams engage in physical work, the Collaboratory sends teams focused on development-oriented mathematics, engineering and business-based projects. As a result, specific questions and challenges emerge, such as "How can the gospel be shared in a cross-cultural setting in a way that coheres with the projects being conducted?" and "What is a wholistic gospel and how can it be shared naturally?" Such questions can only be answered by returning to Jesus and the Apostles and learning from their example.



Summer missions teams engaged in problem-solving activities led by Issachars' Loft.

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.



Teams form close bonds through spiritual preparation before they leave campus.

FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY AND COMMUNITY TO COMMUNITY (C2C)

Last year was the first full year of 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 long-term (3+ years) relationships between communities in the developing world and American churches or colleges. Stateside partners (such as Messiah College) go on short-term mission 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. Throughout this year, biology professor Erik Lindquist and his family have spent this year in Bolivia on sabbatical to help with community-based research and educational initiatives for FH.

Additionally, following the 2008-09 senior gift of more than \$4,000 to support Messiah College's commitment to the C2C, the graduating class of 2010 gave more than \$6,500! This is the most money ever raised for a senior class gift. This money, combined with additional funds raised by our mission team, will be enough to complete the clean water project in Rodeo. This summer, a group of 13 Messiah College students returned from Rodeo with amazing reports about their experiences there and the work of FH.

"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. There was one night that my sponsor child walked from his home to the FH house we were staying at with a huge basket of potatoes to give me. I was incredibly touched by this gesture of generosity from a family who had nothing. At the end of the trip, he left a little note for me that expressed how happy he had been to meet me... I was so moved by that. It was humbling to see that God used



Big changes occur in students' lives as they embark on service and mission trips.

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."



Emphasis is placed on partnership with the Bolivia community to benefit both the locals and Messiah College students.

"Messiah's C2C relationship with Rodeo has the potential to **profoundly change** both communities. Being linked with a group of people thousands of miles away is an exciting **opportunity** to learn, share, and grow in the love of Christ — developing a real relationship with the **potential** to evolve far beyond disjointed team visits, sponsorships, and letters into something profound and **Christ-like.**"

—Chris P. '09



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